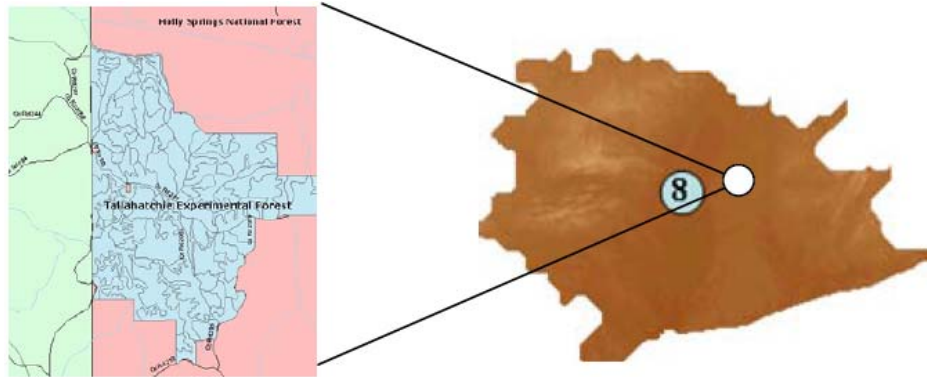


Tallahatchie Experimental Forest (TEF)

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Location within Domain: 34.733N, 89.133 W



History: The 1,416-ha Tallahatchie Experimental Forest, located in the Holly Springs National Forest near Oxford, MS, was created in 1950. It is administered by the Southern Research Station's Center for Bottomland Hardwood Research at Oxford. The Tallahatchie was established to study the relationships among hardwood forests, flooding, and soil erosion. The forest and associated hydrological research provided support for a large federal reforestation and soil stabilization effort which was conducted on the upper coastal plain of northern Mississippi from 1949 to 1985. Recent research on the Tallahatchie has focused on the response of plants and birds to altered fire regimes.

Key Characteristics: The Tallahatchie Experimental Forest lies within the upper coastal plain and the southeastern mixed forest ecoregion. Forest cover is 55- to 65-year old mixed stands of shortleaf pine and hardwoods, (largely white and red oak and hickories), which have been only minimally disturbed since establishment. The area has hot, humid summers and fairly mild winters with occasional ice and snowstorms. Annual precipitation averages 1,321 mm and is distributed evenly throughout the year. Average temperatures is 17C. Soils on the Tallahatchie consist of predominantly coastal plain sandy loams and smaller amounts of silt loams of loessial origin. Streams in these basins have been instrumented since 1959 to monitor precipitation, air temperature, barometric pressure, streamflow, and water chemistry. The information gathered is used to evaluate sediment transport processes, sediment and nutrient routing, and the effects of clear-cutting on these processes. ecological research themes related to drought fires, warming, hurricanes and invasive species are most relevant at this site. To best serve the ecological research themes, the relocatable unit for this site should include at a minimum advanced met instruments, radiometric measurements, soil sensors, flux instrumentation, unless already on-site

Existing Infrastructure: Within the experimental forest are county roads with line power and a small Quonset structure. In addition, nearby are three small experimental watersheds were established in 1959.

Facilities: Within a 10-15 min drive is the city of Oxford and the Holly Spring Forest Headquarters, including a forest hydrology lab. A weather station was active at the ranger station until recently.