

Ecoregions

Areas of Arkansas can be roughly separated into ecoregions having similar climate, vegetation and wildlife. An **ecoregion** is a geographical unit with characteristic plants, animals, and ecosystems. The state can be divided broadly into three ecoregions: Eastern Deciduous Forest, Southeast Mixed Forest and Outer Coastal Plain, and Mississippi Alluvial Plain. Within these broad ecoregions, there are also other smaller ecoregions which can be found statewide: Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie, Wetlands and Urban.

Each year, one of these six ecoregions is selected for the state contest. In addition, the Urban ecoregion is included in the Wildlife Identification event each year. If the Urban ecoregion is selected, another one of the remaining ecoregions will be announced for addition to the Wildlife Identification event.

At the end of each ecoregion description is a list of wildlife species. These species are eligible for testing at the Arkansas WHEP state contest, and the focus of your studies and preparation for the contest year.

Certain species listed are considered a nuisance in some areas and circumstances. (In the Management Practices section, potential nuisance species can be identified by the application of “Wildlife Damage Management” practices.) Contest organizers may exclude such species or center the management practices on why the species are pests and what can be done to decrease problems.

List of Arkansas Ecoregions

Divisional ecoregions:

- Eastern Deciduous Forest
- Mississippi Alluvial Plain
- Southeast Mixed Forest and Outer Coastal Plain

Statewide ecoregions:

- Tallgrass/Mixed Prairie
- Urban
- Wetlands

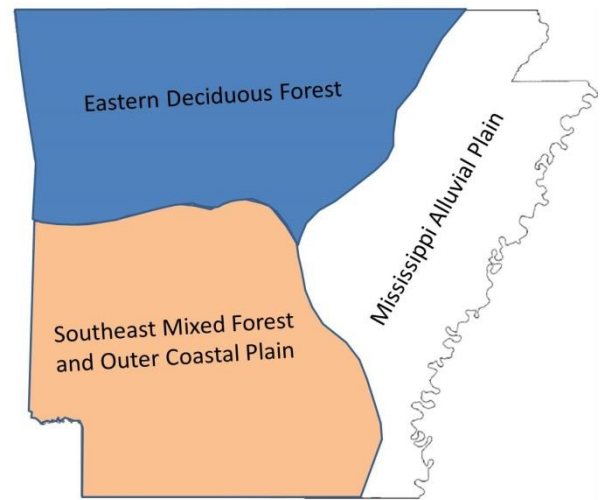


Figure 1. Location of major ecoregions in Arkansas.

Photo/Illustration acknowledgments

- Figure 1. Becky McPeake, University of Arkansas
- Figure 2. WHEP national handbook, www.whep.org
- Figure 3. WHEP national handbook, www.whep.org
- Figure 4. WHEP national handbook, www.whep.org
- Figure 5. WHEP national handbook, www.whep.org
- Figure 6. WHEP national handbook, www.whep.org
- Figure 7. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 8. USDA Forest Service, 2008
- Figure 9. Becky McPeake, University of Arkansas
- Figure 10. Brian Lockhart, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
- Figure 11. Vern Wilkins, Indiana University, Bugwood.org
- Figure 12. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 13. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 14. John Gruchy, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.
- Figure 15. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 16. Mike Hansbrough, NRCS - Tennessee
- Figure 17. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 18. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 19. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 20. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 21. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 22. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 23. Dwayne Elmore, Oklahoma State University.
- Figure 24. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 25. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 26. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 27. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 28. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.
- Figure 29. Craig Harper, University of Tennessee.