

Leave Trees Along Streams

**Well-Managed Forests  
Providing Texans  
with Clean Water**

  
**T E X A S**  
**FOREST SERVICE**  
The Texas A&M University System

**Use Forestry Best Management Practices**

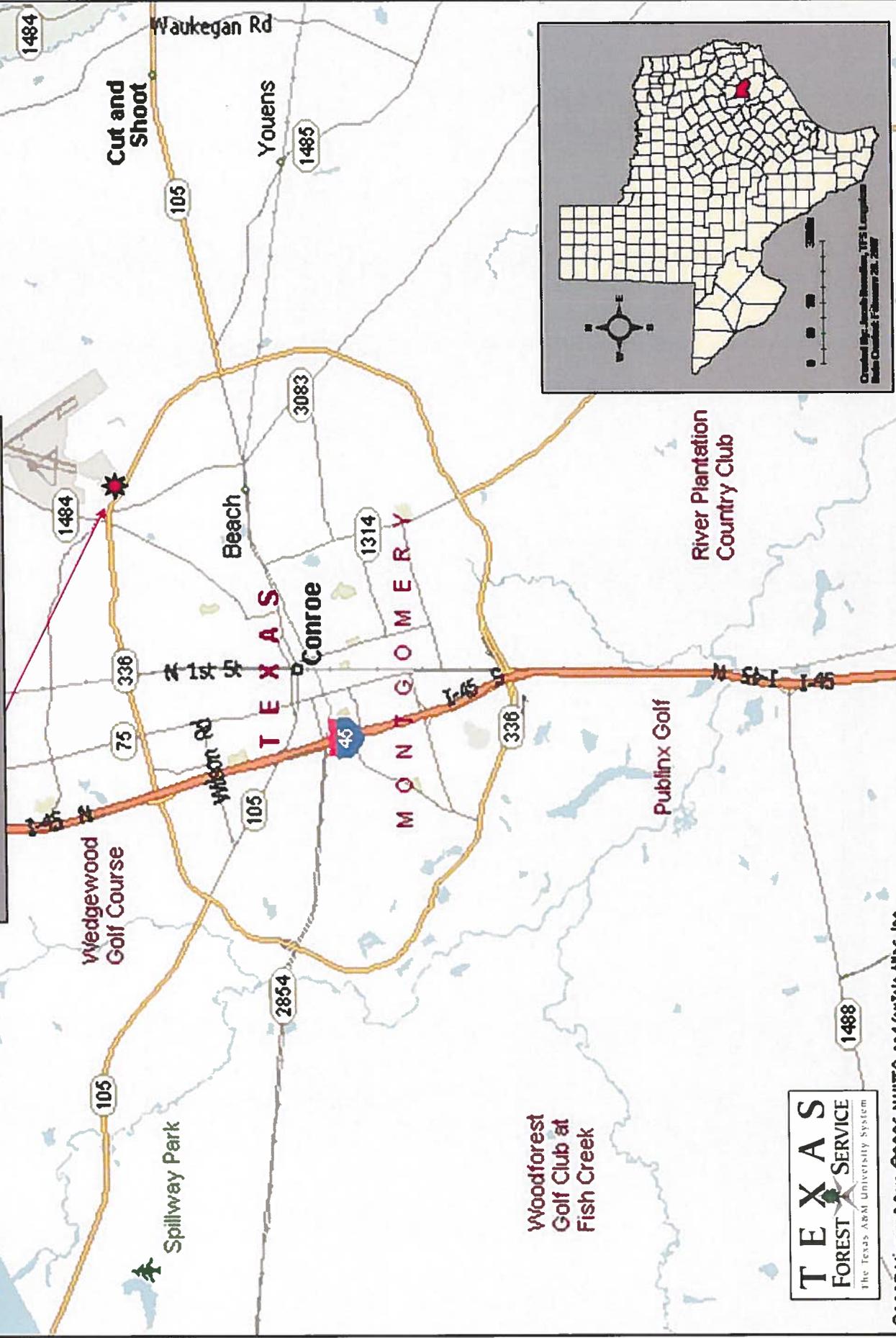


Lake Conroe

Village Golf Club  
Thunderbird Park

MapPoint  
Sam Houston National Forest

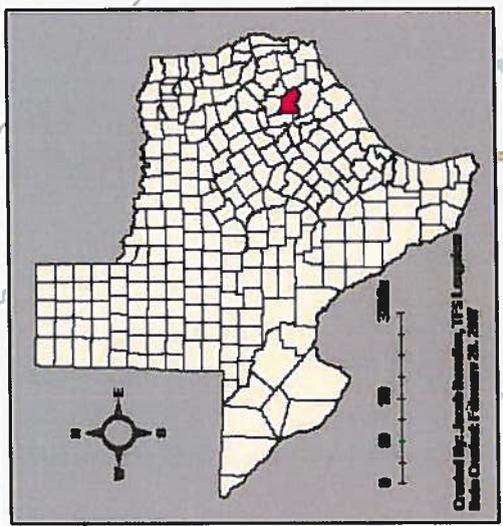
# Billboard Location Conroe, TX



Woodforest  
Golf Club at  
Fish Creek

Publix Golf

River Plantation  
Country Club

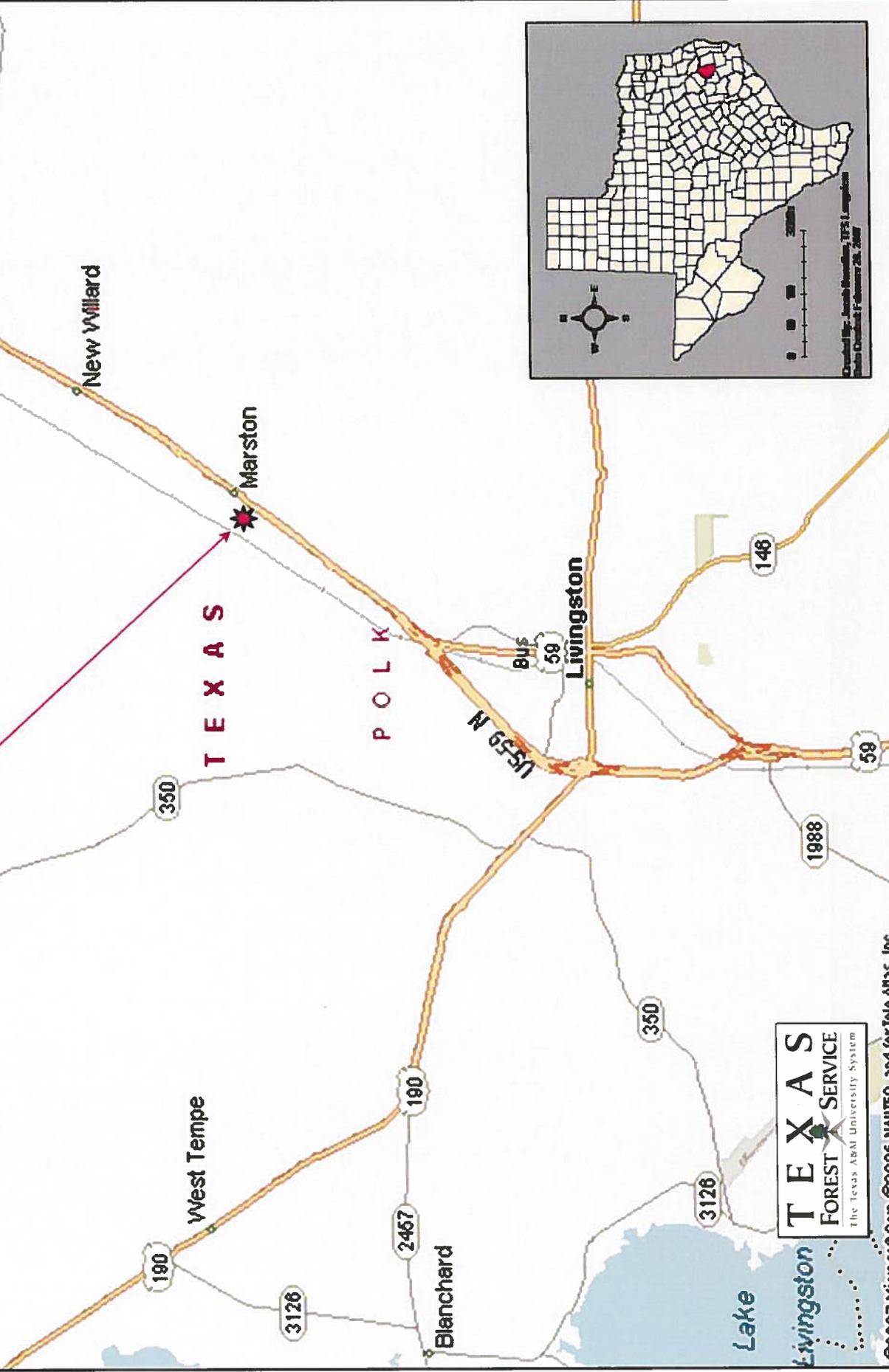


**TEXAS**  
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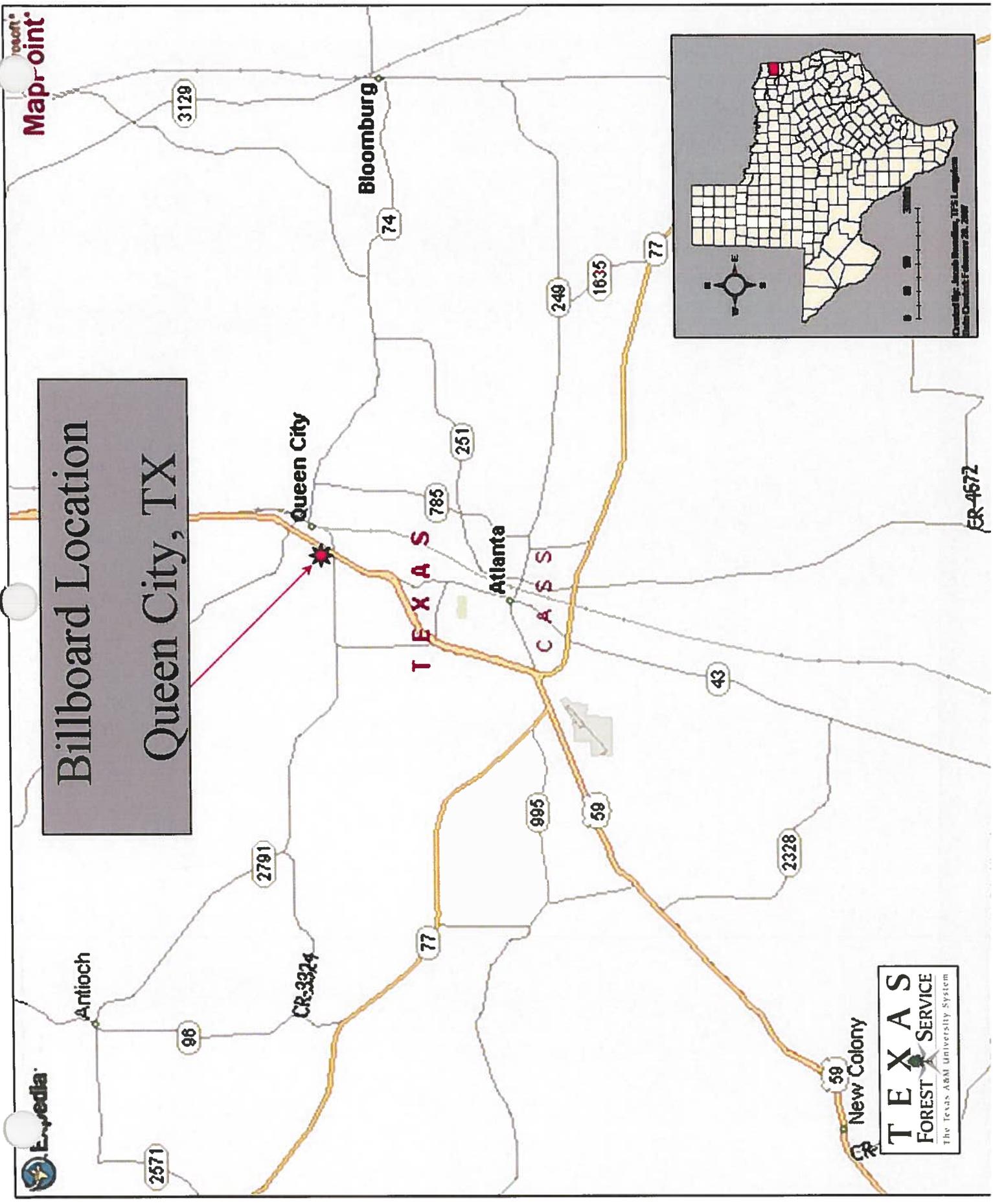


Billboard Location  
Livingston, TX



**TEXAS**  
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# Billboard Location Queen City, TX



**Wetlands/BMP Coordinating Committee Meeting**

**Texas Forest Service Regional Office  
Longview, TX**

**March 7-8, 2006**

**March 7**

**1:00 PM**      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Jacob Donellan – Texas Forest Service*

**1:15 PM**      **Introduction of Members**

**1:30 PM**      **Agencies' Overviews and Discussion**  
*A representative of each agency or interest will have the opportunity to give an overview of all current issues within their respective agencies related to water quality and answer questions from the group.*

**4:30 PM**      **Adjourn for Day**

**March 8**

**8:00 AM**      **Leave for Tour of Wetland Mitigation Bank**

**12:00 PM**      **Adjourn Meeting**

**BMP/Wetland Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Minutes and Attendee List  
Longview, TX  
March 7 – 8, 2006**

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Email</b>
Bill Carter	TCEQ	<a href="mailto:wcarter@tceq.state.tx.us">wcarter@tceq.state.tx.us</a>
Brian Gowin	Temple-Inland	<a href="mailto:briangowin@templeinland.com">briangowin@templeinland.com</a>
Bruce Ogilvie	Sabal Wetlands	<a href="mailto:blolandman@aol.com">blolandman@aol.com</a>
Dave Peterson	USFS	<a href="mailto:dwpeterson@fs.fed.us">dwpeterson@fs.fed.us</a>
Ellen Caldwell	EPA	<a href="mailto:caldwell.ellen@epa.gov">caldwell.ellen@epa.gov</a>
Greg Conley	TPWD	<a href="mailto:Greg-Conley@tpwd.state.tx.us">Greg-Conley@tpwd.state.tx.us</a>
Hughes Simpson	TFS	<a href="mailto:hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu">hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
Jacob Donellan	TFS	<a href="mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu">jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
Kerri Smith	Sphere 3	<a href="mailto:ksmith@sphere3environmental.com">ksmith@sphere3environmental.com</a>
Lee Munz	TSSWCB	<a href="mailto:lmunz@tsswcb.state.tx.us">lmunz@tsswcb.state.tx.us</a>
Matthew McBroom	SFASU	<a href="mailto:mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu">mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu</a>
Paul Hale	TLC	<a href="mailto:hale.p@worldnet.att.net">hale.p@worldnet.att.net</a>
Randy Rush	EPA	<a href="mailto:rush.randall@epa.gov">rush.randall@epa.gov</a>
Ray Stoner	NRCS	<a href="mailto:ray.stoner@tx.usda.gov">ray.stoner@tx.usda.gov</a>
Ron Hufford	TFA	<a href="mailto:rhufford@texasforestry.org">rhufford@texasforestry.org</a>
Shane Harrington	TFS	<a href="mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu">sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
Sid Puder	USFWS	<a href="mailto:sidney_puder@fws.gov">sidney_puder@fws.gov</a>
Tom Boggus	TFS	<a href="mailto:tboggus@tfs.tamu.edu">tboggus@tfs.tamu.edu</a>

**Minutes**

**Hurricane Rita: Response, Impacts, and Recovery – Tom Boggus – Associate Director, Texas Forest Service**

- Tom gave an overview of TFS's role in assisting victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He also gave an update on the timber damage caused by Hurricane Rita in Southeast Texas.
- During relief efforts TFS personnel distributed 4.3 million gallons of water, 30.8 million pounds of ice, and 10 million MRE's to victims of both Katrina and Rita. Also during Rita TFS personnel were responsible for infrastructure recovery, the tracking and planning of supplies and personnel, and assessing the timber damage caused by the storm.
- Aerial recon began on Monday September 26 with mapping of the outer damage boundary and refined map with four damage zones was produced on Tuesday September 27.

- On September 28 and 29 ten TFS (one USFS) FIA crews took 222 plots collecting percent damaged pine and hardwood, percent affected pine and hardwood, GPS coordinate, forest stand type, forest stand age, and forest stand density.
- Field data was applied to current FIA data to estimate the value and volume of timber damaged. Timber was decided either to be damaged or affected. Damaged timber is defined as timber in which mortality is imminent and salvage is needed. Affected timber is defined as timber in which mortality is not imminent and salvage may or may not be needed.
  - Total value damaged only timber = \$462 million
  - Total value damaged + affected timber = \$833 million
  - Total volume damaged only timber = 533 million cubic feet
  - Total volume damaged + affected timber = 967 million cubic feet
- Volume of damaged timber (533 million cubic feet) is slightly less than the total volume of growing stock removals (harvests) in 2004 (645 million cubic feet)
- Volume of damaged + affected timber (967 million cubic feet) is about 6 percent of the overall timber volume in East Texas (15.7 billion cubic feet)
- Potential implications of timber damage:
  - Even greater need for increased reforestation
  - Possible water quality issues from damage to Streamside Management Zones
  - Greater understanding of more “resistant” forest stand ages and densities
  - Long term timber supply for economic development
- Emergency CRP Funds (\$404 million allocated to the Farm Services Agency to assist forestland owners who were affected by Hurricane Rita)
  - Funds are tied up in Washington D.C. with rulemaking
  - The funds should be released within the next month
  - Forestland owners must have a minimum 35% damage to be eligible
  - Priority may be placed on those forestland owners who have suffered severe damage
  - May be species specific or priority
  - There is still a question about funding for technical assistance
  - States may have to match funds? – (key issue)
  - Funds are not tied to “regular” CRP otherwise Texas would not qualify
  - Rental payments + cost shares
- Tom also handed out an update on the Hurricane Rita Forest Recovery Task Force. The handout has been included as an attachment to the minutes.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Greg Conley**

- TPWD Water Quality program will be conducting studies on Lake Fairfield and Fort Parker State Park due to low dissolved oxygen and recent fish kills in 2005 on Lake Fairfield that were suspected to be caused by low dissolved oxygen from plankton blooms in the lake.
- TPWD is seeking technical assistance or funding for creating a wetland at the Tyler Nature Center.

#### **United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Sid Puder**

- East Fork Project (located southeast of Dallas near Crandall) is a 2,000 acre wetland that is being created to cleanup and polish water from the Trinity River. There is a treatment area being located on one side of the river and a stream restoration area on the other side. Funding is being provided by the North Texas Municipal Water District.
- Sid is responsible for reviewing Section 404 permits and has noticed that people are proposing Wetland Mitigation Banks in areas that are not truly wetlands. He asks that people not submit proposals that do not have the three components wetlands.

#### **Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – Lee Munz**

- The TSSWCB is charged with addressing issues concerning agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.
- In 2006 there were 25 new proposals for projects dealing with NPS pollution in Texas.
- Currently there are two projects being conducted in Texas concerning silvicultural NPS pollution and the Texas Forest Service is conducting both projects.
  - Project 1 – TFS BMP Implementation Monitoring Project
  - Project 2 – TFS BMP Effectiveness Monitoring Project
- Currently there are a total of 60 projects in Texas dealing with NPS pollution and all projects are being funded with 319(h) money.

#### **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Bill Carter**

- Solicitation coming this May or June for new projects and these projects will be funded for 4 years rather than 3 years. The solicitation will be posted on the TCEQ and Texas Marketplace websites.
- The TCEQ and TSSWCB are beginning to encourage and support communities in developing watershed protection plans particularly in certain impaired or threatened watersheds. Watershed protection plans are in development for the watersheds of the Arroyo Colorado, Caddo Lake, Concho River, Lake Granger, Lake Granbury, North Bosque River, Upper San Antonio River, and the Hickory arm of Lake Lewisville.
- The EPA has developed a handbook for writing watershed protection plans and for controlling NPS pollution from urban landscapes. This handbook can be viewed at [www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed\\_handbook](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook).
- The TCEQ is beginning to focus on demonstrating and providing technology transfer for BMPs involving compost and mulch in erosion and sediment control and land reclamation, particularly in construction activities and in rock quarrying and other mining activities. One area that is specifically being targeted is Parker County.

### **Environmental Protection Agency – Randy Rush, Ellen Caldwell**

- Last year the EPA distributed \$9.5 million for NPS projects in Texas.
- In 2007 the budget for 319(h) projects will be cut by \$10 million nationally.
- The EPA is beginning to look for projects that take a proactive/preventive approach.
- The EPA is being pushed by Congress to begin showing improvements in 303(d) listed watersheds
- Emphasis is being placed on watershed protection plans which are being delivered through the TSSWCB. Currently the TSSWCB is working on developing a watershed protection plan for the Plum Creek Watershed located in south central Texas.
- The watershed protection plans may be extended to East Texas Counties and the EPA and TSSWCB will need assistance in promoting this program in those counties.
- TMDLs are still an issue and currently there is a TMDL being developed for Lake O' the Pines for dissolved oxygen.
- In the next 5 years the EPA will be charged with cleaning up at least 5 of the 303(d) listed watershed but will need assistance from other agencies to achieve this. The measure of success will be removing at least 40% of the contaminant from the watershed.

### **Texas Logging Council – Paul Hale**

- The TLC membership has increased over the last few years.
- Due to the drought the loggers in Southeast Texas are blocked out from the mills b/c the mills are full. Loggers in Northeast Texas are o.k. for now but if they do not receive any significant rainfall soon they could be blocked out as well.

### **Natural Resource Conservation Service – Ray Stoner**

- In 2005 the Wetland Reserve Program funded 25 applications, mostly in Red River and Bowie Counties.
- Over 6,000 acres of riparian buffers were planted in 2005.
- More than 10,000 acres of wetlands were enhanced or restored across Texas last year.
- County soils information, including hydric soils lists, are now available on the web at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>.
- NRCS guidelines say that a wetland must have hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. Also converting a wetland to a non wetland use deviates USDA guidelines and that particular tract will become ineligible for USDA benefits such as cost-share programs, support and emergency programs, and easement programs such as WRP.

#### **Stephen F. Austin State University – Matthew McBroom**

- A glaucanite study is being conducted near Milam in Sabine County. The study is testing for arsenic that may be coming off a lignite mine and entering nearby water bodies.
- The Alto Watershed Study had shown a 6 fold reduction in sedimentation though the use of BMPs on silvicultural operations from the 1980's through today.
- Currently a SMZ thinning project is being conducted on the Alto Watershed to see if there are any effects from the operation on the SMZ.
- Agricultural models used to predict the effects from ag operations are being used as a guide to create models that can be used for silvicultural operations. This report should be published this summer.

#### **Texas Forestry Association – Ron Hufford**

- The SFI program continues to move forward and be successful.
- Currently there are 1,900 loggers that are certified "Pro Loggers" in Texas. To become "Pro Logger" certified a logger must attend 5 core classes with one of the classes being on BMPs and then he/she must obtain 6 hours of continuing education each year after that in order to remain "Pro Logger" certified.
- The SFI workshops being conducted throughout various counties in East Texas continue to be successful. Most recently one was held in Dallas for the Metroplex Forest Landowners Association. Over 130 landowners attended the workshop and 17 of them joined the TFA as new members.
- The TFA Annual Meeting will be held in Beaumont this year with much of the focus being on the areas affected by Hurricane Rita.

#### **United States Forest Service – Dave Peterson**

- The USFS is becoming concerned with permanent stream crossings (mainly culverts) and their impact on fish passage.
- Dave reported that the EPA or Corps of Engineers actually has a regulation regarding culvert crossings and fish passage. The regulation states "The design, construction and maintenance of the road crossing shall not disrupt the migration of other movement of those species of aquatic life inhabiting the water body" (40CFR 232.3).

#### **Temple Inland Forest Products Corp. – Brian Gowin**

- Currently Temple Inland is partnering with SFASU and TFS on water quality studies.
- In the future there may be implications and impacts to water quality due to the fragmentation of forest industry lands.

#### **Texas Forest Service – Hughes Simpson**

- The BMP Project is currently scheduling SFI landowner's workshops for 2006. A workshop was conducted in Dallas for the Metroplex Forest Landowners Association on March 4. TFS has begun to plan workshops for Henderson and Cherokee Counties and for Southeast Texas. Both of these workshops will be held in early fall.

- With funding from the TFA SFI Committee a new billboard promoting good forest management was unveiled on Highway 59 just north of Jefferson. Plans are to unveil two more billboards in East Texas sometime in 2006.
- In 2005 new public service announcements (PSAs) were created and released on several East Texas radio stations. These PSAs promote good forest management and the use of BMPs on forestry operations.
- The Round 6 BMP Implementation Report was released in the fall of 2005. The latest report showed an all time high in overall BMP implementation at 91.7% and forest family landowners also reached an all time high at 88.9%. Although an increase in BMP implementation was shown there were still some areas of concern. These areas of concern were the failure to restore and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads and the failure to remove logging debris from streams. The Round 6 BMP Implementation report can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/sustainable/article.aspx?id=709>.
- The BMP Project is 2 ½ years into its BMP Effectiveness Monitoring Study and all 4 study sites have been harvested, site prepped, and replanted. Preliminary data is showing that there is no significant change in water quality before and after the treatment of each site. Data also shows that BMPs are effective in protecting water quality during and after silvicultural operations.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shane Harrington  
Texas Forest Service

**FOUR-STATE FOREST WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE  
FOREST HERITAGE CENTER, BEAVERS BEND STATE PARK  
BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA, MAY 15-17, 2007**

**Monday, May 14**

Travel Day – Lodging at Lakeview Lodge with dinner on your own

**Tuesday, May 15**

Breakfast provided in the Lodge

- 7:45 a.m. Load in vans for trip to Forest Heritage Center
- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – John Burwell, State Forester
- 9:15 a.m. State Reports (15 minutes each) – Oklahoma and Arkansas
- 9:45 a.m. Updates for Environmental Protections Agency – Randall Rush, Dallas
- 10:15 a.m. Break (Sponsored by Oklahoma Forestry Association)
- 10:45 a.m. BMPs and Natural Disasters – Hughes Simpson, Texas Forest Service
- 11:15 a.m. Effectiveness of BMPs in Reducing Erosion on Rural Roads – Dr. Don Turton, Associate Professor, Oklahoma State University
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 p.m. State Reports (15 minutes each) – Louisiana and Texas
- 1:30 p.m. BMP Effectiveness Research – Dr. George Ice, national Council for Air and Stream Improvement
- 2:30 p.m. Break (Sponsored by Plum Creek Timber Company)
- 3:00 p.m. Wetlands Update – Louis Heaton, Louisiana Dept. of Ag. & Forestry
- 3:30 p.m. Southern Water Quality Committee Business – frank Green, Georgia Forestry Commission
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn and travel to river site
- 4:45 p.m. Review in-stream restoration on Mt. Fork River with James Vincent, Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

- 6:00 p.m. Leave River and head to Lakeview Lodge
- 7:00 p.m. Group dinner at Abendigo's (on your own) and return to Lodge

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

Breakfast provided in the Lodge

- 7:30 a.m. Load vans in front of Lodge
- 8:30 a.m. Arrive Little River Wildlife Refuge – Discuss BMPs on public lands with John Stephens, Forester, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
- 11:30 a.m. Travel to Pier 49, Broken Bow for lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 p.m. Leave Broken Bow for Honobia area
- 2:00 p.m. Arrive at property of Dubea Investments, LP, and discuss BMPs with Lucas LaCour, Operations Manager
- 4:30 p.m. Depart Honobia area for Lakeview Lodge
- Evening Dinner (on your own)

**Thursday, May 17 – Half-day Field Trip**

Breakfast provided in the Lodge

- 8:00 a.m. All vehicles travel to Forest Heritage Center
- 8:15 a.m. Southern Update – John Greis, USDA, Forest Service
- 8:45 a.m. Safety Meeting – Roger Griffin, Weyerhaeuser
- 9:00 a.m. All vehicles travel to Weyerhaeuser site on Blue Hole Road
- 9:30 a.m. Arrive Weyerhaeuser site on Blue Hole Road on BMP Workshop field site for a discussion with Roger Griffin, Environmental and Safety Manager, and Shawn Gibson, Logging Contractor
- 10:00 a.m. Arrive at stream crossing on Blue Hole Rd. for BMP discussion
- 10:30 a.m. Review BMPs on recent road work by Weyerhaeuser
- Noon Wrap-up and adjourn

## FOUR-STATE FOREST WATER QUALITY CONFERENCE

MAY 15-17, 2007, BROKEN BOW, OK

### ATTENDEES

Doug Akin	Arkansas Forestry Commission	Little Rock, AR
Kurt Atkinson	Oklahoma Forestry Service	Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. Scott Beasley	Stephen F. Austin State University	Nacogdoches, TX
Mike Bira	Environmental Protection Agency	Dallas, TX
John Burwell	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Oklahoma City, OK
James Carper	Weyerhaeuser Company	Broken Bow, OK
Alan Clingenpeel	U.S. Forest Service	Hot Springs, AR
Jacob Donellan	Texas Forest Service	Longview, TX
Adam Eades	Arkansas Forestry Commission	Little Rock, AR
Martin Fry	Oklahoma Forestry Association	Hugo, OK
Frank Green	Georgia Forestry Commission	Macon, GA
John Greis	U.S. Forest Service	Tallahassee, FL
Roger Griffin	Weyerhaeuser Company	Broken Bow, OK
Arnold Hameister	Arkansas Forestry Commission	Little Rock, AR
Shane Harrington	Texas Forest Service	Lufkin, TX
Louis Heaton	Louisiana Office of Forestry	Baton Rouge, LA
Bobby Hernandez	Environmental Protection Agency	Dallas, TX
Darryl Hunkapillar	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Broken Bow, OK
Dr. George Ice	Nat. Council for Air & Stream Improvement	Corvallis, OR
Andy James	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Broken Bow, OK
Jim Langdon	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Battiest, OK
Jim Leach	Oklahoma Conservation Commission	Oklahoma City, OK
George Lease	Arkansas Timber Producers Association	Little Rock, AR
Dr. Hal Liechty	University of Arkansas at Monticello	Monticello, AR
David Litterst	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Broken Bow, OK
Al Myatt	Oklahoma Forestry Services	Goldsby, OK
Tony Ramick	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission	Little Rock, AR
Sylvia Ritzshy	Environmental Protection Agency	Dallas, TX
Hughes Simpson	Texas Forest Service	Lufkin, TX
Jim Sorenson	Weyerhaeuser Company	Broken Bow, OK
John Stephens	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Broken Bow, OK
Richard Stich	Plum Creek Timber Company	Crossett, AR
Doug Teale	Domtar Wood and Fiber Procurement	Ashdown, AR
Dr. Don Turton	Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK
Doris White	Environmental Protection Agency	Dallas, TX

## Wetlands/BMP Coordinating Committee Meeting

Texas Forest Service Regional Office  
1203 W. Loop 281, Suite B-102  
Longview, TX

Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

### March 7th

- 9:00 AM      **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Jacob Donellan – Texas Forest Service*
- 9:10 AM      **Member Overviews and Discussion**  
A representative of each agency or interest will have the opportunity to give an overview of all current issues/projects within their respective agencies related to water quality and answer questions from the group. (We will continue until all members have had a chance to fully participate)
- 11:45        **Closing Thoughts**  
Closing remarks and discussion/selection of 2008 field tour site(s).
- 12:00        **Dismiss for Lunch**



**Wetland/BMP Coordinating Meeting**  
**April 3, 2007**  
**Longview, TX**

**Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Adam Whisenant</b>	<b>TPWD</b>	<a href="mailto:adam.whisenant@tpwd.state.tx.us">adam.whisenant@tpwd.state.tx.us</a>
<b>Bob Cassell</b>	<b>Hancock Forest Mgt.</b>	<a href="mailto:bcassell@hnr.com">bcassell@hnr.com</a>
<b>Chris Brown</b>	<b>TFS</b>	<a href="mailto:cbrown@tfs.tamu.edu">cbrown@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
<b>Darren Manthei</b>	<b>NRCS</b>	<a href="mailto:darren.manthei@tx.usda.gov">darren.manthei@tx.usda.gov</a>
<b>Hughes Simpson</b>	<b>TFS</b>	<a href="mailto:hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu">hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
<b>Jacob Donellan</b>	<b>TFS</b>	<a href="mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu">jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
<b>Matthew McBroom</b>	<b>SFASU</b>	<a href="mailto:mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu">mcbroommatth@sfasu.edu</a>
<b>Neil Lebsock</b>	<b>USACE</b>	<a href="mailto:neil.m.lebsock@swf02.usace.army.mil">neil.m.lebsock@swf02.usace.army.mil</a>
<b>Raoul Gagne</b>	<b>USFS</b>	<a href="mailto:rgagne@ts.fed.us">rgagne@ts.fed.us</a>
<b>Shane Harrington</b>	<b>TFS</b>	<a href="mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu">sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
<b>Sid Puder</b>	<b>USFWS</b>	<a href="mailto:sidney.puder@fws.gov">sidney.puder@fws.gov</a>

**Minutes**

**Texas Forest Service, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Update – Chris Brown  
TFS FIA Coordinator**

- The 2006 FIA data was released in late March and continues to show the trend of forestland increasing in East Texas
- The gains in forestland were mainly found in Northeast Texas where old agriculture fields are being converted to forestland and the loses were found mainly in Southeast Texas where forestland in being lost as a result of land conversion
- The new data shows an increase in Family Forest (formally known as NIPF) ownership and a decrease in forest industry ownership
- The new data also shows an increase in mixed pine/hardwood forests and a decrease in pine plantations (between 1992 and 2003 there was a 21% increase in pine plantations but since 2003 a general decrease has been seen in the total acreage of pine plantations)
- Since 2003 total acreage and volume have increased
- Most important that new data shows an increase in the total net growth in forestlands in East Texas
- For more information on the 2006 FIA data please see the attached handouts and the following websites:
  - <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1721>
  - <http://fia.fs.fed.us/>
  - <http://ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb/>

### **United States Army Corps of Engineers – Neil Lebsock**

- An update was given on changes associated with the 2007 Nationwide Permits. A handout is attached listing all the 2007 Nationwide Permits and any changes associated with them.

### **Hancock Forest Management – Bob Cassell**

- Hancock Forest Management is a Timberland Investment Management Organization (TIMO) and is the management arm for “on the ground forestry” for John Hancock Life Insurance. Both are subsidiaries of Manulife Financial Corporation.
- Hancock Forest Management manages approximately 1.7 million acres in the Southeastern U.S., of which 675,000 acres are in Texas and Louisiana.
- The 2006 SFI external audit of Hancock Forest Management properties went well. The final audit report listed no non-conformances, no opportunities for improvement and four notable practices.
- Hancock Forest Management has identified 12 sensitive land sites within their Texas and Louisiana holdings. They are working with Texas Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and several NGO’s to enhance these sites and to identify other sensitive sites. All existing sensitive sites have been set aside for protection.

### **Stephen F. Austin State University, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture – Dr. Matt McBroom**

- An update was given on the Alto Watershed Project
  - A five fold reduction in first year sediment loss has been seen due to the use of BMPs. The use of SMZs in particular helps account for this. Prescribed fire was excluded from the prescription, leaving large amounts of logging slash and ground cover intact. Logging slash was redistributed along skid trails thus minimizing soil erosion.
  - Low nutrient levels have been monitored. Concentrations were well below levels thought to result in eutrophication. Losses were below rates of rainfall input, indicating that these watersheds serve as nutrient sinks, even after fertilization.
  - Herbicides were applied to some areas to evaluate their impact on water quality. Concentrations were orders of magnitude below published toxic effect levels. Herbicides fell below the method detection limit (1 ppb) within 6-9 months after application.
- The project is now looking at the potential water quality and quantity effects of thinning SMZs as a separate operation from harvesting the adjacent stand. The drought has limited the number of samples collected since harvest. Preliminary results are showing no obvious impacts to water quality.
- A new study has begun on the lower Sabine River looking large woody debris loading, dynamics and budgeting. The study will try and determine the sources of the debris as well as how much debris should normally be in the river. One of the outcomes of study may help provide rationale for leaving and maintaining SMZs on streams and rivers.

### **United States Forest Service – Raoul Gagne**

- Cherie Edwards is the new soils specialist for the USFS and is located in Lufkin
- The USFS continues to treat hazardous fuels and enhance RCW and endangered species habitat.
- Starting October 1, 2007 all National Forests and Grasslands in Texas will begin restricting the use of ATV's and will only allow them to be used on designated routes. The Sam Houston National Forest and LBJ and Caddo Grasslands have been restricting the use of ATV's for a number of years.
- Over the last year there has been an increase in gas and oil development on National Forests and Grasslands in Texas.
- Starting in 2008 the USFS will begin to revise its forest plan.
- Lot's of interest in disposition of Temple-Inland lands adjacent to National Forests.

### **Environmental Protection Agency – Update given by Jacob Donellan on behalf of Randy Rush**

- Update on the TFS 319h Project
  - The Texas Forest Service continues to do an outstanding job in the implementation of silvicultural BMPs
  - Funded 2005 – “Texas Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Prevention” Project
  - Goals are to 1) improve water quality in East Texas, 2) increase statewide forestry BMP implementation rates to 93%, 3) prevent 12,000 tons of sediment from reaching East Texas Streams each year, 4) prevent 96,000 tons of sediment from eroding off of East Texas forestlands, 5) help determine effectiveness of Texas forestry BMPs.
- EPA Watershed/NPS News
  - FY 2007 funding for CWA 319h is nearly approved. Funding levels nationwide remain constant at \$193 million.
  - FY 2008 looks as if it may be reduced \$5 million nationwide.
  - Nationally there are about 40 watershed plans developed that meet EPA's guideline criteria. Only one plan in the Region 6 area, Ft. Cobb Reservoir WPP in Oklahoma, meets the guidelines. Two plans are complete and currently under review by the EPA.
  - EPA has encouraging news that for last year it met its congressionally mandated goals for NPS projects in reducing phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediments.
  - EPA will be attending the Four State Forestry Meeting in Broken Bow, OK in May. EPA has had a recent change in project officer leads for the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Louisiana and would like to take advantage of the opportunity of them meeting their forestry counterparts. The staff changes include the return of Sake Sylvia to the NPS team.

#### **Texas Parks and Wildlife – Adam Whisenant**

- TP&W continue to partner with other agencies to monitor and study water quality.
- TP&W will be involved with future reservoir projects
- Adam announced that the TCEQ will be releasing it's new water standard later this year.

#### **Texas Forest Service, BMP Project – Hughes Simpson, Jacob Donellan, Shane Harrington**

- An update was given on the TFS BMP Effectiveness Monitoring Project
  - The project was started in late 2003 and is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2007 with a final report being published in 2008.
  - Initial results show no significant changes to water quality pre treatment compared to post treatment.
- An update was given on the TFS BMP Implementation Monitoring Project
  - TFS has made minor changes to its BMP implementation monitoring evaluation form.
  - TFS recently released a report showing the history of BMP implementation over the last 15 years. The report shows that overall the implementation of BMPs has increased steadily over the last 15 years to its highest rate of 91.7% recorded in 2006. The report also showed that although the overall implementation rate has increased there were areas that still need improvements such as stream crossings. This report can be viewed by going to the following TFS website link;  
[http://txforestservation.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/bmp/TFS%20BMP%20Trend%20Analysis%20\(1990-2005\).pdf](http://txforestservation.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/bmp/TFS%20BMP%20Trend%20Analysis%20(1990-2005).pdf)
  - TFS announced that it would begin its seventh round of BMP implementation monitoring in a few weeks. The seventh round will be completed summer of 2008 with a report being published in the fall of 2008.
  - A short presentation was given showing some of the recent accomplishments that the TFS BMP Project has had such as the recent updating of the BMP demonstration area on the Jones State Forest in Conroe and the unveiling of three new billboards promoting the use of BMPs. The billboards are located just south of Atlanta on Highway 59, north of Livingston on Highway 59, and on the Loop 336 in Conroe.

#### **Natural Resource Conservation Service – Darren Mawthei**

- Cost share programs are still available for restoring or enhancing forestlands/wetlands and NRCS has begun releasing newsletters to inform the public of wetland regulations.
- WRP projects were behind with some of the projects originally written in 2002 that had yet to be completed. The new State Wetland Engineer, Hank Wiederhold, has taken on the task of eliminating the back-log.

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Sid Puder**

- An update was given on current wetland mitigation banks that have been either proposed to or approved by the USFWS. A short presentation is attached detailing these wetland mitigation banks.

**Stephen F. Austin State University, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture – Dr. Hans Williams**

- The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University (ATCOFA) is collaborating with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in developing a hydrogeomorphic (HGM) functional assessment guidebook for riverine wetlands in East Texas. The reference domain is the alluvial valleys of Ecoregion 35b and 35c of the Pineywoods Region (Griffith et al. 2004, Gould et al. 1960). The ATCOFA will be collecting the field data to be used in the HGM model development. The Corp will take the lead on developing the models and the final guidebook. For the next 6 months, students will be collecting data across a range of geomorphic settings and conditions in the river and stream bottoms from the Sulphur to the San-Jacinto Rivers. Once completed, the East Texas HGM guidebook could be used in support of assessing the quality of ecological functions possibly affected by potential projects involving East Texas jurisdictional riverine wetlands. The functional capacity indexes derived from the HGM method could be used in establishing baseline conditions, impact assessments, monitoring, and mitigation ratio development. The ATCOFA is looking for potential field sites to collect data. The data collection is non-destructive and involves recording site features such as geomorphic setting, woody plant composition and forest structure. Please contact Dr. Hans M. Williams at the ATCOFA regarding information about the project (936-468-2127, [hwilliams@sfasu.edu](mailto:hwilliams@sfasu.edu)).

Southern Group of State Foresters  
Water Resources Committee Annual Meeting  
Drury Inn & Suites  
The Woodlands, TX  
October 24-26, 2006

Chairman Burl Carraway (TX), welcomed everyone and discussed the forest resources in Texas.

The business meeting then proceeded into the 2006 report given to the SGSF for their summer meeting in Puerto Rico.

The 2007 Regional Investment Proposal regarding the **Understanding Water/Forest Relationship** eastwide was discussed by John Greis (USFS). Greis and Al Todd wrote up the proposal and presented it at the summer SGSF meeting. The proposal was to develop an estimated value forests bring to the water quality. The first year funding was to be \$25,000 and \$35,000 the second year with match funding from the NE Region. The money would come off the top of Region 8 Cooperative Forestry funds and is up to the Regional Forester to fund.

Jim Vose (USFS Coweta) reported on the **Sediment Reduction Quantification** project which is sponsored by the SGSF. It consists of two parts. The first is the literature review by Graeme Lockaby (Auburn University) with the second part developing the model and tools for Quantifying BMP Effectiveness. Plans are to have the 2008 meeting at the Coweta Hydrologic Experiment Station.

These proposals get reviewed by the Research Committee.

Marilyn Grossman (TX) Chair of the SGSF Communications Committee spoke on the importance of communications with all committees. They have been tasked with promoting and marketing the importance of forest resources. Information is to be developed and distributed to state legislatures and Congress. A Congressional briefing is planned for February. A link to the web site is [www.southernforest.org](http://www.southernforest.org). Chair-elect Frank Green (GA) will be working with our communication's liaison.

The subject of **continuing the state reviews** was then discussed. Larry Lowe (KY) recommended that they continue on the same schedule as initiated. Any new elements for inclusion into the framework will be discussed by a sub-group consisting of Tom Gerow (NC), Larry Lowe, Jeff Vowell (FL) and Greis. The schedule of reviews will pick back up in 2007 if the SGSF agree. Greis will recommend this continuation at the SGSF winter meeting.

**Dissmeyer Award** - Dr. Lloyd Swift was nominated by NC to receive the award. Sean Brogan will write up a short narrative for the presentation to be made at the summer meeting in Oklahoma City. Daryl Hunkapiller will see that the plaque is made for Lloyd. A second ceremony will be held at the Coweta meeting in October 08 where Lloyd's immediate family will be able to attend. Nominations for the next award are due April 30. See nomination form attachment.

Jim L. Gillis, Jr., Chairman   H. G. Thomas New   P.W. Bryan, Jr.   Larry S. Walker   Victor Beadles   H. G. Yeomans   Wesley Langdale

*Soperton*

*Louisville*

*Thomasville*

*Oglethorpe*

*Moultrie*

*Swainsboro*

*Valdosta*

Chairman Carraway then reviewed the **Water Resources Committee Charter**. It calls for two meetings a year, but this committee has elected to have only one meeting. Frank Green will discuss with Mike Zupko to see if we officially need to change or ignore.

Each committee chair was charged with reviewing the attached **SGSF Strategic Implementation Plan**. Attendees were charged in reviewing this plan for water related issues input. **Comments are due to Burl by Wednesday, Nov 22.**

North Carolina was the only state to provide an official response as a result of their state review.

**Other Business** – Dan Smith, acting NC Director, is now the Committee’s official liaison to the SGSF. Now that the NASF has re-organized committees, there could be changes to SGSF representatives. Ken Stewart (GA) and Carl Garrison (VA) were representatives.

Jeff Vowell is to draft a letter regarding the **Compendium of State/Provincial BMPs**.

Hughes Simpson (TX) discussed the **BMP Statistical Guidebook** as a method for SGSF to adopt in their BMP Compliance Surveys to satisfy statistical requirements. It was agreed that the Guidebook will be included as an attachment to the framework. Burl and Hughes will put together and send out once the significant risk task force (see below) develops a definition. It was agreed that the framework should be more official looking in a slick cover document and be posted on the web site.

#### **State Reviews –**

VA- Matt Poirot advised that VA now has a state c/s program for loggers. It will pay 50% for the costs for stream crossings in impaired watersheds. Loggers must be trained and can receive from \$2,000 up to \$4,000. They are c/s for GPS units also. This will help with harvest notifications. VA is seeking 15 new positions

TX – Beginning with 7<sup>th</sup> round of survey which will concentrate on stream crossings. Have leased two billboards and producing a listing of county road ordinances. Very active forest owners association. Will compare BMP Survey results of those who are members and those who are not.

TN – About to start 3<sup>rd</sup> survey. Will try to come more into SGSF consistency. 117 complaints and does have a steel bridge program

SC - Guy Sabin has taken over the wq program. Most regional wq foresters have retired or taken other positions. Wanting an expert review review of their BMP survey. State does have a tax credit for leaving riparian buffers.

OK – 91.6 compliance rate.

NC – handed out a packet of educational programs including a DVD on skid trails. Reported on stream stabilization projects. Discussed Right to Practice Forestry Rule and guidance on minor drainage.

Jim L. Gillis, Jr., Chairman    H. G. Thomas New    P.W. Bryan, Jr.    Larry S. Walker    Victor Beadles    H. G. Yeomans    Wesley Langdale  
*Soperton                      Louisville                      Thomasville                      Oglethorpe                      Moultrie                      Swainsboro                      Valdosta*

MS – not represented. Since last meeting Michael Sampson has left the MFC. A new replacement has been appointed.

LA – not represented.

KY – went over BMP survey results

GA – State approved 3 new FTE wq positions. Reported on temporary bridge program and upcoming lawsuit on proposed USFS timber sale using TMDL as basis.

FL – Showed DVD for training loggers from the tailgate. Cost 16,000 for producing the DVD and 14,000 for 7 highway signs.

AR - George reported that Dennis Eagle will retire. Reported on EQIP funding and effectiveness monitoring survey.

AL – Reported 60 complaints.

**Cypress Logging** – Vowell gave a powerpoint presentation of the issues. Discussion by Greis, and Green followed.

**Integrating WR with Rural /Coop Forestry** – Sean Brogan reported that the USFS is looking into using the state 305(b) report of impaired watersheds to help develop a Southern Critical Forestland Assessment. Much discussion of the accuracy of this list. Mark Neuffer (EPA) to look into.

Wednesday Field Trips – The group broke into 4 groups and inspected a site that was recently harvested. The site had a lot of problems. Tx scored the site as being in 58.6% implementation with a water quality risk.

We then traveled to another site to look at site preparation, firebreaks and burning.

The last site was a look at TX effectiveness monitoring. Hughes Simpson led the discussion.

Thursday – Carraway reviewed the committee assignments. Greis brought up a proposal to write to the Southern SFI Implementation Committee to discuss BMP inconsistencies regarding logger education and continuing education requirements.

Matt Poirot was elected as Chair-elect. Kentucky will host the next meeting.

Greis will head a task force to look further into the significant risk definition. Other to serve on force will be TX, SC, FL, and VA.

The group then thanked Burl for his leadership the past two years and adjourned. Frank Green (Ga ) is the new Chair.

Jim L. Gillis, Jr., Chairman   H. G. Thomas New   P.W. Bryan, Jr.   Larry S. Walker   Victor Beadles   H. G. Yeomans   Wesley Langdale

*Soperton*

*Louisville*

*Thomasville*

*Oglethorpe*

*Moultrie*

*Swainsboro*

*Valdosta*

The group then toured the Green Bayou Wetlands Mitigation Bank.

Minutes prepared by Frank Green

Jim L. Gillis, Jr., Chairman    H. G. Thomas New    P.W. Bryan, Jr.    Larry S. Walker    Victor Beadles    H. G. Yeomans    Wesley Langdale

*Soperton*

*Louisville*

*Thomasville*

*Oglethorpe*

*Moultrie*

*Swainsboro*

*Valdosta*

**Southern Group of State Foresters**  
**Water Resources Committee Meeting – Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina**  
**October 11 - 13, 2005**  
**Agenda**

Tuesday – October 11

8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Bob Schowalter, State Forester SCFC
8:15 a.m.	W.R. Committee Business Meeting SGSF Report SGSF Web Site Regional Investment Proposals State Visits – Review and Schedule George Dissmeyer Award Other Business	Burl Carraway
9:30 a.m.	EPA Region 4 Update	Tom Wellborn
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Quantifying Pollution Loading	Jim Vose/John Greis
11:15 a.m.	EPA Management Measures	Frank Green
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	State-by-State Review (10 minutes per state)	Frank Green
3:15 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Watershed Assistance Program	John Greis
3:45 p.m.	Braided Streams	South Carolina
4:15 p.m.	Louisiana Cypress Update	Louis Heaton Jeff Vowell
4:30 p.m.	Q&A/Discussion Field Trip Preparation	Burl Carraway
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Evening Activity? Group Supper?

Wednesday – October 12

Field Trip to BMP Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Sites

Darryl Jones  
Burl Carraway

**Focus: Implementation – Criteria, Consistency, Significant Risk  
Effectiveness – Design, Data Collection Analysis, Reporting**

Depart 7:30 a.m.

Return 6:00 p.m.

Thursday – October 13

Moderated Sessions

8:00 a.m.	Field Trip – Team Reviews - Conclusions	Burl Carraway
9:00 a.m.	BMP Statistical Guidebook	Hughes Simpson
9:30 a.m.	Significant Risk – Protocol Development	John Greis
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Quantifying Pollution Load – Follow-up Discussion	
11:30 a.m.	Assignments, Next Steps, Wrap-up, Next Meeting	
12:00 Noon	Adjourn	

Minutes for the  
Fall SGSF Water Resources Committee Meeting  
Oct 11-13, 2005  
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Attendees:

Jeremy Lowery, AL	<a href="mailto:loweryj@forestry.state.al.us">loweryj@forestry.state.al.us</a>
Jeff Vowell, FL	<a href="mailto:vowellj@doacs.state.fl.us">vowellj@doacs.state.fl.us</a>
Roy Lima, FL	<a href="mailto:limar@doacs.state.fl.us">limar@doacs.state.fl.us</a>
Greg Staten, FL	<a href="mailto:stating@doacs.state.fl.us">stating@doacs.state.fl.us</a>
Neal Mitchell, FL	<a href="mailto:mitchet@doacs.state.fl.us">mitchet@doacs.state.fl.us</a>
Robin Marquette, FL	<a href="mailto:marquer@doacs.state.fl.us">marquer@doacs.state.fl.us</a>
Frank Green, GA	<a href="mailto:fgreen@gfc.state.ga.us">fgreen@gfc.state.ga.us</a>
Dennis Martin, GA	<a href="mailto:dmartin@gfc.state.ga.us">dmartin@gfc.state.ga.us</a>
Larry Lowe, KY	<a href="mailto:larry.lowe@ky.gov">larry.lowe@ky.gov</a>
Stewart West, KY	<a href="mailto:stewart.west@ky.gov">stewart.west@ky.gov</a>
Louis Heaton, LA	<a href="mailto:louis_h@ldaf.state.la.us">louis_h@ldaf.state.la.us</a>
Bill Swartley, NC	<a href="mailto:bill.swartley@ncmail.net">bill.swartley@ncmail.net</a>
Tom Gerow, Jr., NC	<a href="mailto:tom.a.gerow@ncmail.net">tom.a.gerow@ncmail.net</a>
Will Sumner, NC	<a href="mailto:will.sumner@ncmail.net">will.sumner@ncmail.net</a>
Sean Brogan, NC	<a href="mailto:sean.brogan@ncmail.net">sean.brogan@ncmail.net</a>
Darryl Hunkapillar, OK	<a href="mailto:darrylh@oda.state.ok.us">darrylh@oda.state.ok.us</a>
Jim Leach, OK	<a href="mailto:jiml@okcc.state.ok.us">jiml@okcc.state.ok.us</a>
Darryl Jones, SC	<a href="mailto:djones@forestry.state.sc.us">djones@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Robb Huff, SC	<a href="mailto:robhuff@infoave.net">robhuff@infoave.net</a>
Tom Patton, SC	<a href="mailto:tpatton@forestry.state.sc.us">tpatton@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Bob Schowalter, SC	<a href="mailto:bschowalter@forestry.state.sc.us">bschowalter@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Rocky Tucker, SC	<a href="mailto:ltucker@forestry.state.sc.us">ltucker@forestry.state.sc.us</a>
Burl Carraway, TX	<a href="mailto:bcarraway@tfs.tamu.edu">bcarraway@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
Hughes Simpson, TX	<a href="mailto:hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu">hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu</a>
Matt Poirot, VA	<a href="mailto:matt.poirot@dof.virginia.gov">matt.poirot@dof.virginia.gov</a>
Tom Welborn, EPA	<a href="mailto:welborn.tom@epa.gov">welborn.tom@epa.gov</a>
Mark Nuhfer, EPA	<a href="mailto:nuhfer.mark@epa.gov">nuhfer.mark@epa.gov</a>
John Greis, USFS	<a href="mailto:jgreis@fs.fed.us">jgreis@fs.fed.us</a>
Stephanie Laseter, USFS	<a href="mailto:slaseter@fs.fed.us">slaseter@fs.fed.us</a>

Tuesday Oct, 11 - Chairman Carraway (Texas) welcomed the group and introduced SC State Forester Bob Schowalter. Bob gave a brief situation report on the SC Forestry Commission. Group introductions followed. Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas were not represented at the meeting.

During the Committee Business Meeting, Carraway reviewed the report given to the Southern Group of State Foresters at their June 2005 meeting.

John Greis reported on the George Dissmeyer award. Each state is to reimburse Carraway \$10 for the award, which cost \$130. Nominees for the next award are to be submitted to the SGSF Water Resources Chair by April 30, 2006.

Carraway demonstrated the Water Resources Committee portion of the SGSF website. Minutes and pictures from this meeting will be forwarded to Clara Johnson.

John Greis continued with a report on the Regional Investment Proposals funded by the USFS, Quantifying Sediment Loading Prevention. The money is in the FY 2006 budget.

Carraway reviewed the schedule of the State Water Quality Program Reviews. Tennessee is the next state, scheduled for the end of October. Tom Gerow (NC) and Dennis Martin (GA) will accompany John Greis. Dave Arnold with Tennessee is the state contact person for the W.R. Committee. North Carolina's review will be held on Jan 17 – 19, 2006. Larry Lowe (KY) and Matt Poirot (VA) volunteered to accompany John Greis.

Frank Green (GA) discussed the letter drafted with input from the group to address EPA's National Management Measures to Address Silvicultural Nonpoint Pollution. John Greis will forward a copy to Committee Liaison Leah MacSwords for her review and approval.

Carraway explained his understanding of the withdrawal of Arkansas from the NASF and subsequently SGSF.

There being no other matters, the Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

EPA Update – Tom Welborn Region 4 gave an update of issues and concerns. He encouraged the comments on the EPA Management Measures document, and John Greis will forward the draft letter to Liaison Leah MacSwords. There was also discussion on developing memoranda between EPA and Corps of Engineers with state forestry agencies. Other issues EPA is looking at are cypress mulch harvesting and site prep for pine establishment in wetlands. They are expediting permits on timber salvage operations in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Over 1,000 TMDLs have been completed with impacts being felt by all land uses w/in the identified watersheds. There was a question on the use of pesticides needing NPDES permits, but EPA maintains that following the label should keep pesticide use out of NPDES requirements. Tom also discussed priority watersheds.

Southern Environmental Law Center still has concerns about bottomland hardwood floodplain logging, cypress logging, Section 10 in Louisiana.

Section 319 base funding has been cut by 12%. SGSF is going to track funding. Grant monies available through Wetlands Grant Program but may be limited. States can check into Section 106 grants for monitoring TMDL listed streams.

Watershed Assistance Program – John Greis stated that the \$15 million is not likely to be funded. Frank Green brought up that the formula used to determine state allocations is based solely on EPA stream assessments and does not include any state TMDL assessments.

Braided Streams –Darryl Jones explained SC's BMPs for braided streams.

Louisiana Cypress /Section 10 logging - Louis Heaton provided update. Currently still under Cease & Desist order.

Each state present gave a programmatic update on its BMP-related activities.

Quantifying Sediment Loading - Stephanie Laseter Coweta and John Greis sought input for information into the model for quantifying sediment loading. Need watershed approach as well as being able to use on individual sites. Need to validate for all physiographic regions.

Forestry BMP Video. – Tom Gerow, NC went over equipment and procedures to use to produce their BMP video.

Wednesday, Oct 12 - Field Trip – Looked at wetland road and stream crossing on MeadWestvaco property and a braided stream system on another tract.

Thursday Oct 13 - Teams established the day before presented their solutions to reduce sediment inputs by 35% in a forested watershed.

Statistical Guidebook – Hughes Simpson gave a presentation on statistics derived from Dr. Ron McNew. Hughes demonstrated the equations and distributed a CD to each state. Any comments should be sent to Hughes by the end of the year. Should this statistical method be adopted into the SGSF protocol?

Significant Risk – John Greis led a group discussion on this topic. He is still noticing obvious differences in designations from state reviews. Carraway recommended a sub-group to revisit this subject. The group will consist of FL, NC, TX, and SC and will be headed up by John Greis.

Quantifying Pollution Loading – Greis again headed up final discussion on this topic.

The 2006 meeting will be held in Texas, either in Beaumont or Houston, Oct 24 - 26, Oct 30 - Nov 1, or Nov 7 - 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Southern Group of State Foresters**  
**Water Resources Committee Meeting – The Woodlands, TX**  
**October 24 – 26, 2006**  
**Agenda**

Tuesday – October 24

8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Burl
8:10 a.m.	W.R. Committee Business Meeting SGSF Summer Meeting Report 2007 Regional Investment Proposals State Visits – Continue? George Dissmeyer Award Review Charter Other Business	
9:30 a.m.	BMP Statistical Guidebook – Include in Protocol?	Simpson
9:45 a.m.	Northeastern Area Update	Al Todd
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Sediment Reduction Quantification Project Water/Forest Relationship	Jim Vose
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	State-by-State Review (10 minutes per state)	Frank
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:15 p.m.	Cypress Logging	Wellborn/Vowell/Green
4:15 p.m.	Field Trip Preparation	Simpson
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Group Supper

Wednesday – October 25

Field Trip

Hughes Simpson

Depart 7:00 a.m.

BMP Effectiveness Monitoring Site  
Significant Risk Sites

Return 6:00 p.m.

Thursday – October 26

8:00 a.m. Field Trip Review

8:30 a.m. Assignments, Next Steps, Wrap-up,  
Next Meeting

9:00 a.m. Field Trip – Wetland Mitigation Bank

12:00 Noon Adjourn

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**Southern Group of State Foresters  
Water Resources Committee Fall Meeting  
October 9 – 11, 2007**

**Tuesday – October 11**

1pm	Welcome	Frank
1:10	Welcome to Kentucky	Leah MacSwords, KY State Forester
1:20	Regional Investment Projects Estimating Pollution Load Reductions Sediment Literature Update  Sediment Prediction Model	Dr. Graeme Lockaby, Auburn University Jim Vose, Coweta Hydrological Laboratory
3:00	Break	
3:15	Understanding of Water/Forest Relationship	Greis and Al Todd, USFS
3:30	EPA Updates	
	TMDL Wetlands and Rapanos Decision Grants	Jim Greenfield Tom Welborn Mark Neuffer
4:15	Cypress Logging Update	Jeff Vowell, FL
4:30	NE Update	Al Todd, USFS
5:00pm	Wrap-up and adjourn	

**Wednesday – October 10**

Field Trip to University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest  
Lunch and State Reports  
Continue field trip

**Thursday – October 11**

8:00am WR Committee Business Meeting  
Finish state reports  
SGSF Summer Meeting Report  
Critical Forest Land Assessment  
George Dismeyer nominations

Communications – possible creation of water quality open folder on SGSF web site to hold educational powerpoint programs for other states to develop and use. - Chris

Other topics ie, River Bain Planning???

Significant risk ???

Scheduling 2<sup>nd</sup> round of reviews.

Assessing firebreak damage from GA-FI fires??

12pm Committee assignments Wrap up and adjourn

Southern Group of State Foresters  
Water Resources Committee Annual Meeting  
Days Inn  
Winchester, KY  
October 9–11, 2007

Minutes

Chairman Frank Green (GA) brought the meeting to order and welcomed Linda Casey (AL) as the new liaison to the SGSF Water Resources Committee.

Tim Metzger (KY) welcomed everyone to Kentucky and updated the group on the fire situation that is currently plaguing Kentucky due to extreme drought. He indicated that it would be doubtful that Larry Lowe would be attending the meeting due to his dispatch to fire duty.

**Regional Investment Projects:**

Dr. Graeme Lockaby and Dr. Christopher Anderson from Auburn University gave an overview and progress report on the Regional Investment Project **Estimating Pollution Load Reductions / Sediment Literature Update** specifically **Forestry Best Management Practices in the Southeast U.S.: Uses and Effectiveness**. They went over some of the pertinent research studies for the coastal plain and Piedmont areas of the Southeastern U.S. and went on to discuss the variability by physiographic region, variety of operations, sampling intensity and differences in study designs, as well as the variability in the studies due to variation in BMP implementation.

Most of the literature shows that BMPs are effective at reducing water degradation. Drs. Lockaby and Anderson identified some gaps in information which include:

- Elucidation of **water yield** impacts on water quality
- **Ephemerals**-protection of head water streams
- **Stream crossings**-assessment across 'lifespan' of crossing
- Greater focus on mechanisms, e.g. **characteristics of SMZs**.
- Use of experimental approaches rather than operational
- Roads, crossings, etc.-greater effort to **relate erosion to stream delivery**

Dr. Mark Dougherty from Auburn University presented information on another portion of the project **Quantifying forest BMP effectiveness in the Southeastern US**. This will involve investigation into the various modeling tools available for erosion and sediment delivery, with outputs to include:

1. Assess the capability of GeoWEPP, WEPP, and other erosion and sediment delivery models to simulate yield from selected field studies in the Southeastern US.
2. Use the selected model to simulate sediment loads from published field studies of BMP effectiveness in forest harvest operations (clearcuts, roads, etc.).
3. Develop estimation table(s) showing sediment load reduction by physiographic region and selected forest BMP across the Southeastern US.
4. Provide training materials for use of WEPP hillslope model by forestry personnel and watershed managers faced with the need to quantify expected reductions in sediment yield from harvested forest sites using recommended BMPs.

The State Forester for Kentucky, **Leah MacSwords** arrived and welcomed everyone to Kentucky.

**Cypress Logging Update:**

Louis Heaton (LA) and Jeff Vowell (FL) gave an update on the Cypress logging issue in Louisiana. The issue involves a Corp of Engineers decision to halt Shovel Logging or Mat Logging in the Cypress Swamps of Louisiana under a provision of the Rivers and Harbors Act calling the logging mats a "hazard to navigation".

Jeff Vowell (FL) covered the Florida connection to the issue, that being the loggers that were Mat Logging were from Florida and were harvesting in Louisiana with a Florida haul-back. Jeff proceeded to go over the various politics involving the issue in Louisiana and the Florida response. Florida invested in a research project with results being the development of a new set of guidelines for Swamp Logging which involved development of 7 new BMPs for Mat Logging, these are:

1. **Minimize the width of skid trail mats – mats should not exceed 20 feet in width, on the average, except for sections of the trail where it is necessary for equipment to pass – in these sections the minimum width may be doubled.**
2. **Minimize the number of skid trail mats – typically, trails should not be spaced closer than 200 feet, on the average. Where conditions prohibit tracked machines from operating off the mat, spacing may be reduced to 50 feet in order to minimize site disturbance. However, under no conditions should skid trail mats exceed 25% of the harvest area.**
3. **Timber for skid trail mats should be laid down in the direction of the trail under normal conditions.**
4. **Use only one layer of timber for skid trail mats, except where multiple layers are necessary to prevent site disturbance.**
5. **Where multiple layers of timber are necessary to construct the skid trail mat, the bottom layer may be laid down perpendicular to the trail, and may exceed 20 feet in width to maximize weight distribution.**
6. **Merchantable material in skid trail mats should be removed after logging operation is complete.**
7. **For stream crossings with skid trail mats, refer to the stream crossing section of the BMP Manual.**

Louis Heaton (LA) passed out several articles about several "Big Box" companies not selling Louisiana Cypress mulch in stores due to the controversy.

**Section 319 Grants:**

Jim Leach with Oklahoma's Water Quality Agency, gave some tips on how to get grant money through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. He stated that the State Forestry Agencies need to have an open dialogue with two entities within your State, those being the State Water Quality Agency and the other being the EPA Project Leader for your area. Daryl Hunkapillar (OK) explained that Oklahoma has been quite successful in acquiring 319 grant funding for several projects including Oklahoma's BMP Implementation Monitoring.

**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

**Field Trip: University of Kentucky – Robinson School Forest**

Dr. Jeff Stringer, University of Kentucky (UK), Professor of Forestry & Forestry Extension gave an overview of the Robinson School Forest and gave a presentation on Kentucky's Master Logger Program which was developed and is administered by UK Extension.

Dr. Stringer then went over the BMP Study that is currently underway at the School Forest. The study has two components consisting of an **SMZ Effectiveness Study** and a **Skidder Crossing Study**. Dr. Stringer went over the basic design for the Skidder Crossing Study. They will be looking at 4 crossing types (ford, culvert, PVC pipe bundle and bridge) and studying the sediment load produced downstream as a result of each type crossing type.

Dr. Chris Barton, UK Professor, went over the design for the SMZ Effectiveness Study. Basically it will be a "Paired Watershed Study" utilizing 8 different watersheds (2 of these will be for a control). They will be looking at variations in SMZ width and differing forest densities for SMZ overall effectiveness.

**Lunchtime Presentation:**

**Forestry, Watersheds and Non Point Source Pollution Management** - Dewayne Robertson, EPA Region 4 NPS Program. Dewayne went over some of the things that EPA is funding out of the Region 4 Office such as BMP Compliance Surveys, Watersheds and WQ Training, Forestry BMP Manuals, etc. He had some suggestions for attaining EPA Funding for forestry projects using Key Words:

1. Protect – using BMPs during the harvest to protect Water Quality.
2. Educate – Landowners and Operators about BMPs.
3. Promote – forestry as beneficial to watershed protection.

After lunch, Dr. Stringer gave a demonstration of the use of a PVC Pipe Bundle and the group took a tour of part of the BMP Study area on the school forest.

**Thursday, October 11, 2007**

**Understanding of Water / Forest Relationship:**

John Greis and Al Todd gave an update on this project which is a two year proposal to develop an estimated value forests bring to the water quality. The project will take existing research use it to make land-use decisions so that local decision makers will be able to factor in the values that the forest provides in water quality and quantity issues in their decision making process. A useable publication will be the result of this project that will incorporate various case studies.

**NE Update:**

Al Todd (USFS NE Area) gave a report on the NE States Forestry Water Quality programs. He reported that approximately 2/3rds of the 20 northeastern states currently monitors BMPs. Several years ago, the Maine Forest Service developed a protocol for monitoring that has been refined and is now ready for use by all of the states. The protocol focuses on impacts to the stream due to roads, crossings and SMZs. The protocol can be downloaded at [www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/watershed/). Al reported that 10 of the 20 NE States are currently using the protocol and the NE is hoping to do program reviews similar to the SGSF in the near future.

Some additional areas that the NE is working on are:

- Growth and Development – Forest loss
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Storm Water Management – getting trees into storm water management
- Watershed Partnerships
- Drinking Water Supply

Al Todd Contact Information:

Email: [atodd@fs.fed.us](mailto:atodd@fs.fed.us)  
Phone: 410-267-5705

**Critical Forest Land Assessment:**

Hughes Simpson (TX) gave a report on the assessment process for identifying priority watersheds that Texas is developing for targeting Stewardship Funds. The process involves the formation of Eco-regions and weighing 13 different watershed factors to prioritize funding. It is important to note that Texas is NOT using the 303(d) list of impaired watersheds. This process is still in development.

**SGSF Water Resources Committee Display:**

The SGSF Water Resource Display was set up at the meeting. Funding for the display was provided by the USFS and the Georgia Forestry Commission. The display was created by the Non Point Source Unit of the North Carolina Division of Forestry. North Carolina will have charge of the display and will keep track of it's location and use.

**State Reports:**

**Alabama:** Not present

**Arkansas:** New BMP Forester, Arnold Hameister, hired in January, 2007 replacing Dennis Eagle. Arkansas also has a new Management Chief. The BMP Effectiveness Study is now complete and the final report is posted on their website. Arkansas has received a Section 319 grant to do their implementation monitoring which is currently underway. Logger training that is currently underway requires an passage of an exam to get credit.

**Florida:** 2007 Statewide Implementation Survey is ½ done and should be completed this Fall. FL has created a new DVD for logger “Tailgate Training”. FL has developed new BMPs for Shovel Logging and has created stickers to place them in the existing book. There is currently several research projects underway one is studying soil compaction on areas that are shovel logged; there is another on Forest Fertilization; and another on the impact of pine straw removal on the residual land area and impacts to Water Quality.

**Georgia:** A printed report of the Georgia Program accomplishments was provided. Highlight for FY 2007: there were 412 examinations made of which 324 involved timber harvesting operations and 88 involved site preparation or other timber management. A great deal of time was spent by Georgia’s Water Quality foresters stabilizing firebreaks and removing windrows from blue-lined streams to restore flow into and out of the swamp. Revision of the Headwaters BMPs were enacted.

**Kentucky:** The Kentucky Legislature authorized the removal of “Bad Actors” from the Commonwealth’s Bad Actor List. Te BMP Board will be looking at the penalty collection process – Assessment vs. Collection. KY is approximately 2/3 complete with it’s BMP Implementation Survey. The BMP Pocket Guide is currently under revision which will identify the minimum standards for water quality protection.

**Louisiana:** There are currently no dedicated employees for the BMP and WQ programs. LA is running into industry concerns with the WQ/BMP Survey. Cypress issues with the USACOE.

**Mississippi:** Not present.

**North Carolina:** New State Forester. The NPS Unit is now a Branch equal to Forest Management Branch and other agency Branches. NC has 15 dedicated WQ staff. A new BMP Manual has been produced, it is the first revision of this manual since 1989 (great job Tom), a companion pocket guide is at the printers. BMP Survey is approximately 80% complete. An effectiveness monitoring study is currently underway (319 funded). NC has developed a Riparian Tree Planting Guide. The Bridge Loan program is going strong. NC has produced several videos related varying BMPs and is currently doing tailgate training similar to Florida. NC provided copies of their annual Water Quality Accomplishment Report.

**Oklahoma:** The next round of BMP Monitoring is now in motion. Participated in Four-State Water Monitoring Conference. Developed a demonstration Farm Tour. Oklahoma Water Resources Board has begun planning for Water Supply for the next 50 years and Forestry is at the table.

**South Carolina:** SC has experienced a reduction in Section 319 funding by 10%. The Commission has provided BMP assistance on 700 sites over the past year. Next round of compliance monitoring has been pushed back due to employee turnover. SC wants to incorporate a 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor in their monitoring process. Working in the MS4 Program to incorporate trees into storm water management program.

**Tennessee:** Almost completed the current round of BMP Implementation Monitoring. TN has done 631 Courtesy checks of harvesting operations for BMPs, made 1000 recommendations, had 5 logger training sessions and responded to 17 complaints. TN is in the process of implementing a BMP cost-share program.

**Texas:** Field collection has been completed for the BMP Effectiveness Study. The 7<sup>th</sup> round of BMP implementation monitoring has started. Efforts are underway to target logger training needs based on issues discovered during the audit. Texas provided a written accomplishment report.

**Virginia:** Reorganization of the Central Office staff to put all Water Quality functions under Assistant Director for Water Quality under the Forest Management Division. Completed overhaul of the BMP Implementation Monitoring Program to bring it in line with the SGSF Protocol, field testing will begin Fall, 2007. 14 Logger training sessions on BMPs with 514 attendees. Logger BMP Cost-Share Program had 96 projects which involved the purchase of 88 portable wooden/steel bridges being put in the hands of logging contractors. Looking at modifying the Riparian Buffer Tax Credit Program to include values for ALL benefits provided by the retention of an SMZ in a timber harvest.

**Other Business:**

SE BMP Regional Report – Jeff Vowell, Hughes Simpson, John Greis will work on a Joint Report summarizing the results for the BMP Implementation Monitoring Effort for the 9 States that are currently meeting the SGSF Monitoring Protocol.

Communications – Victoria Tillotson (NC) will check with Chris Carlson (NC) to investigate the possibility of creating an open folder on the SGSF website that we can house educational (power point) programs, etc that all the SE States (especially the new program coordinators) can use.

George Dissmeyer Award: Nominations are open for this award for the upcoming year.

Next Meeting – Coweeta (Western NC), this meeting is to include review of the Regional Investment Project.

Chairman Frank Green thanked the Kentucky Division of Forestry for hosting a wonderful meeting, and a special thanks to Tim Metzger who worked tirelessly to insure that everything went as planned. This was no small task considering the fire situation in Kentucky at the time of the meeting. Chairman Green adjourned the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Matt Poirot (VA)

**Southern Group of State Foresters  
Water Resources Committee Fall Meeting  
Brevard, NC  
October 21 - 23, 2008**

**Tuesday – October 21**

8:00 a.m.	Welcome / Introductions	Frank Green
8:15 a.m.	Welcome to North Carolina	Owen, Andres
8:30 a.m.	WRC Business Meeting: SGSF Summer Meeting Report Southern Forest Land Assessment Scheduling 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round of State Reviews	Frank Green
9:30 a.m.	EPA Updates: Wetlands Clean Water Act Revision Rapanos Case Cypress Issues	EPA
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Regional BMP Implementation Report: Results and Methodology BMP Categories and Significant Risk Opportunities for Improvement	Jeff Vowell Hughes Simpson John Greis
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (Hog Wild BBQ)	
1:00 p.m.	BMP Demonstration Trail Tour at DuPont State Forest Field Discussion of Significant Risk	NC DFR / Group
3:00 p.m.	Hooker Falls Restoration Tour at DuPont State Forest	NC DFR
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn for the day	
	Meet in lobby for group dinner	

**Wednesday – October 22**

- |            |  |                                      |
|------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Load vans for Coweeta Hydrologic Lab   |                                      |
| 9:45 a.m.  | Regional Investment Projects Final Report<br>Estimating Pollution Load Reductions<br>Sediment Prediction Model | Jim Vose<br>Graeme Lockaby<br>Others |
| 12:00 p.m. | Cook-out Lunch @ Coweeta   | Courtesy of NC DFR                   |
| 12:45 p.m. | George Dissmeyer Award – Recognition of Dr. Swift  | Green / Greis                        |
| 1:00 p.m.  | Coweeta Field Tour:<br>Model Demonstration and Discussion  | Vose / Lockaby                       |
| 3:00 p.m.  | Load vans for Brevard  |                                      |
| 5:00 p.m.  | Adjourn  |                                      |
- Dinner on your own.

**Thursday – October 23**

- |            |  |                |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 8:00 a.m.  | Individual State Program Updates - Facilitated   | Matt Poirot    |
| 10:00 a.m. | Break  |                |
| 10:15 a.m. | Individual State Program Updates (continued)   |                |
| 11:00 a.m. | Business Meeting Continued<br>New Business – New Chair (Matt Poirot)<br>George Dissmeyer Award Nominations<br>Next Meeting | Green / Poirot |
| 12:00 p.m. | Wrap up and Adjourn  |                |
- Arrange transportation to airport or Biltmore House for interested parties

Southern Group of State Foresters  
Water Resources Committee Annual Meeting  
Brevard, NC  
October 21 - 23, 2008

Minutes

Chairman Frank Green (GA) brought the meeting to order.

Greg Yates, Regional Forester, NCDFR, welcomed everyone to western North Carolina and gave a bit of history about the Water Quality Program at the NCDFR and the future of forestry in NC.

**Business Meeting**

- Minutes of the October, 2007 Meeting in Winchester, KY were reviewed and approved.
- An article on the BMP Monitoring Report was to be reviewed by the communications committee and included in the SGSF Newsletter "The Southern Perspective," this has not been done. Matt Poirot will check on the status of this article with John Campbell (VA), SGSF Communications Committee Chairman.

**SGSF Summer Meeting Report**

Linda Casey, Alabama State Forester and SGSF Water Committee Liaison gave some opening comments and a review of the SGSF Summer Meeting. The forecast for population growth for the SE United States is huge, and it will provide some real challenges for the future for forests in the region to provide for recreation and aesthetics, water quality as well as water quantity issues in addition to the traditional values associated with forests in terms of timber resources.

**Southern Forest Land Assessment**

Andrew Bailey, NCDFR, gave an overview of the progress on the Southern Forestland Assessment Project. He basically stated that there would be 3 **Output Layers** that would result from this project for the SE area. They would be: **Forest Resource Richness, Forest Resource Threats, and Forest Resource Priority.**

- Forest Resource Richness Layers would consist of:
  1. Forest land area layer
  2. Forest Patches layer
  3. Riparian Areas layer
  4. Wetlands layer
  5. Priority Watersheds layer
  6. Public Drinking Water Supply layer
  7. Proximity to Public Lands layer
  8. T & E Species layer
  9. Slope layer
  10. Site Productivity layer (soils)
- Forest Resource Threat Layers would consist of:
  1. Development Level layer (Projected housing density, census, etc)
  2. Forest Health layer (from Forest Health Risk Mapping)
  3. Wildfire Risk layer (from So. Wildfire Risk Assessment)
- Forest Resource Priority – compilation of all of the above to identify the Resource Priority.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of State Reviews

The group discussed the scheduling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of State Water Program Reviews. The schedule for 2008 is:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008 – **Georgia** – to be reviewed by Kentucky, South Carolina, John Greis.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008 – **Arkansas** – to be reviewed by Texas, Oklahoma, John Greis.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008 – **Florida** – to be reviewed by Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina, John Greis.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – **Texas** – to be reviewed by Arkansas, Mississippi, John Greis.

## EPA Updates

Tom Welborn, EPA Region 4, gave an update on EPA matters for Region 4. Region 4 has undergone a reorganization that in-effect separates the Wetlands Enforcement and Non-point Source (319) Sections into different branches of the Water Protection Division of EPA. Wetlands Enforcement will now be under the Clean Water Enforcement Branch, and the Non-point Source Section along with the 319 funds will be under the Pollution Control and Implementation Branch.

Tom also gave an update on TMDL development in EPA Region 4 with a breakdown by state as well as funding for NPS programs by state and some guidelines on NPS project requirements.

Tom then went through a presentation on Silvicultural Cases involving Section 404 and Cypress Logging. Several cases in Georgia involving the Corps determination of silvicultural exemption, a court challenge, and a ruling in favor of the group that challenged the exemption. As a result of this, EPA is looking to develop guidance for the Forestry Exemption. Tom identified several questions for which EPA will be seeking answers. They are:

1. Define what is an "On-Going" forestry operation?
2. What kind of information should be in a management plan to support "On-Going"?
3. What constitutes prior management?
4. Regeneration guidelines based on species (Cypress or other)?
5. Forest Roads and Mat Logging issues.
6. Consideration for Bottomland Hardwood Management Systems in addition to Cypress Systems.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM\*\*** - Need a committee to look at these issues and develop some guidance to submit to EPA from the SGSF.

## Regional BMP Implementation Report

Jeff Vowell (FL) and Hughes Simpson (TX) presented the Regional BMP Monitoring Report and discussed the results and methodology. Some discussion occurred regarding the specific activities that fall into the 7 identified Categories for the report. Each state must be able to put the appropriate activities into the 7 pre-determined categories.

1. Harvesting – includes landings, wetlands, waste disposal, and skid trails.
2. Site Preparation – includes site preparation and planting BMPs.
3. Forest Roads – includes permanent and temporary forest roads used for truck hauling.
4. Stream Crossings – includes all stream crossings: permanent, temporary and skidder.
5. Streamside Management Zones – includes all BMPs associated with SMZs (including tops in stream channel)
6. Firebreaks – includes all BMPs for firebreaks, **prescribed fire only**.
7. Chemical Application – includes pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, or other chemicals applied.

Additional discussion involved:

- Providing BMP Implementation by landowner type following the FIA definitions.
- Production of the report on a 5 year interval (next report in 2013?)
- Significant Risk will be included in the next report based on the discussion at DuPont State Forest.
- Recommendation was made to try to collect trends associated with BMP Implementation such as: professional forestry advice used? Was the logger trained on BMPs? Etc.

Further discussion on significant risk will occurred during the field trip to DuPont State Forest.

### **Field Trip: NCDFR DuPont State Forest**

#### **Hooker Falls Restoration Tour**

Tom Gerow (NC) lead a tour of the stream restoration project on the Little River around Hooker Falls

#### **BMP Demonstration Trail Tour at DuPont State Forest**

Tom Gerow (NC) then lead the group on a tour of the BMP Demonstration Trail and a discussion of Significant Risk. Tom Greow (NC) offered to provide pdf copies of the Demonstration signs that could be modified for individual state use if anyone wanted them, get in touch with Tom. Summary will occur at end of this report.

**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

### **Coweeta Hydrologic Lab**

#### **Regional Investment Projects Update – Literature Review:**

Dr. Christopher Anderson from Auburn University gave an overview and progress report on the Regional Investment Project **Estimating Pollution Load Reductions / Sediment Literature Update** specifically **Forestry Best Management Practices in the Southeast U.S.: Uses and Effectiveness**. Dr. Anderson went over some of the pertinent research studies for the coastal plain and Piedmont areas of the Southeastern U.S. and went on to discuss the variability by physiographic region, variety of operations, sampling intensity and differences in study designs, as well as the variability in the studies due to variation in BMP implementation.

Most of the literature shows that BMPs are effective at reducing water degradation. Dr. Anderson identified some gaps in information which include:

- Elucidation of **water yield** impacts on water quality
- **Ephemerals**-protection of head water streams
- **Stream crossings**-assessment across 'lifespan' of crossing
- Greater focus on mechanisms, e.g. **characteristics of SMZs**.
- Use of experimental approaches rather than operational
- Roads, crossings, etc.-greater effort to **relate erosion to stream delivery**

#### **Estimating Pollution Load Reductions Sediment Prediction Model**

Dr. Mark Dougherty from Auburn University presented information on another portion of the project **Quantifying forest BMP effectiveness in the Southeastern US Forest Regions Using WEPP**. This has involved investigation into the various modeling tools available for erosion and sediment delivery, with outputs as follows:

1. Assess the capability of GeoWEPP and WEPP sediment delivery models to simulate yield from selected field studies in the Southeastern US.
  - **GeoWEPP** – A lumped parameter watershed model that allows only one land-use per sub-catchment. GeoWEPP could not intuitively model an SMZ below a clearcut
  - **WEPP** – A field scale model that simulates multiple treatments along a hill slope.
2. Use the selected model to simulate sediment loads from published field studies of BMP effectiveness in forest harvest operations (clearcuts, roads, etc.).

**Conclusions:**

- Model works better in specific areas for which it has been calibrated.
  - SE US Forest regions have limited snowfall reducing simulation errors due to snowmelt : rainfall conversion.
  - Comparative BMP effects can be simulated across the SE US, BUT the model should not be used to predict annual sediment yields.
3. Develop estimation table(s) showing sediment load reduction by physiographic region and selected forest BMP across the Southeastern US is the next step.
  4. Provide training materials for use of WEPP hillslope model by forestry personnel and watershed managers faced with the need to quantify expected reductions in sediment yield from harvested forest sites using recommended BMPs.

**Presentation of the George Dissmeyer Award**

The George Dissmeyer Award was presented to Dr. Lloyd Swift in the presence of his peers at the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab by Frank Green, Chairman of the SGSF Water Resources Committee.

**Field Tour of Pertinent Research – Coweeta Hydrologic Lab**

The staff of the Coweeta Hydrologic Lab showed the group some of the current research going on at Coweeta including the Environmental Impact to the Forest Ecosystem of the Loss of Eastern Hemlock to the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

**Thursday, October 23, 2008**

**Continuation of Business Meeting**

**Sediment Prediction Model**

- Status of Literature Review – Completed, Dr. Anderson needs to produce a written product.
  - **\*Action Item\*** CD Copies of the Model: - Poirot will reproduce and send to each member of the WR Committee, members will try out the model in their State and a conference call will be scheduled by Poirot after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2009 to discuss with WR Committee members.
  - **\*Action Item\*** Training on the Model – Greis to check on this with Jim Vose.
- \*Action Item\*** Greis to follow-up with EPA and Jim Vose to make sure that EPA is okay with the model and that it will be useable.

**BMP Significant Risk Issue**

- The discussion of this issue is that you can have multiple BMPs exhibiting a Significant Risk on a Single Tract.
- You can also have multiple Significant Risks per Category on a single tract (Of the 7 reportable categories in the protocol).

**Resolution of the Issue – For the Southern Regional BMP Report purposes, if your monitoring shows multiple Significant Risks per Category, you would only report the Risk once for that tract (for State individual reports multiple SR's can be reported per tract), So the maximum that you would report would be one Significant Risk per tract.**

### **SGSF Website**

The following is a link to the SGSF Website:

<http://www.southernforests.org/>

On the SGSF website you would scroll to the bottom of the page on the left hand side. Where it says SGSF members, click on it. If you just want to see what is in any of the different sections type in **sguser** in the password box. If you want to download information into the site, you will need to type **wq** as the password, instead of sguser, then use the browse button to locate the document that you wish to download to the site.

### **Committee for EPA Section 404 Silvicultural Exemption**

Group to develop a White Paper to answer the questions proposed by Tom Welborn:

1. Define what is an "On-Going" forestry operation?
2. What kind of information should be in a management plan to support "On-Going"?
3. What constitutes prior management?
4. Regeneration guidelines based on species (Cypress or other)?
5. Forest Roads and Mat Logging issues.
6. Consideration for Bottomland Hardwood Management Systems in addition to Cypress Systems.

The committee will be composed of:

- Jeff Vowell (FL) – Chairman
- Carl Tritton, USFS Wetland Center – John Greis to contact
- Jim Jeter (AL)
- Frank Green (GA)
- Sean Brogan (NC)

### **State Reports**

#### **Alabama - AFC (L. Casey)**

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Alabama Forestry Commission – State Report  
SGSF Water Resources Committee

FY2007-08 has been a pivotal year for Alabama's BMP program. State Forester Linda Casey directed her leadership team to re-implement the use of random ground inspections to strengthen the relationship of the AFC field personnel and Alabama's logging force. From this decision, the need to meet the protocol of the framework that is the backbone of the SGSF's Water Resources Committee was realized.

In December 2007, Jim Jeter was named new State BMP Coordinator after Jeremy Lowery accepted a different position within the Commission. Jeter's first assignment was to revise AFC's BMP policy and procedure manual to ensure that all protocols would fall within the standards set by the Water Resources Committee. The corrective changes have been made and approved, internal training accomplished, and the new standards have been operationally implemented. The new data gathering cycle will be on an annual basis effective October 1, 2008.

ADEM's Director and Linda Casey have worked diligently to strengthen the working relationship between the two Agencies. One outcome has been that the AFC was able to obtain its first funding from a 319 grant for its BMP program. Low impact development, green infrastructure, and Wildland urban interface are other areas of cooperation.

The Alabama Forestry Commission has also strengthened its partnership with the Alabama Clean Water Partnership by designating a forester in each of the ten river basins in the Partnership, as a technical forestry coordinator and basin contact.

To facilitate the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, databases for the last of the random aerial checks, the random ground inspections and the complaints have been developed and will be available at the request of third party auditors and forest industry representatives.

#### Accomplishments

##### Monitoring:

###### Aerial inspections –

98 sites representing 6,835 acres in the north half of state – overall implementation rate 98.1%

###### Ground inspections –

Completed tracts: 92 sites representing 6,903 acres statewide with overall implementation rate of 96.0%. Active tracts (courtesy – educational checks) totaled 208 sites representing 31,051 acres statewide. When combining active tracts and completed tracts the overall implementation rate drops to 86.2%

These checks represent sites that total 37,886 acres. Three inspections resulted in complaints.

##### Complaint Resolution:

46 complaints statewide.

<u>36</u>	# of complaints were resolved through education
<u>9</u>	# were sent back to ADEM to be resolved
<u>8</u>	# were land use conversions
<u>18</u>	# were invalid
<u>1</u>	# is still being resolved

##### Education:

432 loggers trained and approximately 1000 hours PLM hours awarded  
Data requested by and provided to facilitate nine SFI audits  
Internal training to 66 AFC associates  
External training to over 300 individuals in nine different sessions

##### Submitted by:



Linda S. Casey, State Forester  
Alabama Forestry Commission

### Arkansas - AFC (A. Hameister)

**BMP Implementation Assessments:** The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) has recently completed its sixth BMP implementation assessment. The two most recent assessments have been conducted with funding through the 319(h) grant program. Having success at attaining federal funding has led to statistically sound assessment methods that the program hopes to continue indefinitely. Obtaining good implementation data is vital to our voluntary programs success in targeting training in the state and allowing us to disseminate information to Company's, watershed groups, other state and federal agencies.

Statewide Implementation Averages:

2005-2006 Assessment= 88%

2007-2008 Assessment= 86%

Important conclusions drawn from implementation data:

- o Educating private non industrial forest landowners  
Response: Create more venues for reaching PNIFLOs (ex. Forestry conference, landowner clinics, and courtesy exams.)
- o Individual BMPs that are consistently deficient in implementation  
Response: Create advanced trainings for these areas (ex. Stream crossings, road building, water bar installation, SMZ.)
- o Geographical areas that continue to have lower implementation  
Response: Intensify trainings in these areas and work with the local forestry community to address these areas.

**Training:** The AFC is very involved in training. We have three different audiences that we target for training:

1. Technical Training for Loggers and Foresters
2. Non-Technical Training for Private Non-Industrial Forest Landowners
3. "In-house" Training for AFC Foresters and Rangers

In the last three years our program has trained:

- o 1,348 loggers and foresters in 43 BMP programs
- o 1,062 private landowners in 12 BMP programs
- o All AFC County Foresters and County Rangers; (first time)
- o AFC Ranger training (installing water-bars on firebreaks, first time)

**Complaints:** The AFC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality stating that our agency will handle all water quality complaints related to silviculture. At the present our agency has been successful in resolving all complaints using our recommended BMPs to mitigate any risks to water quality.

**Courtesy Exams:** The AFC is always available to offer on-site technical BMP assistance to all members of the forestry community. During every training opportunity we convey the opportunity to receive this free assistance. We offer site specific BMP implementation plans to the forest community free of charge.

**The Future...**

- o The AFC has recently secured a 319(h) grant for 2008-2011. During this grant period we will conduct another Implementation Assessment using the same methods as our last two assessments. We are certain that we can provide consistent, comparable results into the future with our current methodology.
- o We also plan to offer advanced BMP trainings that address deficient BMPs in the state. This will amend our statewide "basic" BMP training program that has been very successful in the past.

- In order to target a larger private landowner audience we are incorporating a forestry conference in cooperation with the biggest players in the forestry community in our state.
- To further participation in our courtesy exam service we plan to fly priority areas determined by the state NPS task force and obtain locations of on-going silviculture operations. We will use these sites to go on-site and provide site specific BMP plans. We feel that if we can further advertise this service we will have more people request it.
- We are currently working with our BMP task force and the USFWS developing BMP's for Karst. These may be amended into our current State BMP guidelines.

#### Florida - DOF (J. Vowell)

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During the past year emphasis was focused on education and training, and updating of the Silviculture BMP Manual. Calendar year ending 2007 completed the 14<sup>th</sup> Statewide BMP Survey since the initial Survey in 1981. Considering all practices in all BMP categories, statewide implementation in 2007 was 98.6%. Key activities conducted during the past year include:

- The Division of Forestry's Hydrology Section conducted a total of 17 BMP training workshops. Three workshops were directed at professional foresters, 1 for professional loggers through the Florida Forestry Association Master Logger Program, 2 workshops were conducted for new wildland fire fighters as part of Basic Fire Control Training, 1 workshop was made part of the Division's Basic Forest Management Training for new foresters, 1 BMP workshop for the forest hydrology class at the University of Florida, 2 BMP related activities in conjunction with the Division of Forestry's Forestry Training Camp for high school FFA (Future Farmers of America) students, 3 workshops by request from Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, and St. Johns River Water Management Districts, 1 workshop for the Southeastern Wood Producers Association to inform out-of-state loggers (Georgia and Alabama) about Florida BMPs, and 3 BMP workshops open to landowners, foresters, and land managers. Collectively, these workshops trained 445 individuals.
- On February 11, 2004 the Division of Forestry established a new rule in the Florida Administrative Code. Rule 5I-6 F.A.C. was established to provide an additional incentive for landowners to follow forestry BMPs. Compliance with rule 5I-6 involves submitting a *Notice of Intent* to the Division of Forestry. This Notice initiates a commitment to follow BMPs during all forestry operations, and there are no fees or waiting periods involved. Since the inception of Rule 5I-6, the Division of Forestry has received Notices of Intent encompassing over 5.1 million acres of private and public land. A quarterly BMP newsletter was developed in 2007 as an added incentive to landowners that have submitted a Notice of Intent providing information relating to BMP implementation and scheduled workshop training.
- DOF has developed and continues to conduct "real-time" BMP monitoring in the form of Voluntary Courtesy Checks which are made available to loggers, landowners, and contractors in an effort to enhance the Division's outreach for BMP training, in addition to the evaluation of random forestry operations after completion. The real-time monitoring is targeting specific areas (such as TMDL watersheds) within which to conduct intensive, in-the-field evaluation and training at or near the initiation of the forestry activity. For the period of record, 36 Courtesy Checks were performed with an overall compliance of 92%.
- 2004 marked the beginning of BMP evaluations on all 35 State Forests in Florida (1.2 million acres) where forest management activity involved the implementation of BMPs. These annual evaluations continue to be an important aspect of the DOF mission in protecting and managing Florida's forest resources through a stewardship ethic. Twenty-seven state forests were evaluated in 2007 with an overall BMP compliance of 99.3% for all identified Silviculture activities.

- Logger "tailgate" training continues with BMP training for loggers via a 30-minute DVD depicting the proper use and implementation of BMPs focusing on SMZs, Wetlands, Forest Roads, Stream Crossings, and Waste Disposal. The DVD project was completed in 2007 and is currently being used in the field for training loggers in the proper use of SMZs and wetland BMPs.
- This year through grant funding sources the DOF initiated two BMP related research projects, to evaluate the effectiveness of Silviculture Best Management Practices. One project involves forest fertilization and operational pine straw production, and the other project will evaluate BMP effectiveness for new mat-logging practices. Both projects are in cooperation with The University of Florida and private forest landowners.

### Georgia - GFC (F. Green)

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The Georgia Forestry Commission has a contract with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) to coordinate the state's forestry water quality program. The major responsibilities include Best Management Practices (BMP) education in an effort to minimize erosion and sedimentation from all silvicultural practices; complaint investigation and remediation; and BMP monitoring. The Commission's program is managed with 4 full time regional water quality forester positions and 6 part time district water quality forester positions to assist in this statewide effort to keep Georgia's waters clean during forestry operations.

During the year, 110 BMP talks were given to over 2,595 people. Four of the talks were presented to 144 new loggers and foresters participating in the Forest Resource Association sponsored Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Master Timber Harvesters' Program (MTH). Participants are able to interact with various experts speaking on the sustainable forest initiative, silviculture, wildlife habitat, endangered species, wetlands, water quality, harvest planning, business management, OSHA rules, workers' compensation, and safety management.

In order to deliver wood to SFI participating mills, MTH participants are required to complete 12 hours of continuing logger education classes every two years. Four of the hours must be environmental and is normally BMP related. The GFC presented BMP talks to the following groups:

- 46 talks to 1,251 people at continuing logger education classes
- 3 talks to 65 people at forest industry workshops
- 1 talk to 98 forest landowners
- 56 talks to 1,040 people at various federal, state or local government meetings

Topics focused on identifying stream types and floodplain features, determining streamside management zone widths, proper stream crossings, and proper road building techniques. We've begun an open book 15 question BMP pre-test at these meetings. Average scores through 6 workshops have been 56%.

The GFC maintains a list of MTH timber buyers who have completed this training on its web site and a link to the UGA MTH list of all participants. The BMP manual is also on the web site.

The department received 94 documented water quality complaints related to forestry practices during the year. Approximately 168 site visits were made by the GFC district water quality foresters to investigate and mediate those complaints. Forty-two complaints have been resolved, 13 have been turned over to the regulatory authorities. The remainder is in the process of being resolved.

GFC district water quality foresters made approximately 126 BMP pre-harvest advice site visits.

Sample timber sale contracts and invitations to bid, which include specific BMP language, are available at all GFC offices.

The GFC has completed the 2007 BMP survey on 370 sites. Overall BMP implementation was 91.8% and the number of acres in BMP compliance is 99.7%. Stream crossing compliance is still at 44%.

The GFC plows approximately 30,000 miles of firebreaks annually. The potential for erosion and stream sedimentation could be great if BMPs are not installed properly. Violations of water quality standards (sediment) could subject landowners to hefty fine by GAEPD. Therefore the GFC has an aggressive implementation and evaluation policy to ensure firebreaks are in compliance with BMPs. During the year, GFC personnel evaluated approximately 5,350 miles of pre-suppression and wildfire firebreaks on 2,074 sites for BMPs. Overall BMP implementation was 78% with 83% of the miles in compliance. Results indicate that more BMP water bars are needed to reduce erosion impacts.

In its 2006 biennial report, the GAEPD identified 901 water quality impaired stream segments totaling over 6,983 miles and the USEPA identified an additional 41 segments in the state. Georgia is under a federal court consent order that requires well over 1,100 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for various pollutants to be developed in order to improve conditions in these streams. It has been estimated that the fish communities (biota) in 286 of these segments are impaired due to sediment inputs attributed to nonpoint sources of pollution, which includes silvicultural operations. An additional 126 segments are impaired because of low dissolved oxygen levels attributed to nonpoint sources of pollution as well.

During FY 2008, there were 497 BMP Assurance examinations made of which 414 involved timber harvesting operations and 83 involved site preparation or other timber management operations. Comparing the results from the initial and the final harvest exams for timber harvesting indicate that a 6.5% increase in BMP implementation was achieved in the final inspection. The number of water quality risks identified dropped from 84 to 11 or 87%. This clearly demonstrates a pro-active approach of providing "*reasonable assurance*" that BMPs are being implemented and that water quality is being protected through the services of the GFC.

The GFC has been involved in the Governor's Comprehensive Water Plan Study Committee as Interim Director Robert Farris is a member of the State Water Council. The plan will address water quantity and quality issues.

#### **Kentucky - DOF (L. Lowe)**

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- Completed the field work and analysis of our second round of implementation monitoring.
- Still have to prepare a report for EPA as it was an EPA grant which funded the monitoring.
- Showed improvement in almost all categories except sinkholes, which didn't have enough numbers to be a valid test (same with wetland areas).
- Put together a draft revision of BMP field guide. It now is at Univ. of KY for review and layout.
- Since our inception as a mandatory BMP state in July 2000, we have completed 51,399 inspections on 17,299 different sites, and;
- We have issued 6,176 enforcement actions.

#### **Louisiana - LDAF (M. Thomas)**

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BMP survey is one year overdue. Funding issues and administration changes have delayed the survey. We are trying to arrange a meeting with our new State Forester and LDEQ to try and get more 319-Grant money to do the survey and possibly put on a BMP/water quality forester to switch to continuous monitoring. Have had discussions with state SFI SIC committee about working with them on monitoring\audits as well.

Very little cypress activity. Landowners wanting to cut are having problems finding loggers willing to take a chance on the COE. The cypress mill that opened a couple years ago will close in December (or sooner) because of lack of supply.

**Mississippi**

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Not Present.

**North Carolina - DFR (T. Gerow)**

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- Currently Central Office water quality / nonpoint source staff is filled 3 out of 5 FTEs (1 vac. technical specialist, 1 vac. program assistant), fully staffed District Water Quality Foresters (10 out of 13 total Districts).
- Completed Round-2 of statewide BMP Implementation Survey on 212 active logging sites (2006-2008). Analysis and reporting will be done once we fill vacant technical specialist position. Prelim results look about same as Round-1 survey, mid-80's for percent implementation as a statewide average. Round-3 will be electronic and cover the new BMP Manual.
- Completed 1<sup>st</sup> year of pre-harvest baseline data collection on paired watershed BMP Effectiveness Monitoring Study, with Southern Global Change Program @ USFS-SRS. Drought in '07 reduced streamflow, but hydrology resumed in early '08. Prelim data indicate that watersheds are correlated. Need another 1+year of baseline monitoring before harvest.
- Bridgemat program still going strong - received 15 new 25-foot mats, once again have statewide availability. For calendar year 2007: mats used 39 times; protected 45 crossings; accessed nearly 1,300 harvest acres.
- Created *BMP Field Guide*, as supplement to 2006 BMP Manual. Full color photos showing 'good VS bad' examples of erosion control/BMP issues. Very popular with loggers and field personnel.
- ProLogger through North Carolina Forestry Association: about 1,400+/- loggers trained annually with DFR assistance. Their '07-'08 annual training consisted entirely of 3hr video of NC's new (2006) Forestry BMP Manual.
- Completed 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 phases on stream restoration project, about 1,900 linear feet restored on State Forest in Wilkes County (northern foothills). Working on getting 3<sup>rd</sup> final phase underway for 2009 to restore +/-1,000 ft.
- Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. of reference guide, *Riparian & Wetland Tree Planting Pocket Guide*, aimed at stream / wetland restoration.
- Evans Road Fire consumed a lot of acres, personnel time, and water from June to mid-August.
- Submitted grant request to purchase "rehab" fireplows for DFR use in coastal Districts, based on NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan and lessons learned from Evans Road Fire (and other recent fires). Plows allow for improved BMP rehab.
- Grand opening of outdoor NPS/Water Quality Classroom and River Basin Observation Deck at State Forest southeast of Raleigh metro area. Developed and rolled-out an educational workbook module, about 4,000+ school kids annually.
- Working with NC Div. of Water Quality on proposed new regulations for TMDL on 1,690 sq.mi. Jordan Lake watershed in central NC. Proposed mandatory 50-foot riparian buffer with harvest & forest management restrictions, similar to existing buffer rules in other TMDL-impacted watersheds and river basins in NC.
- NC Forest Practices Guidelines (FPG) compliance inspections for most recent State Fiscal Year (July07-June08):

There were 6 referrals for enforcement to regulatory agency(ies); There were total of 63 Citizen Complaints, of which 35 were in compliance, 28 were not-in-compliance. Statewide annual FPG inspection figures are broken-down:

	<u>Timber Harvests</u>	<u>Reforestation &amp; Other Activities</u>
# initial inspections:	2,618	452
% in FPG compliance:	96%	99%

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Oklahoma

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- Halfway completed with the latest cycle of monitoring.
- BMP Workshop / presentation for landowners at the State Fair – 32 people attended.
- BMP Presentation at the Lions Club.
- Section 319 Grant approved for basic monitoring plus the purchase of bridge mats to lend to loggers.
- Section 319 Grants also providing funding for a Revised BMP Manual, BMP Fact Sheets, and Logger Tailgate Sessions.

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**South Carolina - SCFC (G. Sabin)**

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- Compliance Monitoring – Preliminary results from latest round of compliance monitoring shows 99% compliance for harvesting operations statewide 2007-2008. This is an increase from 98% in 2004-2005.
- Expert Review Team – A group of about 25 outside experts in areas such as wetlands, soils, and aquatic ecology were invited to review about 20 recently harvested sites to consider BMP implementation and subjective effectiveness. Participants included academic, regulatory, government land management, and forestry/logging representatives. This will provide a check on external views of BMPs with a focus on further improving inspection procedures and determination of impacts, along with initial input for future BMP revisions.
- Local Governments/MS4 – State is delegating stormwater permitting to many local governments through the MS4 program, and many of those local entities have made attempts to regulate forestry practices.
- Personnel Turnover/recruiting, hiring, and training – The SC BMP program had more than seven vacant staff months last year due to promotions and resignations. State budgets continue to be an issue, and attracting well-qualified applicants at state salaries has been challenging. Time spent recruiting, hiring, and training new employees has affected productivity.
- Section 319 funding of \$215,000/year has remained steady. Recently announced state budget cuts totaling 12% for the SC Forestry Commission.

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**Tennessee**

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Not Present.

**Texas - TFS (H. Simpson)**

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- I. Personnel Changes
  - A. Director Jim Hull retired in June 2008 (Tom Boggus serving as Interim)
  - B. Jake "Pierre" Donellan transferred to a District Forester position
  - C. Chris Duncan hired in August to replace Jake
  - D. Hughes Simpson duties split between BMP and Ecosystem Services
  
- II. BMP Implementation Monitoring – Round 7
  - A. Wrapping up Round 7
  - B. Report published next month
  
- III. BMP Effectiveness Monitoring
  - A. Data collection / Analysis completed
  - B. Draft report
  - C. Final report published next month
  - D. Conclusion - TX BMPs are effective
  - E. Work with cooperators to publish results in technical journals
  
- IV. BMP Handbook Revision
  - A. Revise BMP Handbook in 2009
  - B. Clarification mainly
  - C. May add Biomass BMPs to manual
  - D. Urban BMP development
  
- V. State Assessment
  - A. Water Resources Section
  - B. Water Quality / Quantity
  - C. Stakeholder survey showed this was most important issue
  - D. SFLA identified priority areas to target
  
- VI. BMP Training
  - A. Regular BMP courses way down – Have we trained all TX loggers?
  - B. Stream Crossing workshop still a Hit
  - C. Forest Roads course will be released in 2009
  
- VII. Ecosystem Services Marketing
  - A. Water Quality / Nutrient Trading Credits

### **Virginia - DOF (M. Poirot)**

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Va Dept. of Forestry has experienced several reorganizations in the past few months, they are as follows:

- o Combined the Forestland Conservation, Forest Products Utilization and Marketing, with Ecosystem Services to become "Division of Forestland Conservation" – Division Manager, Buck Kline.
- o Consolidated from 6 Regions down to 3: Eastern Region consists of Coastal Physiographic Region of the State, Central Region consists of Piedmont Physiographic Region of the State, and the Western Region consists of the Mountain Physiographic Region of the State.
- o Budgetary problems will likely cause additional changes in the next fiscal year.

V DOF has partnered with Virginia Tech Water Resources Center and Virginia Tech Department of Forestry to share a Forest Hydrologist position. Kevin McGuire will begin in this position on January 9, 2009 and will be looking for research projects of interest to all parties. Good opportunity for SGSF Water Resources Committee to have input into research needs.

Challenges to VDOP's right of entry for Harvest Inspections has been challenged over the past year with warrants for criminal trespass having been sworn out against two of our employees, dismissed in court. Working to change the law to strengthen the right of entry for our personnel.

VDOP had its second review of its Water Quality Program, went well, and Virginia is now meeting the SGSF Protocol for BMP Monitoring. Monitoring is being done on a continual basis with a yearly short report being considered, with a larger report every 3 to 5 years being planned.

#### **Other Business:**

##### **SGSF Water Resources Committee Display:**

The SGSF Water Resource Display was set up at the meeting. Funding for the display was provided by the USFS and the Georgia Forestry Commission. The display was created by the Non Point Source Unit of the North Carolina Division of Forestry. North Carolina will have charge of the display and will keep track of it's location and use. It is currently in Arkansas. It will be available for use for any of the WR Committee when Arkansas is finished with it, contact North Carolina to schedule.

##### **George Dissmeyer Award**

Nominations are open for this award for the upcoming year. Please try to have any nominations sent to Matt Poirot (VA) by January, 2009 for consideration.

##### **Election of Officers**

Matt Poirot (VA) - Incoming Chairman

Hughes Simpson (TX) - Nominated and accepted the position of Vice Chairman.

##### **Next Meeting**

Florida (Jacksonville Area) tentatively planned for October 27, 28, 29, 2009.

##### **Evans Road Fire, NC**

Bill Swartley gave an overview of the fire-fighting and water quality impacts of the Evans Road Fire in Eastern NC.

Chairman Matt Poirot thanked the NCDFR for hosting a wonderful meeting, and a special thanks to Tom Gerow, Sean Brogan Gail Bledsoe, and Bill Swartley who worked tirelessly to insure that everything went as planned. Chairman Poirot adjourned the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Matt Poirot (VA)

DRAFT

# County Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

First Quarter, 2008

## Next Meeting

Date: xxxxxx  
xxxxxx

Time: xxxxxx

Place: xxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Inside

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## **Woody BioEnergy: Part 2 – Potential as a Renewable Energy**

**Source** - Eric L. Taylor and C. Darwin Foster, Forestry Specialists, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M System

If you recall from “Wood Bioenergy: Part 1 – Energy Requirements”, we discussed how our economy is burdened by the cost of increasingly scarce fossil fuels and how the prudent next step is to develop renewable energy technologies with all of the dedication that our economy will allow. Renewable energy is produced from renewable natural resources. A renewable natural resource is any natural resource that is depleted at a rate equal to or less than the rate at which it is replenished. As a result renewable energy is essentially inexhaustible as long as we apply sound, sustainable management practices and take care of the source. Last time, we noted that all of the products, energy, systems and services for which we depend upon fossil fuels today can be acquired from renewable natural resources even at our current level of technology. Now part two...*Potential of Woody Biomass for Energy.*

Biomass is the most widely used renewable energy source in the world today. It currently comprises 10.6% of the world's total energy supply. Biomass is produced from organic materials, either directly from plants or indirectly from industrial, commercial, domestic or agricultural products. However, there are other sources of renewable energy - each with their own economic and ecologic advantages and disadvantages.

### Solar Energy

The name "solar power" is actually a little misleading. Most of the energy known to man is derived in some way from the sun. When we burn wood or other fuels, we are releasing the stored energy of the sun. Tidal, wave, ocean currents and wind are all the result of solar energy. Even the fossil fuel that we consume today is solar energy captured and stored millions of years ago. In fact, there would be no life on earth without the sun. The term solar power or solar energy usually refers to the direct conversion of the sun's rays into a usable energy source either through photovoltaic cells or thermal collectors.

### Wind

Mankind has harnessed wind power since ancient times. Wind powered sea going ships have existed for centuries. Wind has also been used to provide power and water for agriculture essential to the growth of our country. Unlike their predecessors, modern wind turbines are large and powerful. Today, their long blades (130 feet or more in length) efficiently catch the wind and convert the spinning movement into electrical energy by an efficient generator.

### Water (Hydropower)

Hydropower makes use of the kinetic energy that water gains when it drops in elevation. It has been very important to our nation's development. Hydropower was used for irrigation, watermills, textile machines, sawmills, and to power various other machines. Hydroelectricity is electricity produced by hydropower and supplies 10% of the US electricity today or enough power to supply 28 million households with electricity, the equivalent of nearly 500 million barrels of oil. Typically, water dammed in a lake or reservoir is released through turbines and generators to produce electricity. Other distinct types of hydropower are now being developed. These include tidal, wave, current, and temperature differentials.

### Rock (Geothermal)

Geothermal energy is derived from the immense thermal reservoir of the earth's interior. Temperatures hotter than the sun's surface are continuously produced inside the earth by the slow decay of radioactive particles. This heat can be used by geothermal power plants (usually in the form of steam or hot water) to generate electricity. Only in certain regions of the earth is the geothermal energy close enough to the surface to be commercially exploited.

- Continued on Page 6

## Timber Sales Contracts –

Wayne Pfluger, Consulting Forester,  
Lone Star Forestry, LLC, Conroe, Texas



A timber sale is the most pivotal point in time in the management of a forest. The decisions you, the timber owner, make at this juncture can effect how a forest is managed for many years to come. It can also be a very stressful event for a landowner.

My first suggestion when contemplating a timber sale is that you find and hire a consulting forester. Just as you would hire a doctor, dentist or lawyer to assist and advise you in their fields of expertise, a consulting forester can help you with important forest management decisions as in the case of contemplating a timber sale, what trees to sell, how to sell them or to help you determine if this is the right time for a sale on your forest. A consulting forester can also relieve a lot of your stress and anxiety by assisting you with the sale process.

A timber sale is not a transaction that most landowners conduct on a regular basis. Even if you do conduct fairly frequent sales on your property this does not necessarily keep you on top of the many intricacies of a sale such as local market prices or who is buying, for example. The “who is” buying is tough, even for the consultant to keep up with these days. Consulting foresters sell timber daily and my opinion is that a good one will make you more money than the fees he or she charges. Just as important, a consultant, working for you, will be able to walk you through a sale from start to finish and can help you avoid many problems, pitfalls and headaches throughout the process.

A very important part of the sale process is the timber sales contract. There are a number of items that I’d like to run through that should be a part of any timber sales contract no matter how you decide to sell your timber.

First of all, Texas Law, specifically Title 6, Chapter 151, Subchapter A of the Natural Resources Code titled “Bill of Sale for Purchase of Trees and Timber” requires a Bill of Sale, or contract, for the sale of timber. The following items must be included:

- The Identity of the Landowner;
- If different than Landowner, the Identity of the Seller of Timber;
- The Buyer of the trees or timber;
- A description of the property;
- A description of the trees or timber being conveyed must be included. It is very important that you spell out, in detail, what you are selling. For example, “all merchantable pine and hardwood” or “being only those pine trees marked with two spots of blue paint, one at the base of the tree and the other being at eye level” and;

- A Warranty from the Seller to the Buyer assuring the Buyer that the Seller is the rightful owner of the trees or timber being sold.

In addition to these required items, I strongly suggest you look for and include these items in your contract:

- The contract should spell out how much is being paid for the timber whether it is a total dollar figure or a price per unit of weight or volume. Many times this is done as a side letter of the contract so that your sale specifics are not recorded in the courthouse.
- The term of the contract, or how long the Buyer has to harvest the timber should be made clear in your contract. Many first time timber sellers find this hard to believe but the normal term of a timber sales contract is eighteen to twenty-four months. This paragraph is where I would include restricting harvesting activities so as to exclude harvesting during hunting season if you wish.
- What I like to call an Operations Clause should also be included. This section covers a variety of subjects such as:
  - Operations on the Land, which tells how SMZ’s (streamside management zones), AMZ’s (aesthetic management zones), roads, trails, boundaries, fences, gates will be treated and the condition you expect them to be in at the conclusion of the harvest;
  - A Damages Provision, should be included here which tells the Buyer how he will compensate you for any trees illegally cut or damaged, and;
  - The “wet-weather provision” should also be included in this section. This is one of the most important provisions in your contract and many people overlook its importance. This sentence gives you, or your forester/representative, the right to shut down any or all operations on your land due to inclement weather or damages caused by the harvesting operations.
- The contract should also include an indemnity clause that protects you against any losses, claims, damages or judgments brought on by any acts of the Buyer;
- For the Buyer’s protection there should also be an indemnity clause that reciprocates, protecting him from loss, claims, damages or judgments brought on by any acts of the Seller.

Those are the basics of the contract itself. Once again, get a professional forester to review the contract with you. I’d also recommend having your attorney review the contract for you. My experience has been that you can’t have too many eyes on your side, to read over important documents such as this.

Now, how should you actually sell your timber? There are basically two ways to sell your timber. One is by way of the Lump Sum Timber Sale. The other is the Pay-as-Cut Timber Sale.

- Continued on Page 3

## Timber Sales Contracts - Continued from Page 2.

### 1. The Lump Sum Method

Timber is sold to the Buyer by an agreed-to total amount using this method. This can be paid in full at closing or payments can be spread out in different manners which can be spelled out in the contract.

Timber in the State of Texas is considered Real Estate. Therefore, when timber is sold in this manner the contract is actually termed a "Timber Deed" as you are deeding the timber described in the contract to the Buyer. The title to the described timber is actually transferred from the Seller to the Buyer at closing. So, for example, if you have conducted and closed a Lump Sum Timber Sale on marked timber on your property you no longer own the marked trees but still retain possession of the unmarked trees.

The advantages of this method are:

- You can get all of your money at once or at a specified time.
- You will know exactly how much money you are receiving which can help in tax planning;
- It is easier, when bidding your timber, to determine the best deal as the bid is a dollar amount.
- It is easier during the harvesting operation for you and your forester. You are only interested in how the residual trees and forest are left.

The disadvantages of this method are:

- Not knowing if you, the Seller, got paid for every ton, cord or board foot of material. The lump sum price paid for timber using this method is based on some sort of estimate. This estimate is likely made from timber cruise information or marking tallies. Either way, it is an estimate, and an estimate is an estimate.
- The Buyer also does not know, until he has harvested all of the timber if he got all he thought he bought.

### 2. The Pay-As-Cut Method

Timber is sold on a per unit basis, either by weight or volume. A contract is entered into for a defined time period. Sometime during this time period the Buyer will harvest the specified timber and pay the Seller at specified intervals such as weekly or monthly per unit.

The advantages of this method are:

- You will get paid for exactly what is cut and hauled off of your property and the Buyer will get exactly what he is paying for; no estimate used for the buying/selling process.

The disadvantages of this method are:

- You, the landowner, will not know exactly how much money you are receiving until the job is completed. This may make tax and financial planning a little more difficult;
- When bidding your timber it can be more difficult to determine the best deal as different mills have different product specifications. For example, logs may be cut to a top end diameter of 10" at mill "A" while mill "B" takes logs down to 8". If you receive a bid of \$46/Ton from mill "A" and \$45/Ton from mill "B" which is the better deal?
- It is more work during the harvesting operation for you and your forester. As before you will be very interested in how the residual trees and forest are left but you must also keep an eye on product handling and sorting.
- The Buyer has no obligation to cut timber. On a few rare occasions I have had clients enter into a pay-as-cut contract and the timber was never harvested. A pay-as-cut contract gives the Buyer a time frame in which to cut the timber and specifies how much he will pay per unit. He has no obligation to actually cut the timber. I always recommend to my clients that they request from the Buyer at least a 40% advance on our estimated total. This advance is then depleted at the agreed-to rates at the beginning of the harvest. Then you should be paid on a weekly basis after this depletion. Most companies and mills will not advance more than 50% of the estimated total. An advance from the Buyer, I feel, obligates him to complete the job.

Now, there may be many other advantages and disadvantages to each sale method. Each of the ones I listed or that you come up with will have varying degrees of importance to you. Go with what you feel most comfortable with.

Whenever you decide to make a sale, remember it is a very critical forest management decision in the life of your forest, but it doesn't have to be a stressful process. Get professional help from a consulting forester and an attorney. Most importantly, make sure you understand and are comfortable with all the aspects of your sale.

### **Reforestation and BMPs – Shane Harrington, BMP Staff Forester, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, Texas**

Winter is upon us and with the cooler temperatures many landowners are beginning to focus their attention to reforesting their properties. The harvest has been successfully completed, the land site prepared, and now it is time to put the new seedlings into the ground. Many landowners only associate best management practices (BMPs) with the harvest operation; but reforestation jobs, if done improperly, can also negatively impact water quality. There are BMP guidelines for all aspects of forest management, including reforestation.

Landowners and contractors should keep water and soils in mind when preparing to plant or site prepare the land. There are BMPs to guide you during these operations.

Remember these points when doing site preparation and planting:

In general -

- Mark boundaries of all streamside management zones (SMZ) clearly before site preparation activities.
- Plan ahead to minimize disturbance by equipment in SMZs.
- Site preparation and reforestation activities should skirt SMZs and stream channels. Any debris should be placed above the ordinary high water mark of any stream or body of open water.
- Any site preparation practices and planting should be done following the contour of the land.
- Avoid intensive site preparation on steep slopes and on slopes with thin or highly erodible soils.
- Hand plant excessively steep slopes and wet sites.

In recent years and months water quantity and quality have become important issues for the residents and landowners of Texas. As stewards of the land we should all do our part to protect this natural resource. Using BMPs is just one way that landowners can protect water quality during their forest management activities.

For more information regarding BMPs please contact your local Texas Forest Service office or visit <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.



### **Life Cycle Assessment – Making Informed Decisions - Ed Dougal, Wood Utilization and Marketing Specialist, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, Texas**

In today's world we are constantly bombarded by people making their arguments! This seems to be especially true when it comes to how things might or might not impact the environment. Now combine that with the fact that you may be living and, or, working in some way associated with the forestry-wood products sector and I'm sure you get the picture.

Take as an example the topic of forest or woody biomass utilization for energy. It seems as if you cannot pick up a newsletter, or read a forestry magazine, or go to a forestry related website without finding a new report that 'argues' how good this or that use of biomass is to produce electricity, ethanol, pellets or the like. Well, if you are an old dinosaur like me, or, even if part of you is a bit of a closet dinosaur, you sit there wondering 'well, are there any downsides to all this?' or 'are they taking everything into account?' Now, don't feel bad, as Bill Parcells the ex-Dallas Cowboys coach says, "This is a good thing" and it probably is.

Human nature being what it is, we tend to be concerned about the environment, we tend to want to do the 'right thing'; so we tend to want to know if there are some things to watch out for. Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a tool or a method that is finding increased usage in many fields to help examine and evaluate these types of questions. LCA tries to look at the 'whole picture', the so called 'the good, the bad and the ugly'.

Life cycle assessment attempts to look at the inputs and outputs associated with each phase of a product's life cycle. For example, with a wood product, this might begin with the growth of the trees and continue with the harvesting and transport to a processing facility or energy generation plant. The assessment would include looking at the types and amounts of energy used at each step as well as the sources of pollution or discharge at each step. The process continues through all the stages of manufacturing and most importantly, in the case of a product, examines through the disposal phase. This is why this entire analysis is sometimes referred to as a 'cradle to grave' analysis. Again, an important fundamental aspect of this process is that 'no stone is left unturned'. A person or company taking the LCA approach wants to be able to stand up and say, "We are looking at each and every aspect". "If you think we are not, please tell us what we are missing, because we want to know about it and attempt to do the best possible in addressing it". If we think about it, many of us try to do this in our every day life. When we do a project at home, for example, we want to know all the costs and impacts of what we are doing and how this might affect us or someone else. We would prefer not to miss something, not to have a big surprise, and have some aspect come back to 'haunt us'. In general, most would prefer not to pollute or create some hidden damage, but would prefer to do 'the best possible'.

Now if all this sounds to you like a big effort that is very detailed and specific, has lots of so-called 'gray areas' and gets very technical, you are not incorrect! If you have a need to learn more specifics on the topic, the following web sites are provided as starting points (<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/lca/lca-for-cities.html>;  
<http://www.epa.gov/ORD/NRMRL/lcaccess/>;  
<http://www.nrel.gov/lci/assessments.html> ).

Instead of tackling the detail, perhaps a few points and examples to do with LCA would help here. As an example,

- Continued on Page 5

**Life Cycle Assessment – Making Informed Decisions – continued from Page 4.**

we hear lots about production of ethanol as a fuel from corn. This may indeed be an important part of the domestic energy picture now and in the future. However, to help make informed decisions, it may be important to include in the analyses of its production, aspects like the use of herbicides and fertilizers to grow the corn, potential impact on soil erosion, and the kinds and amounts of energy used to make the ethanol as well as the resultant emissions. More and more we see this type of work being done and applied to all energy sources. In other words, as various sources of energy are considered, which ones leave the ‘smallest footprint’ on the environment? Which ones least mortgage future generations? What areas for improvement can be identified? LCA is a tool that is being used to address these sorts of questions.

The LCA approach plays an important role in the International Standards Organization (ISO) 14000 series. Increasingly, global consumers are demanding that the wood products they purchase meet ISO standards in manufacturing. To be competitive in this day and age, many wood products firms are finding that it may be important to access global markets to hedge against localized swings in product demand.

The usage of LCA methodologies requires a commitment to the approach and a global outlook to all aspects of manufacturing. A key element of LCA is the identification of and use of ‘best available technologies’. This does not

mean that every area of concern can be completely eliminated. The LCA approach can help to identify the problem areas, determine if the best methods and equipment are being used and help a company be positioned well, should new technologies emerge that might reduce further or eliminate, for example, a source of pollution. In this way the very best possible is being done, improvements are continually being identified and implemented and perhaps fewer problems will be passed on to someone else or to another point in time.

**Websites of Interest –**



National Timber Tax Website –  
<http://www.timbertax.org/>

IRS Publications - <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>

Bugwood Network –  
<http://www.bugwood.caes.uga.edu/index.cfm>

“Forest Products Issues on Capitol Hill” -  
[http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?g=afpa&content=hot\\_issues\\_on\\_Capitol\\_hill](http://www.bipac.net/page.asp?g=afpa&content=hot_issues_on_Capitol_hill)

“Corrosion Avoidance with New Wood Preservatives” –  
[http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/pdf2006/fpl\\_2006\\_zelink\\_a001.pdf](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/pdf2006/fpl_2006_zelink_a001.pdf)

“Wood and Timber Condition Assessment Manual” –  
<http://www.forestprod.org/mycart/index.php?productID=9>

**Market Report – Sept./Oct. 2007**

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Weight Difference (*)
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$37.89/ton	\$289.76/mbf	\$41.54/ton	\$322.85/mbf	-8.8%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$12.27/ton	\$32.93/cord	\$12.36/ton	\$33.17/cord	-0.7%
Pine-Chip’n’Saw	\$16.14/ton	\$43.58/cord	\$17.32/ton	\$46.76/cord	-6.8%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$23.98/ton	\$147.13/mbf	\$24.13/ton	\$202.21/mbf	-0.6%
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$11.26/ton	\$31.64/cord	\$10.71/ton	\$30.34/cord	+5.1%

See *Timber Price Trends* at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu> for more detailed information. Copies can be purchased from the Texas Forest Service, Office of the Director, John B. Connally Building, 301 Tarrow, Suite 364, College Station, TX 77840-7896. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale, who is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner.

\*Percentage change is based on weight (ton).

Stumpage price statistics include gatewood sales. Stumpage prices for gatewood sales are estimated by subtracting cut-and-haul costs, other expenses, and profits provided by the reporter.

Data excludes U.S. Forest Service sales.

## *Woody BioEnergy: Part 2 – Continued from Page 1.*

Surprisingly, four US states (California, Nevada, Hawaii, and Utah) generate more geothermal electricity than any other country, but the amount of electricity they produce contributes to less than 1 percent of total electricity consumed in United States.

### Woody Biomass

It is unlikely that any one of the renewable energy alternatives will make much of a dent in replacing fossil fuels independently, but combined, renewables can make great gains towards reducing our nation's dependency upon foreign fossil fuels. Biomass has one paramount advantage over other renewables. It is the only renewable energy source that yields carbon-based molecules required for making the numerous items that we depend upon each and every day (plastics, adhesives, gasoline, diesel, etc.)

Large scale utilization of biomass for energy is still limited to a few countries. In the United States, the forest products industry is the largest user of woody biomass, using it to generate more than 50% of its energy needs. Woody biomass is defined as the accumulated mass, above and below ground, of the roots, wood, bark, and leaves of living and dead woody shrubs and trees. It is primarily comprised of carbohydrates and lignin produced through the photosynthetic process. Woody biomass can be used for generating electricity, producing biofuels, and making biochemicals such as adhesives, solvents, plastics, inks, and lubricants. The generation of electricity is the lowest value-added chain or use for woody biomass while biochemicals are the highest value-added chain. All of which are likely to be well under the potential value of traditional sawtimber products.

Principal sources for woody biomass in the southern US are harvest residues; mill residues; small diameter trees; cull trees; trees damaged by wildfire, insects, and disease; and short rotation woody crops. Biomass volumes associated with these sources are significant. For example branches, tops, stumps and other woody debris from commercial harvesting operations in the South are routinely left behind at the harvest site. Nationally, about 40 million dry tons (20 million dry tons in the South) of collectable logging residues are left unused annually. Of this, approximately 60% can be utilized without significant detrimental environmental effect. In addition, small diameter trees from thinning operations have traditionally been used in the pulpwood supply chain, but declining markets have limited this practice. As a result, these trees are not harvested and excess trees are not thinned from the forest stand. This delay frequently results in overcrowded stands, poor forest health, and susceptibility to catastrophic fire, insects, and disease. As a result, "fuel treatment" thinnings (sometimes called "fuel reduction" thinnings) are required to reduce the threat of forest fires brought on by the hazardous fuel buildup in the forest. Fuel treatment thinnings can

provide large volumes of woody biomass. In fact, of the 20 million tons operationally available for removal in the South annually, about 85% of this material would come from private lands in the South.

Woody biomass can also be salvaged from trees damaged by natural disasters. The most common natural disasters in the southern United States are wildfires, insect and disease outbreaks, and hurricanes. Southern pine beetle killed timber, alone, can provide, on average, 1.36 million dry tons of biomass each year. In 2005, more than 800 million dry tons of wood were destroyed by hurricanes. While the quantities of woody biomass created by natural disasters can be quite large, this supply is not stable and varies tremendously over time and space. In addition, residues from wood processing mills and pulp and paper mills are highly desirable because it is clean, concentrated, uniform, and low in moisture. However, it is unavailable, because 97% of this resource is already used. Lastly, short rotation woody crops, grown specifically for the production of energy, are fast growing species that can be planted at relatively lower costs and harvested in less time than traditional species. This source of biomass is not expected to become significant in the South until 2040, due to investments in southern softwood production and the relative availability of smaller trees.

The benefits of utilizing woody biomass for bio-based products are many. These benefits are environmental, economic, social, and energy related. The use of woody biomass for bioenergy can help mitigate greenhouse gases (woody biomass utilization would displace about 19.4 million tons of carbon annually), contribute to the development of healthier forests, bolster rural economies (create 1,338 jobs and add \$352 million to the Texas economy), and reduce the nation's dependency on foreign oil.

To find out more, visit:

1. Encyclopedia of Southern Bioenergy  
<http://forestencyclopedia.net/p/p2>
2. Forest Bioenergy <http://forestbioenergy.net>
3. U.S. Department of Energy  
<http://www.energy.gov/energysources>
4. Texas State Energy Conservation Office  
<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/index.htm>
5. Renewable Energy: The Infinite Power of Texas  
<http://www.infinitepower.org/index.htm>



### *Calendar of Events*

- February 7                    Timber Tax Seminar, led by Dr. Harry Haney at the Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, Texas. 8:30-4:30. Cost \$75.00. Includes lunch. For more information go to [www.sfasu.edu/forestry](http://www.sfasu.edu/forestry) or call (936) 468-3301.
- February 28                    Tax and Estate Planning Conference, City of Conroe Service Center, Conroe, Texas. 8:30-4:00. Cost \$50.00. For more information go to: <http://texasforests.tamu.edu:80/main/popup.aspx?id=3262> or call (936) 273-2261 or e-mail [jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu).
- March 12                        Reading Railroad at the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin, Texas– area children are invited to listen to local celebrities read at various stations both inside and outside of the Museum from 10am – 2pm. Call (936) 632-9535 or see <http://www.treetexas.com/> for more information.

*Les Reeves Lecture Series, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in room 110 of the Stephen F. Austin University Agriculture Building on Wilson Drive (between the Art building and the intramural fields. It is FREE and open to everyone! Refreshments are served before the talk and a rare plants raffle is held afterwards.*

- February 21, 2008            Ed Bush – “Plants That Transcend Time” – [ebush@agctr.lsu.edu](mailto:ebush@agctr.lsu.edu)
- March 20, 2008                David Knauff, University of Georgia – “Breeding Plants for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” – [dknauff@uga.edu](mailto:dknauff@uga.edu)
- April 17, 2008                Jerry Parsons – “Texas Superstars – Past, Present, Future” – [jerryparsons@tamu.edu](mailto:jerryparsons@tamu.edu)

Return Address  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

# County Forest Landowner Association Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2006

## *Next Meeting*

*Date:* xxxxxx  
xxxxxx

*Time:* xxxxxx

*Place:* xxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## *Inside*

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## *What Has Killed My Pine Trees?* – Joe Pase, Entomologist, Texas Forest Service

The answer to the above question, in most cases, is pine engraver beetles. East Texas has been in the grips of a drought for the past three or four years. Because of the drought, many pine and hardwood trees are under severe moisture stress. Hardwood trees often respond to drought by shedding their leaves early and going dormant. Many of the hardwood trees will survive the drought. Pine trees (unless they are less than 5-10 feet in height) seldom die as a direct result of the drought. However, pines that are the most stressed will often be attacked by pine bark beetles. There are five different pine bark beetles in East Texas, and they all attack and kill pine trees. The southern pine beetle (SPB) is the most important of these pine bark beetles. Fortunately, this destructive pine bark beetle has been at very low levels the past several years and has not been a concern. The other pine bark beetles include three species of engraver beetles (also called Ips), and the black turpentine beetle (BTB). Except for the SPB, these pine bark beetles are considered secondary invaders because they don't attack healthy trees. Common symptoms of beetle-attacked trees include reddish boring dust in bark crevices and at the base of the tree, small holes in the bark about the size of a pencil lead, small reddish or cream-colored globs of pine resin or sap all along the trunk of the tree (called pitch tubes), and most or all of the needles in the tree turning yellow and/or reddish-brown. Once the needles on a pine tree have all turned red, there is nothing that can be done to save the tree.

All five pine bark beetles will attack pine trees weakened by drought. However, the three species of pine engraver beetles have been responsible for most of the pine tree mortality in East Texas the past few years. Engraver beetles are readily attracted to drought-stressed pine trees and seldom attack a healthy tree. Typically engraver beetles attack a few trees in an infestation, seldom involving more than 5-10 trees. Their attack pattern tends to be scattered - killing a few trees here and a few trees there. When an infestation is found, it is impossible to predict where the next attacked tree will be. In fact there may not even be any more trees attacked. It is not uncommon for Ips to attack and kill only one of two adjacent pine trees whose branches may be touching.

In a forest situation, salvage of Ips-infested pine trees is about the only practical control method. However, this is usually not economical due to the scattered pattern of dead trees. In addition, it is currently difficult to sell beetle-killed trees due to a soft timber market. In many cases, doing nothing is about the only course of action that can be taken in a forested area. For homeowners, dead pine trees should be removed for hazard and liability reasons more so than for controlling Ips beetles.

Prevention is the best approach to take for engraver beetles and the best prevention practice is to maintain healthy trees. In a forest situation, this means good forest management practices. For the homeowner, avoiding root damage and watering trees during periods of drought are good practices to follow. When that is not possible or practical, the homeowner does not have many more choices. Trees can be sprayed with an insecticide to prevent attack, but this is often impractical due to cost, availability of effective chemicals, difficulty of spraying bark surfaces in the upper portions of the tree (high pressure equipment needed), and environmental concerns (if sprayed to the top of a large tree, there is concern about drift of the insecticide to nontarget areas such as a neighbor's house, dog, cat, yard, etc.).

The black turpentine beetle has also been present during this drought period. The BTB is the least aggressive of all the pine bark beetles, and it is not uncommon for a tree to survive if it has been attacked only by this bark beetle. BTB are readily attracted to fresh pine resin, so avoiding wounds to the trees will help prevent BTB attacks. These beetles attack the lower 6-8 feet of the trunk of the tree, and are often found in pine trees that have been attacked by other species of bark beetles.

- Continued on Page 3

**Selecting a Planting Vendor** – Don Edson,  
District Forester, Texas Forest Service, New Boston, Texas

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) maintains a list of certified tree planting vendors from which landowners can solicit planting bids. The vendors on the list have completed the necessary paperwork and attended the TFS Certified Vendor Training. Many vendors schedule several thousand acres of planting each year and a vendor should be hired in the late summer to early fall to ensure a quality vendor and your tract is planted as early in the planting season as feasible. Planting costs will depend upon location of the tract, access, site condition, planting acreage and seedlings required per acre.

There are two types of planting operations, machine and hand. The machine vendors can plant varying sites but generally, open to semi-open fields. Some machine vendors have the equipment capable of planting cutover tracts which have been sheared and piled but the cost per acre will be more expensive than hand planting vendors. The soil type, terrain and site condition will determine whether a machine or hand planting vendor is best. In order to avoid problems once planting has started, determine beforehand which planting vendor will do the best job for the cost involved.

Hand planting vendors may use varying tools for planting, such as, dibble bar, shovel or hoedad depending upon vendor preference, site condition, terrain and soil type. All planting equipment and tree planting must meet TFS technical guidelines if the planting is cost shared through either a Federal or State cost share program involving the TFS. A copy of the TFS technical guidelines and sample tree planting agreement may be obtained from your local District Forester. In order to protect the landowner's and vendor's interests, it is recommended the landowner and vendor enters into a contract outlining each parties responsibilities.

Listed below are questions that you may want to ask a potential planting vendor. Since the planting will be done on your property and will be paid for by you, it is entirely appropriate for you to thoroughly check on prospective vendors. If you have concerns not listed in the recommended questions, please feel free to ask the vendor. Remember, it's your land and your money.

1. Have you received the certified vendor training offered by the Texas Forest Service?
2. Have you ever planted trees under any of the cost share programs?
3. Have you ever planted trees that were inspected by the Texas Forest Service?
4. Have you ever planted trees in this county? If so, would you provide the names and addresses of a few of your last customers from last planting

season from this county or a consulting forester you have worked with? Otherwise, could you furnish other names to me?

5. What is your anticipated date of planting on my tract should you get the job?
6. How would you handle getting the pine seedlings to the planting site?
7. If you pick up the trees, are there any additional charges? If so, what are they?
8. Describe your care for the seedlings while on the planting site.
9. What type of planting tool do your planters use?
10. Can you complete the work by March 31st?
11. What considerations do you offer if you cancel my work and I cannot acquire another vendor at a comparable price or cannot acquire a vendor prior to February 15?
12. Will you use a tree-planting contract originated by my agent or me?
13. How can I contact you during tree planting season?
14. Will you contact me at least 5 days prior to beginning work?
15. Do you require your crew foreman to supervise and to remain on the planting site?
16. Can you supply me with proof of Workers Compensation Insurance?
17. Can you supply me with proof of Dept. of Labor registration?
18. What type of formal training do you provide your planting personnel?
19. Can we meet on my tract to discuss your bid and view the actual site?

The TFS or a professional consultant forester can assist you with your planning and should you have any questions, contact a professional forester with your questions or concerns. Your local District Forester may be found through the TFS website <http://txforestservicetamu.edu/> or telephone book and the TFS also maintains a list of professional forestry consultants.

Even though tree planting season is December-March 31<sup>st</sup>, the landowner should begin planning the spring or summer prior to planting. The old axiom holds true, "If you fail to plan, plan to fail."



**Hunting Season**  
– Newsworthy

**Notes – Texas**  
*Forestry, September, 2006*

Hunters born on or after September 2, 1971, must pass the Hunters Safety course to legally hunt in Texas. A one time (one year) deferral can be obtained which allows an extension for a person to complete the Hunters Safety training course. Hunters should also be aware that the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed legislation making it illegal to discharge a firearm across a property line, unless written permission has been obtained from the adjoining landowner. For information on 2006 hunting opportunities, permits and rules on the Texas National Forests go online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/texas>.

**What Has Killed My Pine Trees?** –  
*continued from Page 1.*

Fall rains (if they occur) will help strengthen drought-stressed pine trees and cooler temperatures will slow pine engraver beetle activity. That is the good news. The bad news is that if drought conditions continue through the winter and into 2007, expect *Ips* beetle activity to continue.

**Liability Insurance for Forest**

**Landowners** – excerpts from “*The Lufkin Daily News*”, 10/08/2006, article by Matt Williams

Because accidents happen in the woods, it is becoming more common for property owners to require lessees to purchase and maintain Comprehensive General Liability insurance coverage. Owners who allow others to use their land to hunt, ride ATV’s, climb trees, etc. leave themselves open to lawsuits in cases of accidents. However, anyone associated with a lease could potentially be a legal target, whether they are directly involved with an incident or not. The cost for going to court could be staggering. Liability insurance would help pay for providing that legal defense.

According to Ben Bartlett of Bartlett Baggett & Shands, LLP, Insurance Agency of Lufkin, Chapter 75 of the Texas Civil Practices & Remedies Code – Limitation of Landowners’ Liability – previously triggered protection for landowners if a landowner’s “total charges collected in the previous calendar year for all recreational use of the entire premises were not more than four times the *ad valorem* taxes for the previous calendar year.”

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**Market Report**  
**July-August, 2006**

Product	Statewide Average Price This Period		Previous Average Price (May-June, 2006)		Volume Difference (*)
	Volume	Weight	Volume	Weight	
Pine-Sawlogs	\$301.42/mbf	\$40.29/ton	\$295.61/mbf	37.68/ton	+1.96%
Pine-Pulpwood	\$18.06/cord	\$6.69/ton	\$13.70/cord	\$5.12/ton	+31.8%
Pine-Chip’n’Saw	\$42.66/cord	\$16.36/ton	\$44.79/cord	\$16.59/ton	-4.8%
Mixed Hardwood-Sawlogs	\$173.19/mbf	\$19.24/ton	\$140.02/mbf	\$15.18/ton	+23.7%
Grade Hardwoods	\$267.37/mbf	\$31.46/ton	**	**	
Hardwood-Pulpwood	\$16.58/cord	\$5.92/ton	\$9.27/cord	\$3.30/ton	+78.9%

See [Timber Price Trends](http://texasforests.tamu.edu) at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu> for more detailed information. Copies can be purchased from the Texas Forest Service, Office of the Director, John B. Connally Building, 301 Tarrow, Suite 364, College Station, TX 77840-7896. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale, who is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner.

\*Conversion factors between volume and weight vary from sale to sale, so the differences in volume prices above may not equal differences in weight prices.

\*\*Insufficient sales to report price statistics (less than three reported sales).

***Tips for Selecting Trees*** – Daniel Duncum,  
Texas Forest Service, District Forester, Tyler, Texas

You have decided to plant trees, but with all the species and genetic line selections available, how do you choose the type of tree, or trees to plant? To make the process even more interesting, let's look at this from two different perspectives, rural plantings and urban plantings. For landowners who live on their property, their rural planting will be the forest created outside of their "yard area" and the urban planting is within the "yard area".

When selecting trees for rural plantings, soil type should be considered first. Some soil types are more suitable for pine tree growth and management while others are better suited for hardwood tree species. Soil types can be determined through Soil Surveys published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in book form and on the internet (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>).

A component of soil type is Site Index which is a numerical value representing the productivity of the soil. The number represents the height, in feet, of dominant and co-dominant trees (two tallest classes of trees forming the forest canopy), usually at 50 years of age. Generally, a commercially viable timber producing operation needs soil types with Site Index 70 or higher.

The higher site indices indicate a more productive soil; therefore, a better genetic line would be more desirable to plant. As an example, Site Index 89 or higher would justify purchasing the more expensive, better genetic line of pine tree because it will out grow a lower genetic line pine on that soil type.

In the case of hardwood tree rural plantings, the landowner must determine if the purpose of the planting is for wildlife habitat only, or if timber sales will be conducted in this hardwood forest. A variety of species should be planted in both options, but with the current markets, red oak species should comprise 33 to 50 percent of the number of trees planted for the timber production option. All other trees planted for this land use option, and all trees planted for the wildlife habitat option, should be selected with the intent to provide a variety of foods for a variety of wildlife species.

Now for the urban planting, tree species should be selected based on a variety of issues beginning with soil type. Generally, sandy loam soils can support the widest variety of trees while fewer species are well suited to heavy clays or deep sands. The general shape of the tree crown and size (height and diameter) at maturity should match the available square footage of the planting site. Trees are often classified as small (15 to 30 feet), medium (30 to 50 feet), and large (50 plus feet) in height at maturity with crown shapes ranging from round to narrowly columnar.

Tree selection in the urban planting may also involve a desire for fall foliage color, spring and/or summer flowers, fruit or nut production. Desirable tree functions may include shade; aesthetics; wildlife benefit; and buffering from visibility, noise, dust, and wind.

In the case of urban plantings, one "right tree" in the right place is far better than any number of "wrong trees" in the wrong places. With a little research and/or guidance from foresters and arborists, selection of tree types for your planting ventures can generate long-term dividends.

For more information on finding the best trees for your yard, see the *Texas Tree Planting Guide* at: <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>.

***Where Can I Find Erosion Control Materials?*** - excerpts from "BMP Informer",  
September 2006

Do you often wonder where you can purchase materials such as culverts, geofabrics, timber mats, etc? Materials such as these are often used by landowners to enhance their property while maintaining and protecting water quality.

The Texas Forest Service Best Management Practices (BMP) office has created a *Product/Vendor Guide* which lists various products along with the contact information for the vendors who sell these products. This list is currently being updated to include new products and vendors. The list can be viewed by visiting [http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/bmp/bmp\\_product\\_vendor\\_guide.pdf](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Sustainable/bmp/bmp_product_vendor_guide.pdf).

Also, all of the guidelines and recommendations for properly installing these products can be found in the *Texas Best Management Practices Handbook*. The handbook can be viewed at the following web address: <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/sustainable/article.aspx?id=74>.

For more information regarding the BMP *Product/Vendor Guide* or the *Texas Best Management Practices Handbook* please call the Texas Forest Service BMP Office at (936) 639- 8180.

***Did you know . . .***

**Removing some of the shade alongside your woods roads will allow them to dry out more quickly after a rain and help keep them in great shape?**

### **Websites of Interest -**

Texas Forestry Association  
membership video –  
<http://www.texas-forestry.org>



Lost Maples State Natural Area (foliage noted for Fall color):  
[http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lost\\_maples/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lost_maples/)

Forestry About.com's "10 Best Forests to See Fall Color in  
North America" (includes Lost Maples) -  
[http://forestry.about.com/od/fallcolor/ss/best\\_fall\\_spots.htm](http://forestry.about.com/od/fallcolor/ss/best_fall_spots.htm)

Ips Bark Beetle, a.k.a. Pine Engraver Beetle –  
<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=574&mc=forest>

### **Structural Composite Lumber: Substitute for High Quality Lumber – US Forest Service, Forest Products Lab, "Newslines", Summer 2006**

"Structural composite lumber (SCL) products are made of smaller pieces of wood glued together into sizes common for solid-sawn lumber. These products were developed in response to an increasing demand for high-quality lumber at a time when it was becoming difficult to obtain it from the forest resource.

Common examples of SCL include laminated veneer lumber, parallel strand lumber, and oriented strand lumber. They can be created from underutilized species that are not commonly used for structural applications and can be manufactured into many different widths of lumber.

One advantage of SCL is that it can more fully utilize smaller-sized raw materials in a structural product. In addition, strength-reducing characteristics of those smaller materials are dispersed within the strands or veneers, so they have much less effect on strength properties in SCL than in solid-sawn lumber, resulting in relatively higher design values. Also, SCL products are made from veneers or strands that are dried to a moisture content that is close to most indoor service conditions. This results in a product that is less likely to warp or shrink when used in this service environment.

SCL can be substituted for solid-sawn lumber in various applications, including the manufacture of other engineered wood products, such as prefabricated wood I-joists, which have engineering design values that can be greater than those commonly assigned to sawn lumber. Other common uses include scaffold planks, headers and other load-carrying elements in construction, studs and rafters in wall and roof construction, and even nonstructural applications, such as the manufacture of windows and doors.

More information can be found in the *Wood Handbook* at  
<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us>.

### **Liability Insurance for Forest Landowners – continued from Page 3.**

HB 408 increased this to "not more than 20 times the *ad valorem* taxes for the previous calendar year." Mr. Bartlett said that the second condition that triggers protection is when the "owner, lessee, or occupant" has liability insurance in place with a limit of coverage not less than \$1 million.

Though some land owners might view the raised tax ceiling as sufficient liability protection from getting sued, that isn't always the case. The protection does not apply in cases of Gross Negligence (which has to be determined in a court of law), nor does it prevent anyone from filing a lawsuit. Some homeowners' policies may provide some protection - if the proper endorsements are there; however, a General Liability insurance policy mandates that the insurance carrier provide a defense on the policy holder's behalf and pay for that defense.

The minimum premium on a separate policy costs about \$550-\$600 per year for leases up to 2800 acres. Many lease operations include insurance costs in the "per gun" dues paid by club members. When buying such a policy, as with all contracts, read the fine print; pay attention to exclusions, limitation and warranties.

### **El Nino Predicted to Snuff Out Severe Fire Season – "Firebrands", September, 2006**

Climate forecasts for the 2006 winter look very similar to last winter at this time of year, reports Tom Spencer, Texas Forest Service Fire Risk Assessment Coordinator. The big difference between last winter and this winter, though, is the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions in the Pacific.

The ENSO forecast for this coming winter is for an El Nino to develop. Spencer says El Nino's impact on the winter weather pattern tends to provide increased chances for precipitation across the eastern two thirds of the state.

"The current climate forecasts are not including the El Nino impact just yet. But if El Nino does develop, an increase in precipitation chances over the eastern two thirds of the state will be a likely result," Spencer speculates. "This would also limit the probability of experiencing a severe winter fire season, unlike last year which was the worst on record.

"My expectations right now, with the possibility of an El Nino developing, are for a normal winter fire season, where fire occurrence should stay within local and state capabilities."

## *Calendar of Events*

- Nov. 6 Forest Biomass for Energy Seminar – 6:00 p.m., Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Tomball. Dinner will be served. RSVP by calling John Warner at (936) 273-2261.
- Nov. 15-17 Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Beaumont, Texas. Call (936) 632-8733 for more information or see <http://www.texasforestry.org/>.
- Dec. 15 Pesticide Education & Recertification for Forest Ecosystems Training, Texas Ag. Research & Extension Center, Overton, Texas, 8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$50; \$25 for TAMU System employees. Call Barbara at (903) 834-6191 or go to <http://extensionforestry.tamu.edu/PERFEcT/index06.html> to register.
- Jan. 26, 2007 Greater Houston/Conroe/The Woodlands Timber Income-Property-Estate Tax Workshop. For information, contact John Warner at (936) 273-2261. Location & time to be announced later.

For other events, please check the TREEvents calendar at:

<http://treevents.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/webevent.cgi?cmd=openca1&cal=call>

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The SFA Arboretum Les Reeves Lecture Series meets from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in room 110 of the Stephen F. Austin University Agriculture Building on Wilson Drive (between the Art building and the intramural fields). It is FREE and open to everyone! Refreshments are served before the talk and a rare plants raffle is held afterwards. See upcoming schedule below:

**OCT 19** - Keith Hansen – “You’ve got a plan? Well I have an idea about that!” - Extension Horticulturist and gardening enthusiast, Tyler, Texas - [k-hansen2@tamu.edu](mailto:k-hansen2@tamu.edu)

**NOV 16** - Dawn Stover - “Everything Including the Kitchen Sink: Container Gardening Gone Wild” - Research Associate, SFA Mast Arboretum, Herbaceous Perennials, and the Queen Bee of the Garden - [dparish@sfasu.edu](mailto:dparish@sfasu.edu)

**DEC 14** – Dave Creech – “The most amazing garden talk ever” - Director of the SFA Mast Arboretum - [dcreech@sfasu.edu](mailto:dcreech@sfasu.edu)

Return Address  
XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

# BMP Training Workshop Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

By Hughes Simpson - Texas Forest Service

The Texas Forest Service and Texas Forestry Association are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the logger Best Management Practices (BMP) training workshop. The first training session was held in Lufkin on July 6, 1995. Since that date, the Texas Forest Service has trained almost 3,000 people in 110 BMP workshops held throughout East Texas.

"It is truly amazing that this program has been in place this long. If you asked me when we started, I thought we would have trained everyone after 3 or 4 years," said Burl Carraway, co developer of the workshop.

In the beginning, proactive loggers were quick to attend. After that initial flush of attendees, getting participants for the workshop was more of a challenge. "I remember having to drum up support through advertising, visiting with industry personnel and even putting flyers in logger's paychecks," said Carraway.

After several years of hard work, the effort finally paid off. Forest industry began recognizing the importance of these workshops in protecting water quality when harvesting timber. With the adoption of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the industry incorporated this training program into their mandatory requirements. Member mills decided to no longer accept wood from loggers who did not have this training. They even required their own employees to attend these workshops.

Forestry BMPs are determined to be an effective and practical means of preventing and reducing the amount of water pollution generated by forest management. They are only recommended guidelines established by the Texas Forest Service for landowners, foresters, and loggers to use when harvesting timber.

Over the past 15 years, water quality BMPs have kept 95,961 tons of soil per year on the East Texas forest floor, enough soil to cover a foot-

ball field, end zone to end zone, 33 feet deep. The practices also kept 11,831 tons of dirt per year out of lakes and reservoirs.

These one day workshops consist of an indoor morning session of discussions, videos, and a slide presentation. After lunch, the class visits a recently harvested tract and discusses on-the-ground applications of BMP. The importance of protecting water quality is stressed to the attendees, as well as what might happen if forestry regulations were in effect.

This workshop, along with classes on Silviculture/Wildlife/Wetlands, Safety, Business Management, and Logging Aesthetics are part of the Texas Forestry Association's Professional Logger Program. This Pro-Logger certification is designed to increase environmental awareness and sustainable forestry practices, and help adhere to OSHA safety requirements.

For more information on protecting water quality through Best Management Practices, please contact the Texas Forest Service at the Lufkin Office (936) 639-8180. To register for a BMP workshop or any of the others required for Pro Logger certification, please contact the Texas Forestry Association (936) 632-8733.



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# Best Management Practices – A Way to Protect Your Land

By Hughes Simpson

It is documented that well managed forests provide us with clean water. They also absorb rainfall, refill aquifers, slow and filter stormwater runoff, reduce floods, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Forestry operations, if done improperly, can negatively impact these benefits. Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) were developed to prevent these impacts from occurring.

Forestry BMPs are a set of guidelines that involve the application of conservation practices that effectively prevent or minimize the amount of nonpoint source pollution (NPS) generated during forestry operations. They help protect your soil and water, two key elements necessary for growing a healthy forest. BMPs can include such measures as leaving a buffer zone of trees next to a stream, installing a culvert to cross a stream, or establishing grass on forest roads to prevent erosion.

The Texas Forest Service, with cooperation from the forestry community, monitors the implementation of these guidelines by evaluating randomly selected forestry operations. Compliance with the non-regulatory BMPs has steadily risen to 92 percent, according to a 2005 survey by the Texas Forest Service.

Computer models have estimated that over the past 15 years, BMPs have prevented over 100,000 tons of dirt per year from eroding off East Texas forests, enough dirt to cover a football field, end zone to end zone, 35 feet deep. These practices also kept over 12,000 tons of dirt per year out of lakes and reservoirs.

## What Can I Do To Protect My Property?

- Leave a 50 foot strip of trees along streams after harvesting your timber to help prevent sediment from entering streams and provide wildlife habitat.
- Install appropriate water control structures along roads to allow water to drain quickly. Stabilize and retire roads no longer in use.
- Avoid crossing streams when possible. If this is not possible,

cross streams at straight sections and at right angles. Remove all temporary crossings and logging debris from channel and stabilize stream banks.

- Make sure the ground is stable enough for heavy equipment so rutting does not occur.
- When harvesting your timber, use a professional forester and choose a logger that has been trained in BMPs.
- Try to become familiar with BMP and include them in your timber sale contract.

## For More Information:

Texas Forest Service  
PO Box 310  
Lufkin, TX 75902-0310  
(936) 639-8180  
<http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>

Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75901  
(936) 632-8733  
[www.texasforestry.org](http://www.texasforestry.org)

March 2006

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in forestry issues

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# Jones State Forest Best Management Practices Demonstration Area

By: Shane Harrington, Texas Forest Service

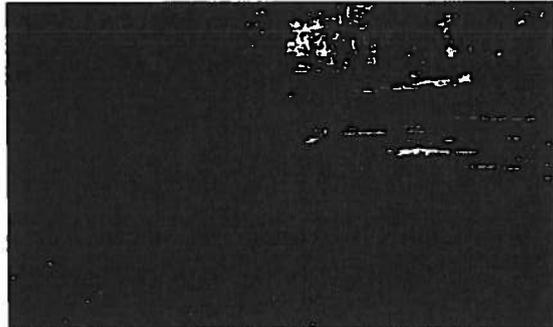
Many people hear the term BMPs and may have an idea of what they are but have never really seen them applied or correctly. The Texas Forest Service established BMP demonstration areas during the mid 1990's on the W. Goodrich Jones State Forest located in Conroe and the Kirby State Forest located between Kountze and Woodville. The purpose of these BMP demonstration areas was to give loggers, landowners, and general public a chance to see properly implemented BMPs. Original demonstrations included a streamside management zone (SMZ), various types of stream crossings, and water control structures (i.e. wing ditches, open top box culverts, etc.).

During 2005 the Texas Forest Service decided to remodel and update the BMP demonstration area on the Jones State Forest in Conroe. Many of the original BMPs that were installed in the 90's had

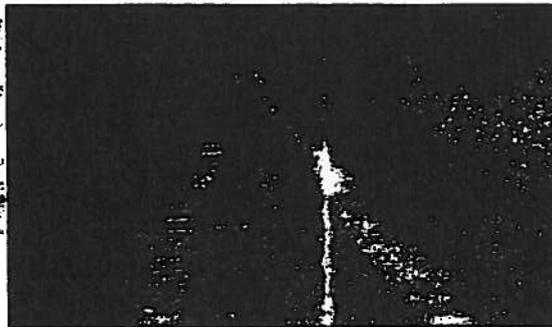
deteriorated and were no longer visible. Many of the original BMP demonstrations were renovated and new BMP demonstrations were added. Renovation work consisted of remarking the SMZ, clearing brush away from culvert crossings making the culverts visible again, and replacing the existing signs with new ones which explain what BMP is being used and its purpose.

A highway entrance using large rocks and timber mats was added showing how mud can be removed from tires before entering the highway. Tracking mud onto the highway can cause the roadway to become slick making it hazardous for other motorists. Also a flat rail car was placed across a stream demonstrating how it can be used as a bridge. Sometimes a stream is too large for a culvert or other type of crossing and a bridge must be used and while there are several options a flat rail car can provide a sturdy and safe crossing alternative. Another new demonstration is road stabilization using crushed concrete which will allow a road to be used during wetter months. Also grass was planted along other roadways showing how seeding roads can prevent or minimize any erosion that may occur.

The guidelines and recommendations for using BMPs can be found in the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices Handbook. You can get a copy of the handbook by contacting your local Texas Forest Service office or view it online at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu>. For more information regarding the BMP demonstration area or BMPs in general please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).



Crushed concrete was used to stabilize this road providing access during wet months.



Grass was used to seed in this road to prevent erosion keeping the soil in the roadway.



Highway entrance using rock and timber mats to aid in removing mud from tires before entering the highway.

## "Rita Remembered" Poster Contest Texas Forestry Association

How did Hurricane Rita affect you, your family, tree farm, or property? Share your experiences with a poster and win a prize. Contest rules and guidelines are listed below.

### 2006 Hurricane Rita Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines

**Subject:** Posters must be related to the contest theme - Impact of Hurricane Rita (September 21, 2005) on people, animals, trees and/or property in southeast Texas.

**Who may enter the contest:** Members of Texas Forestry Association or an immediate family member.

**Age Categories:**  
Youth - less than 16 years of age  
Adult - 16 years or older

**Poster materials:** White or colored poster board having a minimum dimension of 11x14 inches and a maximum of 22x28 inches (available at Hobby Lobby, Staples, Wal-Mart, etc.). Any photos attached to the poster board should be prints ranging in size from 3x4 inches to 8x12 inches. Text to explain your story should be printed with a font no smaller than size 16, so it can be read from a distance. Text may be printed or hand written in marker or ink.

**Address Label:** List the author(s), address, and phone number on the back of the poster.

**Submitting posters:** Posters should be mailed flat and should not be

matted, mounted or folded. Mail posters to Texas Forestry Association, P. O. Box 1488, Lufkin, Texas 75902-1488 or deliver to the TFA office at 1903 Atkinson Drive in Lufkin or deliver to the TFA Annual Meeting on November 15 by 4pm (notify TFA by November 1).

**Deadline:** The deadline for poster submission is November 1, 2006. The posters will be judged on November 15 and displayed during the Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting in Beaumont on November 15-17, 2006, and listed in the December issue of the TFA newsletter *Texas Forestry*.

**Prizes:** Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both the youth and adult categories will consist of:

For more information: Contact Susan Seuts, Texas Forestry Association, by phone at (936) 632-8733 or by e-mail at [ssuts@texasforestry.org](mailto:ssuts@texasforestry.org).

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# Texas Forest Service encourages landowners to prevent soil runoff

By CHRISTINE S. DIAMOND  
Staff writer

Growing a 50-foot border of trees along streams and creeks deters about 11,831 tons of sediment from infiltrating East Texas waterways where it would eventually fill up precious storage space in local reservoirs, according to the Texas Forest Service.

This and other techniques are called Best Management Practices. The Texas Forest Service has promoted these voluntary guidelines with landowners, loggers and timber management companies

for nearly two decades. As of 2005, TFS surveys showed that 92 percent of Texas landowners apply these techniques.

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$367,200 grant which partially funded a four-year study to determine whether these practices are effective in protecting water quality. The results are currently under review at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Computerized equipment was setup at four sites on private timber stands previously owned by Temple-Inland and International Paper within an hour radius of Lufkin. Although the timberstands

## On the Net

For more about this story see our online video at [www.lufkindailynews.com/news/mplayer/m/62652](http://www.lufkindailynews.com/news/mplayer/m/62652)

changed ownership, the new owners — Campbell Group and Timberstar, respectively — recognized the benefit of continuing the project, said Hughes Simpson of Lufkin.

Simpson is the BMP coordinator for the Texas Forest Service who oversaw the study. After each heavy rainstorm, monitoring equipment recorded changes in water depth and automatically collected post-storm samples to identify the level of storm water runoff.

The field study began in July 2003 and concluded in September 2008.

Based on what he has seen in the field, Simpson said, it appears "BMPs are effective in protecting water quality."

Throughout the study they tracked various aquatic life identified in the streams. "East Texas streams are extremely diverse in aquatic life," Simpson said. "We identified over 100 different species of insects and almost 49 different species of fish."

Good water quality is critical to maintaining conditions suitable to these diverse aquatic species. Which is why maintaining a border of mixed hardwoods along streambeds is so critical, said staff forester Shane Harrington. Tree cover prevents streambeds from overheating and deters erosion. Increased temperatures and soil runoff both decrease the amount of oxygen available to aquatic life.

"Researchers at SEA are currently reviewing our results," Simpson said. "Other universities, as well as state and federal agencies, may also participate in the review process. After this process is complete, the results will be submitted



Staff photo by Christine S. Diamond

Texas Forest Service staff forester Shane Harrington of Lufkin uses this instrument to check for water pH, its oxygen levels, and temperature, which was 1.7 degrees Celsius.

for peer review and published in several scientific journals."

Christine S. Diamond's e-mail address is [cdiamond@comcast.com](mailto:cdiamond@comcast.com).



Staff photo by Christine S. Diamond

As the Best Management Practices coordinator for Texas Forest Service Hughes Simpson of Lufkin oversaw a four-year study on local timberland streams to determine if their voluntary guidelines are really protecting water quality.

The Lufkin Daily News  
Sunday, 2/10/08

# TFA's Pro Logger Program is Cutting Edge

By Jacob Donellan  
Texas Forest Service

The Texas Forestry Association's (TFA) Pro Logger program has been in existence since 1996. This program was designed for loggers and foresters to increase environmental awareness and sustainable forestry practices, and to help them meet OSHA safety requirements. This program has been a huge success for the TFA and it continues to get even better.

The Pro Logger program began with 4-core course that culminated in a participant being recognized as a "Pro Logger" and given a certificate. As the success of the program grew, another class was added to the core group bringing it to the current total of 5 core classes needed for Pro Logger certification. Participants must now complete classes in silviculture, business management, aesthetics and communication, safety training, and forestry best management practices (BMPs) to

earn a certificate.

In 2003 the Pro Logger program expanded again to include continuing education requirements for its members. Now, Pro Loggers are expected to obtain 6 continuing education units (CEUs) annually to maintain their Pro Logger certification. Logging professionals have become so highly skilled and technical that now Pro Loggers seeking CEUs can go online to earn their credits. The TFA has been offering online training to Pro Loggers since 2003 and just recently added another course to a growing list of options.

The newest course offered by the Pro Logger program is online BMP training. This training class is meant to be a refresher training class for the core BMP training needed to acquire a Pro Logger certificate. This new course reviews many of the fundamental aspects of using BMPs and their

importance in protecting water quality while minimizing erosion and sedimentation. In 2004, the BMP guidelines were reviewed and a number of changes and clarifications were made, the online course highlights many of these changes and brings loggers up-to-date with the current guidelines.

Just as logging equipment has become more and more efficient and technical, professional loggers have also become more technically skilled and efficient as well. This group of professionals has met the changes and challenges of

each passing year head on. Logging professionals have never backed down from technology and it should come as no surprise now that they have embraced this new form of learning over the Internet.

The new Texas Forestry Best Management Practices handbook, also known as "the Bluebook," is available at the TFA office, any Texas Forest Service office or you can download a copy off the Texas Forest Service website: <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/shared/article.asp?DocumentID=1013>.

## FRA Launches On-Line “Job Board”

The Forest Resources Association has launched an on-line service to connect employers and job seekers in industrial forestry and wood supply, as well as in relevant association and academic sectors.

Linked directly from [www.forestresources.org](http://www.forestresources.org), the FRA Job Board allows job seekers and employers in the forest products industry to connect with the click of a mouse, allowing free resume posting and discounted job posting rates for members.

“FRA members belong to a strongly talented pool of experience and expertise,” commented FRA President Richard Lewis. “We are proud to provide an easily accessible service to accommodate inevitable transition within our industry.”

Registration for job seekers is free, as is responding to any employer’s announcement, and individuals may elect to conceal details about their identity until an employer

contacts them. Employers may post any position available for a 60-day period for \$250, with each position also listed in FRA’s electronic FRA Bulletin, including a link directly to the full listing.

“We are channeling this service most directly to our members, but anyone—member or not—who visits the FRA web site may post a job, post a resume, or respond to a listing,” explained Lewis. On-screen prompts cue employers and job seekers through the site’s features, although anyone with technical questions may phone 888/491-8833, ext. 1698 during business hours.

Employers may post jobs at half-price through the introductory “launch” period, which concludes April 7.

FRA has developed the Job Board in cooperation with Boxwood Technologies, [www.boxwoodtech.com](http://www.boxwoodtech.com).

The Forest Resources Association Inc. is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

## New Stream Crossing Workshop A Success

Texas Forest Service in 2007 began offering a new BMP workshop focusing on stream crossings to logging professionals as part of the Pro-Logger program. This course is approved for 6.0 hours of continuing education, meeting the annual requirements for logging contractors to maintain their certification.

To date, Texas Forest Service has conducted five workshops, training over 150 people. “The response we have seen from logging professionals in East Texas has been tremendous” said Shane Harrington, BMP Forester, Texas Forest Service. “We’ve even had other states contact us about using our workshop as a model for their own states” said Harrington. Future dates for additional stream crossing workshops are being planned now for 2008.

This new workshop is designed like the traditional BMP course in which attendees spend the morning session participating in discussions, watching videos, and listening to slide presentations. After lunch, the class travels to several field sites to apply the principles that were presented earlier that morning. Topics covered in this workshop include:

- How to plan a stream crossing
- Advantages and disadvantages of various stream crossing methods
- Proper installation and remediation of stream crossings

The idea to develop this course came after the release of the 2005 Texas BMP Implementation Monitoring report, a document produced to determine the extent to which the forestry community is voluntarily following the recommended guidelines. The report showed that stream crossings con-

sistently ranked lower than any other category evaluated, which is a concern, given the sensitivity of these areas.

“Implementing BMPs on stream crossings is absolutely critical because these locations are direct contact points to the stream. Improperly constructing a stream crossing can have a negative impact on water quality,” said Hughes Simpson, Texas BMP Coordinator.

Participants have seen the benefits in attending this course. Post workshop evaluations have shown that 97% of attendees would recommend this class to others, noting that the course material was explained very well. The evaluations also showed significant interest in attending other BMP related workshops, such as courses on forest roads and streamside management zones, offered by Texas Forest Service. Typical written comments from participants were:

I think this was a good workshop and everyone that works on dirt needs to attend.

Good. The men did a great job of showing different ideas about future logging procedures.

Thanks for your effort. The class is needed to try to get everyone on the same page!

Good. Great opportunity to expand knowledge.

To register for this workshop or any other course required under the Texas Pro Logger program, contact the Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733. For more information on Best Management Practices, please contact the Texas Forest Service at (936) 639-8180 or go online at [www.texasforestservice.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforestservice.tamu.edu).

# Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Class Tours East Texas Forestry Association

By Ron Hufford

Every two years we have the opportunity to host the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) class and for one day showcase the forestry community. TALL Class IX, which is composed of 25 men and women who are leaders in Texas agriculture, traveled to the Pineywoods Conservation Center in January to learn about the Pineywoods of East Texas. Class members were able to tour a logging operation, the Temple-Inland mill at Pineland, the Sabine National Forest and wildlife programs on Temple-Inland forest land. The class also had the opportunity to learn about forest insects from Joe Pase with the TFS (see photo), and Shane Harrington with TFS put together a increment boring demonstration (see photo) along with a tree identification course by Gary Clos with International



*Joe Pase has everyone's attention with his insect display.*



*Shane Harrington conducts an increment boring demonstration for the TALL class.*



*Class members crowd around Shane to learn about how the age of a tree is determined.*



*Gary Clos conducts a tree identification short course.*

Paper Co (see photo). Tom Boggus with TFS gave an overview of forestry in Texas and highlighted the current issues related to Rita damage and fire concerns. Dr. Mike Fountain presented an overview of the forestry programs and research initiatives at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFASU. Following these presentations I have received many thank you notes about the positive impression that the members of the TALL class took away from this program. One class member stated that he was impressed with the advanced technology that is present in the harvesting and mill operations and the trip certainly left a positive impression in his mind about the forestry community overall.



# TEXAS FORESTRY

ESTABLISHED IN 1914 – FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN FORESTRY ISSUES.

FEBRUARY 2008



## **The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Group**

- Toured Campbell Timberland Management's Nursery Operations and observed seedlings being lifted bagged and placed in cold storage.
- Temple-Inland mill manager Mike Rodgers explains the manufacturing process at the Pineland Mill.
- Ray Stoner, NRCS, conducted a tree ID session.
- Shane Harrington, TFS, conducted an increment boring demonstration and class members participated.

## Texas' Forestry Best Management Practices Report Card – Results from 15 Years of BMP Implementation Monitoring in Texas

A recently released report by the Texas Forest Service titled "A History of Forestry BMP Implementation Monitoring in Texas," documents the tremendous gains that have been made in Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation over the years. "The results show that the forestry community has truly embraced the importance of using BMPs to protect water quality," said Hughes Simpson, Texas BMP coordinator.

The report covers results from the past 15 years of BMP implementation monitoring in which a total of 904 sites in East Texas were evaluated on public, industrial, TIMO, and private lands. By measuring the progress that has been made since the initial survey, strengths and weaknesses have been determined, so that future educational efforts can be focused on those areas needing the most improvement.

Since the monitoring program began in the early 1990s, overall BMP implementation rates have increased by over 20% to an all time high of 91.7%. Even greater strides have been made in traditional problem areas – temporary roads (+56%), stream crossings (+43%), and streamside

management zones or SMZs (+29%).

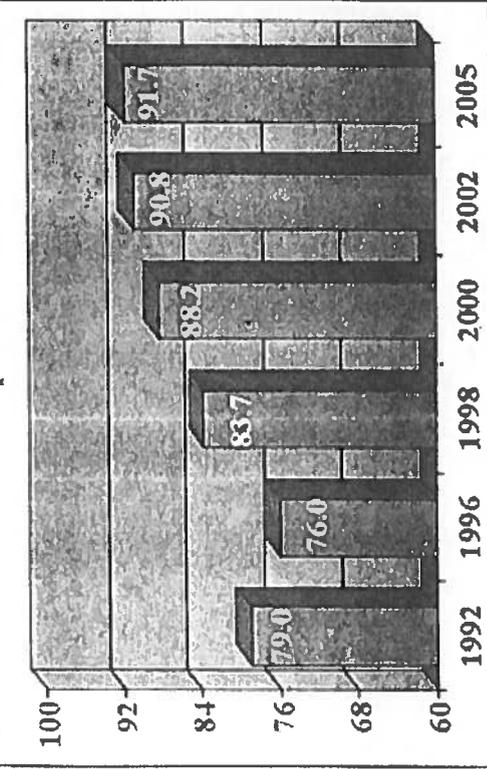
Family forest landowners, long considered the critical link to protecting water quality, have led most of the recent advancement. Tremendous gains have been made on private land, most notably on temporary roads (+68%), site preparation (+59%), stream crossings (+58%), and SMZs (+42%). Their overall BMP implementation rate also increased significantly (+29%) and is at an all time high of 88.6%.

In order to continue to improve implementation of BMPs, the Texas Forest Service will offer several new courses that focus on stream crossings, forest roads and SMZs through the Texas Forestry Association's Pro-Logger continuing education program.

"The dramatic improvements shown by this report really demonstrate the effectiveness of the Texas Forest Service BMP program as well as the forestry community's commitment to environmental stewardship," said Simpson.

To view a copy of this report, visit the Texas Forest Service webpage at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/sustainable/article.aspx?id=710&>.

Overall Percent BMP Implementation, 1992-2005



## Texas Forester Wins National Award

Philip Gates of Carthage, Texas, was recently awarded the National Field Leadership Award by the American Tree Farm System.

"Philip Gates is very deserving of this recognition. His incredible ability to motivate volunteers and his commitment to

forestland and over 80,000 family forest owners who are committed to excellence in forest stewardship. Tree Farmers manage their



Gates is the District Forester for the

# Coordinated Watershed Protection in Southeast and South Central Texas

Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2006

## In this Issue:

- Update from Regional Watershed Coordinator
- Plum Creek Watershed
- Irrigation systems provide much-needed water for rice farmers, other users
- Forestry Best Management Practices – A Way to Protect Your Land

## Update from Regional Watershed Coordinator

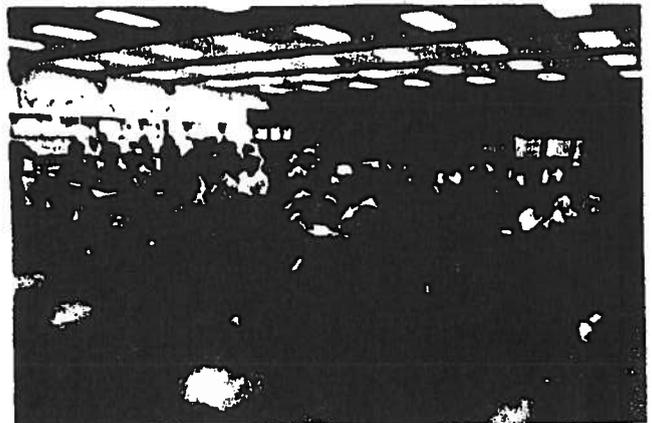
Brian Koch, Regional Watershed Coordinator, TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office, Wharton, Texas, [bkoch@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:bkoch@tsswcb.state.tx.us)

Hello everyone, and welcome to the third newsletter. Since our last issue, I have been busy attending various meetings and other activities within the Wharton Region service area. The Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership Land Use workgroup held their meeting in Texas City on April 3, my involvement in the workgroup pertains to agricultural nonpoint source issues on the remaining pasture and cropland within the watershed. On April 5, Carter Miska attended the Clear Creek TMDL for bacteria; TCEQ is in the process of sampling, which will be completed in August of 2006, to help pinpoint the sources of bacteria. On April 6, Jeff Cerny, Lawrence Brown, and I traveled to the Welder Wildlife Refuge in Sinton to assist with the Region III Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY)

### WCSC Meeting Schedule

June 8, 2006  
September 7, 2006  
December 7, 2006  
March 8, 2007

Wildlife Judging Contest, where 28 teams consisting of FFA and 4-H clubs from Southeast Texas competed. The WAY contest offers opportunities for 4-H and FFA students to display their knowledge of the outdoors, while offering scholarships to contest winners. The TSSWCB is the lead agency in



*Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting.  
Photo by Brian Koch.*

sponsoring and organizing the contest. Other partners include the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, TPWD, Cooperative Extension, and the Texas Education Agency.

Also on April 6, Jeff Cerny and I attended the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District annual awards banquet in Edna, where they awarded local students and teachers alike for their commitment to conservation. Awards were given for the coloring, poster, and speaking contests, which make the students aware of agriculture and the role agriculture plays in their lives. The winners will be selected to compete in regional and state contests also sponsored by TSSWCB and the SWCD's.

The Sabine River Authority held their annual Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting in Orange on April 18 where they

water rights, LCRA holds senior water rights for direct diversion of water from the Colorado River.

The water rights allow the operations to pump water from the river without calling upon LCRA to release water from storage. Often, in the height of the growing season, river flows are insufficient and LCRA makes up the deficit by using water stored in the Highland Lakes. This is sometimes difficult to understand for Central Texans wanting to enjoy recreation on the lakes.

#### **State laws, historical factors**

Why does LCRA release stored water for agricultural irrigation if it may interfere with recreation on the Highland Lakes? LCRA has longstanding responsibilities to deliver water to rice farmers for two basic reasons:

First, Texas law declares that the state must give preference to certain types of water uses when granting water rights. LCRA's practice of giving preference to downstream rice farmers when distributing interruptible stored water — a water supply that is curtailed during water shortages — is consistent with the Texas Legislature's directive. The contracts for this water are negotiated during development of the LCRA Water Management Plan, which is subject to state approval.

Second, according to state water law, first in time is first in right. Downstream rice farmers were given first water rights in the Colorado basin, and these rights are senior to LCRA's water rights for the Highland Lakes. In fact, without the support of the rice farmers, the Highland Lakes and dams might never have been built. Rice farmers were among the strongest supporters of building the Highland Lakes and dams in the 1930s. They recognized the value of the dams in easing flooding and making water available during droughts.

The demand on the Highland Lakes for stored water for irrigation varies greatly from year to year, based on rainfall and the amount of acreage planted. The amount of acreage planted each year also can vary a great deal, depending on national and global trends. World market prices and production trends, domestic consumption, and price and trade policies all greatly affect the Texas rice industry — and its demand for water.

*TSSWCB would like to thank LCRA for permission to use this article.*

## **Forestry Best Management Practices – A Way to Protect Your Land**

Shane Harrington, BMP Forester, Texas Forest Service, Lufkin, Texas [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu)

It is documented that well managed forests provide us with clean water. They also absorb rainfall, refill aquifers, slow and filter stormwater runoff, reduce floods, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Forestry operations, if done improperly, can negatively impact these benefits. Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) were developed to prevent these impacts from occurring.

Forestry BMPs are a set of guidelines that involve the application of conservation practices that effectively prevent or minimize the amount of nonpoint source pollution (NPS) generated during forestry operations. They help protect your soil and water, two key elements necessary for growing a healthy, sustainable, and productive forest. BMPs can include such measures as leaving a buffer zone of trees next to a stream, installing a culvert to cross a stream, or establishing grass on forest roads to prevent erosion.

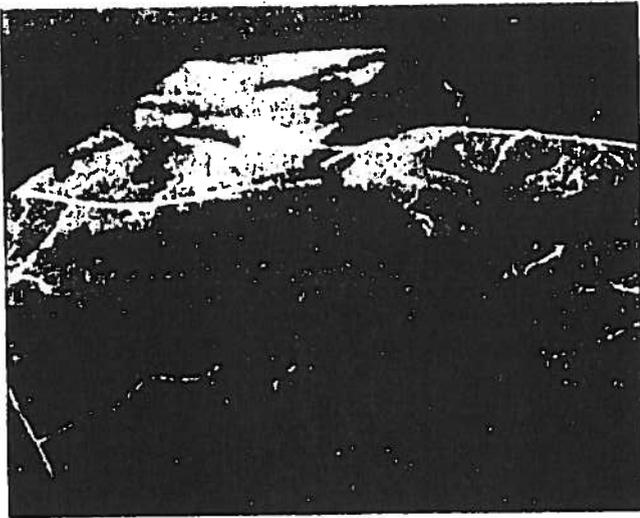
The Texas Forest Service, with cooperation from the forestry community, monitors the implementation of these guidelines by evaluating randomly selected forestry operations. Compliance with the non-regulatory BMPs has steadily risen to 92 percent, according to a 2005 survey by the Texas Forest Service. Computer models have estimated that over the past 15 years, BMPs have prevented over 100,000 tons of soil per year from eroding off East Texas forests, enough to cover a football field, end zone to end zone, 35 feet deep. These practices also kept over 12,000 tons of soil per year out of lakes and reservoirs.

### **WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY PROPERTY?**

- Leave a 50 foot strip of trees along streams after harvesting your timber to help prevent sediment from entering streams and provide wildlife habitat.
- Install appropriate water control structures along roads to allow water to drain quickly. Stabilize and retire roads no longer in use.
- Avoid crossing streams when possible. If this is not possible, cross streams at straight sections and at right angles. Remove all temporary crossings and

logging debris from channel and stabilize stream banks.

- Make sure the ground is stable enough for heavy equipment so rutting does not occur.
- Conduct operations on the contour of the land.
- Read and follow manufacturers' labels before applying silvicultural chemicals.
- Properly dispose of all oil and trash associated with the operation.
- When harvesting your timber, use a professional forester and choose a logger that has been trained in BMPs.
- Try to become familiar with BMPs and include them in your timber sale contract.



**Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) prevent sediment from entering streams and provide shade helping maintain cool water temperatures. Photo Provided by Texas Forest Service.**

In Texas, if we demonstrate *voluntarily* that we can maintain or improve our water quality while harvesting or site preparing our timber-land, we may avoid the pain of mandatory restrictions. We strongly urge you to use BMPs on your operations to protect water quality. With your help we can continue our water quality improvements and ensure the sustain-ability of our forests for all Texans to enjoy. For More Information:

Texas Forest Service  
PO Box 310  
Lufkin, TX 75902-0310  
(936) 639-8180  
<http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>

Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75901  
(936) 632-8733  
[www.texasforestry.org](http://www.texasforestry.org)

### **June Water Quality Meetings in South East and South Central Texas**

WCSC Meeting in Columbus,  
Thursday, June 8, 2006 10:00-12:00

Tres Palacios Harbor Dissolved Oxygen TMDL  
Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 5:30-7:00 pm.

Texas Instream Flow Program Workshop  
Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 8:30-4:30pm

Houston Ship Channel Dioxin TMDL  
Stakeholder Group Meeting  
Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00-4:00 pm

Lower San Antonio River Bacteria TMDL,  
Monday, June 19, 2006 at 1:30-3:30 pm.

Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting  
Tuesday, June 20, 2006 at 6:00 pm

### **Contact Information**

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Regional Watershed Coordinator

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<http://watershedsteward.tamu.edu/>

*This newsletter is published for the benefit of entities with water quality management responsibilities in Southeast and South Central Texas. Its purpose is to inform readers and highlight watershed activities taking place throughout the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Wharton Regional Office Service Area. This newsletter is made possible through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act 5319(h) grant administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Texas Cooperative Extension prohibit discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.*

## American Tree Farm System Receives PEFC Endorsement

On August 7, 2008, family forest owners in the U.S., who own nearly two-thirds of the country's forestlands, received international approval of the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). PEFC is an international, independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999 which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. ATFS is the oldest and largest forest conservation, certification, and advocacy program in the United States.

"This is fantastic news for conservation-minded family forest owners who are struggling to survive in tough economic times," said Laurence Wiseman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Forest Foundation, the parent group of ATFS. "PEFC approval is the key to connecting more of the good operators to the rapidly growing marketplace of green manufacturers, distributors, retailers and consumers." Forest landowners who voluntarily commit the extra time and expense to produce wood sustainably under the ATFS system will now qualify for access to the international markets that they never had before.

The American Tree Farm System was first launched in 1941 as a private initiative to address concerns that America's forests were being cut at unsustainable rates without reforestation. It now represents more than 90,000 family forest owners in 45 states, most of whom manage woodlots of less than 100 acres. ATFS is the largest private forest conservation and forest restoration initiative in the history of the U.S. "The number of certified family forests landowners in the system has doubled over the past four years, and this shows the tremendous growth potential in this area," said Bob Simpson, Senior Vice President for the American Forest Foundation.



PEFC is a framework for the assessment and endorsement of national forest certification systems that have been developed based on internationally recognized requirements for sustainable forest management. Since its launch in 1999,

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PEFC has become the largest forest certification umbrella organization covering national systems from all over the world, delivering hundreds of millions of tons of wood to the processing industry and then onto the market. PEFC has strong grass roots support from many stakeholders including the forestry sector, governments, trade associations, trade unions and non-governmental organizations.

## Reforestation and BMPs

By Shane Harrington, BMP Staff Forester, Texas Forest Service, Area 6 Chairman

Winter is fast approaching and with the cooler temperatures many landowners are beginning to focus their attention to reforesting their properties. The harvest has been successfully completed, the land site prepared, and soon it will be time to put the new seedlings into the ground. Many landowners only associate best management practices (BMPs) with the harvest operation; but reforestation jobs, if done improperly, can also negatively impact water quality. There are BMP guidelines for all aspects of forest management, including reforestation. Remember these points when doing site preparation and planting:

In general -

- Mark boundaries of all streamside management zones (SMZ) clearly before site preparation activities.
- Plan ahead to minimize disturbance by equipment in SMZs.
- Site preparation and reforestation activities should skirt SMZs and stream channels. Any debris should be placed above the ordinary high water mark of any stream or body of open water.
- Any site preparation practices and planting should be done following the contour of the land.

A Publication of the Texas Tree Farm Committee

- Avoid intensive site preparation on steep slopes and on slopes with thin or highly erodible soils.
- Hand plant excessively steep slopes and wet sites.

Using BMPs is just one way that landowners can protect water quality during their forest management activities.

For more information regarding BMPs please contact your local Texas Forest Service office or visit <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

## Texas Outstanding Tree Farm Tour Set for September 13<sup>th</sup>

The Sam Houston Council, Boy Scouts of American, in partnership with the Texas Forestry Association will host a Field Day and Forestry Tour at Camp Strake, located in Montgomery County, Texas, on Saturday, September 13, 2008. Camp Strake is the 2008 Texas Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year.

Each year, landowners, natural resource managers and conservationists gather at the year's Outstanding Tree Farm to celebrate forest stewardship, take part in educational workshops and recognize individuals for promoting and practicing good forestry. This year's event will include a woods tour where speakers will address management techniques including mulching and prescribed burning. **Congressman Kevin Brady** will be the keynote speaker during lunch.



The field day and lunch are FREE, but please RSVP by contacting Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-TREE (8733) or email [tfa@texasforestry.org](mailto:tfa@texasforestry.org). Registration will begin at 9:00am and the event will end after lunch. Camp Strake is located just south of Conroe off I-45 (west). Transportation during the tour will be provided.

## Tax Incentives for Tree Farmers

By Ron Hufford, Executive Vice President  
Texas Forestry Association

In 1978, a constitutional amendment was approved by the voters that authorized timberland, which is being managed for timber production, to be appraised based on the productivity value of the timberland. While the Tax Code

assigns most of the appraisal responsibilities to the chief appraisers in the districts around the state, it also requires the Comptroller to maintain a manual for the appraisal of qualified timberland. A copy of the "Manual For The Appraisal Of Timberland, May 2004," is available on the Comptroller's Web site at: [www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us). Click on Local Property Taxes under the Most Popular column to the left and then click on Appraisal Manuals.

The first step a forest landowner needs to take is to contact the appraisal office to ensure that their land is recognized on the property tax roll as "Timber Productivity Value." To qualify, the land must be devoted to the production of timber with the intention of producing income and has been dedicated to agriculture or timber production for five of the preceding seven years. Landowners must file an application and supporting documentation requesting "Timber Productivity Value" directly with the appraisal district.

Texas Forestry Association has been successful in recent legislative sessions in passing several laws which have provided significant tax incentives for planting trees.

A law passed in 1997 encourages landowners to plant trees on open-space agricultural land. Landowners who qualify for this tax incentive are able to maintain the current agricultural valuation for fifteen years from the time the trees are planted. After the fifteen year grace period the timber productivity valuation will then be applied. This can be a significant tax savings for the landowner as in most cases the agricultural valuation is lower than timber values. By requesting this provision of the law allows a landowner to keep their taxes at lower rates for fifteen years. To qualify 1) the land must have been appraised as agricultural open-space land for the preceding five years; 2) conversion is for the production of timber; & 3) the land must meet the requirements for timber productivity valuation (found in the Timber Tax Manual).

The above law only addressed the conversion of open-space agricultural lands to tree planting. Therefore, in 1999, Texas Forestry Association supported the passage of the "Texas Reforestation Tax Act" which provides a tax incentive designed to encourage landowners to reforest their lands after a harvest. Under the provisions of this law landowners can receive a 50% reduction in their timber productivity valuation for ten years from the date of the harvest. To qualify 1) the land must be appraised as timber productivity valuation at the time of harvest; & 2) the land must be

# Trinity County Forest Landowners Enjoy Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program

By Jane Baxter

Members of the Trinity County Forest Landowners Association enjoyed a Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program featuring six professionals from the forestry/natural resource field on Saturday, July 30, at the First United Methodist Church in Trinity. The TCFLA was founded in 1982 and is the oldest Forest Landowners Association in Texas.

The meeting was sponsored by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee of the Texas Forestry Association and the Texas Forest Service. The Texas Sustainable Forestry Initiative is actively involved in public awareness of sustainable forestry, and provides landowner education on best management practices, reforestation, selling timber and choosing a logger, and continuing education for loggers about good harvesting practices.

The speakers each presented some aspect of the SFI effort. **Randy Schieffer** from Norbord gave the goals and objectives of SFI as it promotes the practice of excellent forestry management. The objectives for participants that own land and another seven objectives for participants who own mills were reviewed. According to Schieffer, "SFI helps to ensure we are harvesting timber sustainably and doing business with those who have the same commitment."

**Buddy Stalaker** from Woodlands Specialists discussed Site Preparation and Reforestation. Landowners have choices in how reforestation is carried out including how the site is prepared, whether trees are planted by hand or machine, and method of controlling forest competition. The site needs to be evaluated to determine what is the most cost efficient method to follow. Herbicide treatment to control youpon, grass and weeds allows faster growth of pine seedlings, and can be applied before planting or mid rotation.

**Hughes Simpson** from the Texas Forest Service discussed Timber Sale Contracts and Best Management Practices. A written contract should be executed when timber is sold specifying the conditions under which timber is cut, marketed, and how the forest roads will be restored after the harvest is completed. Best Management Practices to protect water quality



*Beek Rollins, Jesse Tomlinson registering with Jane Baxter*

out their wishes. Transfer of property can be done by the State under certain rules and by the individual through their own planning. In addition to making gifts of property, individuals can plan to transfer property to government administered programs such as the Texas Forest Service Heritage Forest Program, the federal Forest Legacy Program, or enter into a Conservation Easement to protect property from being sold or developed. A conservation easement is a legal agreement that ensures a property will be managed according to the landowner's wishes for years into the future and may also qualify the landowner for tax benefits. Every conservation easement document is individually crafted and reflects the special qualities of the land protected and the needs of the landowner. "Conservation Easements, A Guide for Texas Landowners" is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744 (512-565-4857). Other resources are listed online at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserves/tlc](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/conserves/tlc)

"Managing Forests for Wildlife and Developing Hunting Leases" was

snow species out such as how streams will be crossed and roads reconstructed.

Cost Share Programs for Forest Landowners was presented by **Ray Stoner** from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He outlined the opportunities for forest landowners to receive 50% cost share under EQIP with costs of good forestry practices. The EQIP program pays for a variety of forestry related practices chosen by Stakeholders in each county. Trinity County stakeholders will meet on September 13, 2005 at the Extension office in Lufkin to choose the practices to be included in Trinity County in 2006. More information on EQIP program can be found at [www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP](http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP) and enter Trinity. Other Cost Share Programs available to forest landowners include the Wetlands Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

**Jan Davis** from the Texas Forest Service gave information on Succession Planning for Forest Landowners. She pointed out that we do the planning for a change when owners pass away so ownership goes in the direction you want it to go, and that planning is done through the will. An attorney can assist the individual in preparing the legal documents to carry

emphasized the benefits of a diverse ecosystem that promotes many species of wildlife and natural habitats. Landowners who provide natural environments favored by diverse wildlife also benefit the health of the forest.

Positive practices include considering the soil type and site suitability when choosing what to grow on a site; keeping hardwoods in bottom lands and providing Streamside Management Zones along creeks and streams, leaving about four snags/ old tree stems per acre on harvested land, leaving refuge areas for wildlife in clear cut areas, controlling for weeds and brush after a clear cut, and spacing planted trees 8 x 8 or 8 x 10. Prescribed burning is a key practice in promoting wildlife to stimulate growth of desirable plants and reduce the forest fuel load. Wild turkeys need low grass so the grass should be burned every year or two. Third row thinning of pine plantations helps wildlife as well as promotes growth of the plantation trees.

Hunting leases should make clear what the landowner expects of the hunters in writing, and should establish rules and limit liability of the landowner. The hunting lease should specify who can hunt, the conduct of all involved, rules of conduct, dates of hunting activity.

The next regular meeting of the Trinity County Forest Landowners Association will be Saturday, January 28, 2006.

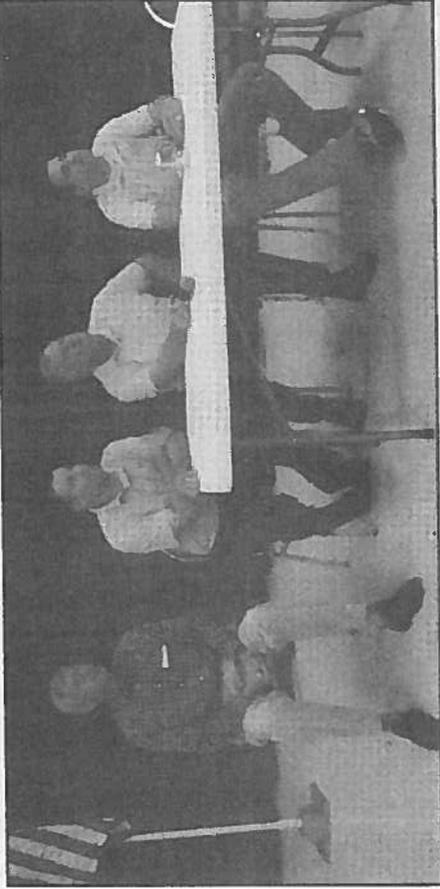
The Trinity County Forest Landowners Association is open to anyone interested in good forest management and optimum use of forest resources. Annual dues to the Association are \$5 and voluntary donation to the Scholarship fund is an additional \$5. Quarterly meetings offer varied educational topics and networking with other members. Members meet other Trinity County landowners, learn about practices to use on your property, hear what options and assistance are available to you. Members receive a quarterly newsletter containing current updates and forestry information. For information, call Dan Barnes, President, at 936-594-2067 or send dues to Jane Baxter, 4641 Chalmers Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.



*Hughes Simpson,  
Texas Forest Service*



*TCFLA President Dan Barnes*



*Panel with Ray Stoner, Don Campbell, Randy Schieffer,  
and Kyle Burke answering questions.*

## **BMP Q&A**

*by Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I am a landowner here in East Texas and I like to use aerial photographs to help me manage my property. Aerial photographs help me determine and maintain access roads, boundary lines, and aid in planning harvest operations. I have problems finding good quality and up-to-date photographs of East Texas. I heard that the Texas Forest Service takes aerial photographs of East Texas and can provide landowners with copies. Is this correct and if so how can I obtain a copy of my property?

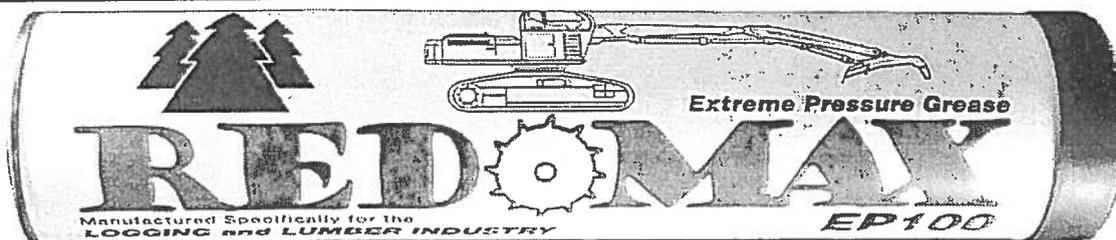
**A:** This is a great question and, yes, the Texas Forest Service has continued to take aerial photographs of East Texas since 1979. These photographs are taken during the winter months after hardwood trees have dropped their leaves usually, December through the first part of March. By taking photographs during the winter months ground features are more recognizable and delineating pine and hardwood stands is easier.

All Texas Forest Service District offices in East Texas maintain a set of 9x9 photographs covering the district. Texas Forest Service personnel use these photographs for forest management work, forest fire control, southern pine beetle aerial surveys and ground detection, and other uses. Each photograph has a scale of 1:15,840 (one inch on the photo equals 1,320 feet on the ground) and covers approximately 3,200 acres or five square miles.

Aerial photographs are a useful tool for any forest management activity. These photographs can be used in conjunction with soil survey maps, USGS topographical maps, and on the ground reconnaissance to plan and execute any forest management activity. Photos can aid in determining property and harvest boundaries, locating appropriate places to install access roads, marking streamside management zones, and protecting other sensitive areas that may be located on the property.

If you are a landowner and are interested in getting a bird's eye view of your property visit your local Texas Forest Service District Office. Personnel in these offices can assist you in finding the best photograph that covers your property or place of interest. An order form for aerial photographs can be found online as well at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu> and by clicking on the Forest Management tab located on the left side of the screen. Here you will find a link to the order form. Complete this form and mail it to the address listed on the order form.

Inquiries regarding aerial photographs should be directed to your local Texas Forest Service District Office but if you have questions regarding BMPs, please contact me by calling (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).



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# BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I heard the Texas Forest Service recently completed another round of best management practices (BMP) implementation monitoring. How well are we doing at implementing BMPs on silvicultural operations and are there any areas that still need improvement?

**A:** This month I will address the BMP implementation rates for Round 6. Next month I will address areas where we had major improvements and areas needing improvements.

The Texas Forest Service BMP Project office recently finished its sixth round of BMP implementation monitoring. Every two years since 1991 the Texas Forest Service randomly selects and evaluates silvicultural operations in East Texas for the implementation of BMPs. This system of monitoring is a voluntary system between the Texas Forest Service and the landowner. Only tracts where permission has been granted by the landowner are evaluated.

Between May 2003 and July 2005 a total of 156 sites were chosen and evaluated for the implementation of BMPs. All tracts selected had some type of silvicultural operation conducted on them during this time period. Tracts were selected among family forest owners (listed as NIPF owners in previous rounds), corporate landowners (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities), forest industry, and public lands (national and state forestlands).

The overall BMP implementation rate increased from 91.5% in Round 5 to 91.7% in Round 6. Family forest owners had the lowest implementation rate at 88.9%. Although this was the lowest implementation rate among the landowner categories, it was an all-time high for family forest owners. Corporate landowners had an overall implementation rate of 96.0% while forest industry had a rate of 95.7%. Implementation was generally highest on sites under public ownership. These national and state forestlands sites had an implementation rate of 98.3%.

Landowners and loggers continue to do a good job of implementing BMPs on their operations and, hopefully, in the future we can see a continued improvement of the BMP implementation rate. Remember that one way we can continue to improve is to recognize the importance of using BMPs to protect water quality by treating each silvicultural operation as if it will be evaluated.

You can obtain a copy of the Round 6 Voluntary Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices in East Texas report by visiting our website at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding the Round 6 BMP implementation report or BMPs in general please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu)

## LUMBERMEN'S Insurance Agency, Inc.

- Worker's Compensation Insurance  
East Texas Forestry Purchasing Group
- General Liability Insurance
- Truck Insurance
- Logging Equipment Insurance
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Texas Forestry Association

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MEMBER

*"Let every man be respected as an individual and no man idolized." Albert Einstein*

Texas Logger, October 2005 9

**Q:** I heard that you can now get Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours for taking a quiz in the Texas Logger in the BMP Q&A article. A buddy of mine told me he heard this at a BMP workshop that he attended a few months ago. Is this correct that I can take a quiz and get continuing education hours?

**A:** Congratulations to your friend for participating in the BMP workshop and I hope that you are able to attend the next one. Yes, you are able to take a quiz in Texas Logger and obtain Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours. These quizzes are offered once a quarter through out the year. **This is the last quiz for 2005 so make sure you fill out one and submit it.**

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the second of four times during the year the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A. Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only

## **BMP Q&A**

*by Shane Harrington*

**BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service**



earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you will need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed

**Mail To:** Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488  
**TFA Fax:** (936) 632-9461

**Here is the second quiz for 2005:**

**Question:** List three water control structures that can be used to divert water off roadways and skid trails to prevent or at least minimize any erosion.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office  
or you can view it online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180  
or e-mail me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu)

### **THE BRAINY BUNCH**

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, very risky but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the brain yourselves."

The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost? "

The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain, and \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked. A man unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more? "

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've actually been used."

# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I heard the Texas Forest Service recently completed another round of best management practices (BMP) implementation monitoring. How well are we implementing BMPs on silvicultural operations and are there any areas that still need improvement?

**A:** Last time I addressed the BMP implementation rates for each landowner category as well as the overall BMP implementation rate for the Round 6 BMP Implementation Report. This month I would like to address the areas in which we had improvements and some areas that still need improvement.

There were three areas in which we saw major improvements from previous rounds. The three areas where we saw major improvements were the increase in the rate of BMP implementation on family forest lands, a higher overall rate of BMP implementation on permanent and temporary roads, and a decrease in the incidences of significant risks to water quality. As stated in last month's article, Family Forest Owners achieved an all time high with an 88.7% BMP implementation rate. This means that landowners are becoming more familiar and educated about BMPs.

The increase in implementation on permanent and temporary roads can be attributed to roads being properly placed and water control structures (i.e. waterbars, wing ditches) being used. This is a major improvement because 90% of all sedimentation that occurs on a tract comes

directly from runoff from the roads. By properly placing roads and using water control structures, sedimentation is less likely to occur.

The last area, which can be directly related to the previous two improvements, is the decrease in the number of significant risks to water quality. A significant risk to water quality exists if, during a normal rain-fall, sediment is likely to be delivered to a permanent water body. A permanent water body is defined as any blue line stream (i.e. perennial and intermittent streams) or lake. Significant risks to water quality can be avoided by making sure that roads are properly stabilized, stream crossings are restored and stabilized, and that there is an adequate SMZ.

There were two major deficiencies noted during the evaluations: failure to restore and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads and failure to remove logging debris from streams. Once a stream crossing is no longer needed, the crossing should always be removed immediately and the approaches and stream banks should be stabilized and restored to prevent any soil from moving into the stream. Care should always be taken while operating near a stream or within an SMZ to ensure that logging debris does not end up in the stream. Any logging debris should be removed immediately from the stream to prevent blocking the natural water flow of the stream and to prevent any sediment from entering the stream.

Overall a good job is being done implementing and adhering to Texas BMP guidelines as shown by the 91.7% BMP implementation rate for Round 6. This is the highest BMP implementation rate that the Texas Forest Service has ever seen. Hopefully in the future there will be a continued improvement of the BMP implementation rate. Remember that one way to continue to improve is to recognize the importance of using BMPs to protect water quality by treating each site as if it will be evaluated.

A copy of the Round 6 Voluntary Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices in East Texas report can be obtained by visiting the Texas Forest Service website at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. For further information regarding the Round 6 BMP implementation report or BMPs in general please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu)

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# BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I am gearing up to replant my tract after harvesting the timber last summer. Currently I am in the planning process and trying to get my tract prepared to be planted. I want to know if there are any precautions that I should take during the planting job related to the use of best management practices (BMPs).

**A:** The onset of winter reminds us that it is once again time to start planting seedlings. Reforesting tracts that have been harvested is important because it ensures that we are managing our forests on a sustainable basis and that future generations will have the same resources available to them that we do. Just as important is remembering to implement BMPs during all aspects of the planting operation including site preparation.

Remember these points when doing site preparation and planting:

In general -

- Mark boundaries of all streamside management zones (SMZs) clearly before site preparation activities.
- Plan ahead to minimize disturbance by equipment in SMZs.
- Site preparation activities should skirt SMZs and stream channels.

Any debris should be placed above the ordinary high water mark of any stream or body of open water

- Any site preparation practices and planting should be done following the contour of the land.
- Avoid intensive site preparation on steep slopes and on slopes with thin or highly erodible soils.
- Hand-plant excessively steep slopes and wet sites.

When using prescribed fire -

- Firebreaks should have water control structures (water bars, wing ditches, etc.) in order to minimize erosion.
- Burning in an SMZ reduces the filtering capacity of the ground covering. Plan burns to minimize impacts on the SMZ.
- Avoid, when possible, site prep burns on steep slopes or highly erodible soils.
- Read and follow manufacturing labels on containers.

When using chemicals -

- Carefully plan application to avoid direct and indirect entry of chemicals into streams and impoundments.
- Avoid applying chemicals to vegetation protecting eroded slopes, gullies, drainages, and other fragile areas subject to erosion.

Remember that the sustainable management of your timber includes the proper use of BMPs to protect the quality of our valuable water resources. Additional information concerning BMPs and site prep/planting jobs can be found in the BMP bluebook or by visiting our website at <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



offered in four issues of the *Texas Logger* in 2006: the quizzes will be offered in February, May, August, and November and will count as 2006 continuing education hours.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the first quiz for 2006. You can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quizzes. In other words, you can submit answers to all of the quizzes but you would still only earn one (1) hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in all the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed or faxed to the Texas Forestry Association:

Mail to: Texas Forestry Association TFA's Fax: (936) 632-9461  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488

**Q:** Are you going to continue the quizzes that were offered in 2005 so that we can get the 1 hour continuing education credit?

**A:** Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. **This is the first quiz for 2006 so you can earn your first credit hour of the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the next quiz arrives.** The quizzes will be

Here is the first quiz for 2006:

## February-2006 Quiz

**Question:** According to the glossary located in the back of the bluebook what is the definition of a fireline and firelane? (Be sure to define both words)

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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2105 West Interstate 10  
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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Almost six months ago Hurricane Rita passed through East Texas destroying homes, businesses, and forestlands. Most people have rebuilt their homes and businesses but people such as me are still trying to salvage what is left of their forestlands. I fear that time is growing short for me to salvage my timber. Since time is of the essence do I still need to follow BMP guidelines when I am trying to get the timber out as quickly as possible?

**A:** Great question. Timber can sustain a lot of damage from events such as hurricanes, wildfires, and Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks. Hopefully we will not have to deal with another hurricane here in East Texas but there is always that possibility. However, if you find yourself conducting a salvage operation after such an event BMPs should be implemented just as if it were a normal harvest operation.

Generally there is a sense of urgency when it comes to harvesting timber in a salvage operation because damaged trees are more susceptible to insects and disease, lowering their economic value. It is still important to implement BMPs during these situa-

tions. BMPs are effective in preventing or reducing erosion, allowing your land to be managed in a sustainable manner. Following are a few recommendations to consider while conducting a salvage operation.

Prior to the salvage operation, the ground should be inspected to ensure that it is stable enough to support heavy machinery. Often times after an event such as a hurricane, tropical storm, or even an East Texas thunderstorm, the soil is saturated and operating heavy machinery on these soils can cause rutting. Rutting creates channels for water flow, which can lead to widespread soil movement. This reduces site productivity, decreases tree growth and financial returns, and impacts water quality. Firelanes installed to control wildfires should be cleaned up and stabilized with the proper water control structures to prevent additional erosion.

Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) should be visibly marked and all operations within the SMZ should be kept to a minimum. It may be necessary to flag the SMZ for greater visibility, because it is sometimes difficult for machine operators to see the original painted line with the additional debris on the ground. All roads, skid trails, decks, and firelanes should be located outside the SMZ. Removal of any felled timber within the SMZ should be done by dispersed skidding or by cable retrieval. This is done to prevent damaging the filtering capabilities of the SMZ and to keep the forest floor virtually undisturbed. Remember, even in salvage operations, 50 square feet of basal area should be left in the SMZ. Try to leave trees that have not been too severely damaged.

Personal safety should also be stressed when conducting a salvage operation. Treetops and limbs may be left dangling above the ground and could cause serious injury to ground personnel. It is also important to be aware of machine operators, especially when visibility is impaired from excessive debris.

For other recommendations regarding BMPs and salvage operations please refer to the Texas Forest Service BMP Bluebook. If you do not have a copy of the Bluebook you can obtain a copy from your local Texas Forest Service office or online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. If you have any questions or comments regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

## Europe Not Living Up to Kyoto Promises

European countries that enthusiastically embraced the draconian demands of the Kyoto Protocol are falling woefully behind their pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Interestingly, the United States vilified for refusing to penalize her citizens for living well, is managing to keep emissions levels within reasonable bounds. According to a Wall Street Journal article, since Kyoto was adopted in 1997, most European countries have seen an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. 13 of the 15 original European Union (EU) signatories are expected to miss their 2010 emissions targets by as much as 33 percentage points. Denmark has posted a 6.3 percent increase in emissions since 1990, the base year used in Kyoto, and is projected to miss their 2010 Kyoto goals by 25.2 percentage points. The Bush administration has continued to encourage states, municipalities and private industry to reduce emissions that actually cause pollution, resulting in a slight decrease in emissions of 0.8 percent between 2000 and 2002. American greenhouse emissions have risen 15.8 percent since 1990, but it is a much better record than that of her European and Asian critics. To top it off, the U. S. economy is growing much faster than Europe's. (From *American Land Foundation* - Jan. 2006)

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service

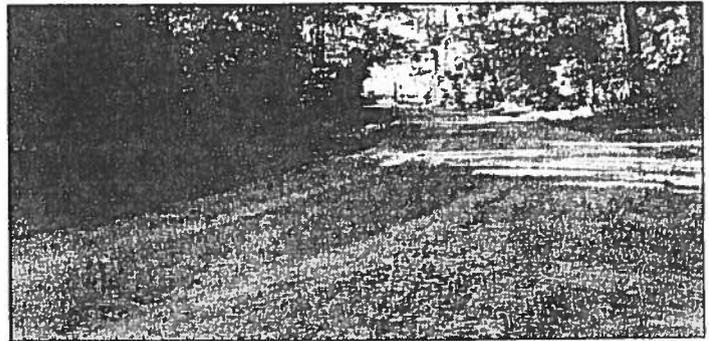


**Q:** I would like to know if there is any place that I can visit in person to see "on the ground" applications of BMPs? I hear the term BMPs used a lot these days but I am interested in actually seeing how they are used.

**A:** That is a really good question. Many people hear the term BMPs and may have an idea of what they are but have never really seen them applied or applied correctly.

The Texas Forest Service established BMP demonstration areas during the mid 1990's on the W. Goodrich Jones State Forest located in Conroe and the Kirby State Forest located between Kountze and Woodville. The purpose of these BMP demonstration areas was to give loggers, landowners, and general public a chance to see properly implemented BMPs. Original demonstrations included a streamside management zone (SMZ), various types of stream crossings, and water control structures (i.e. wing ditches, open top box culverts, etc.).

During 2005 the Texas Forest Service decided to remodel and update the BMP demonstration area on the Jones State Forest in Conroe. Many of the original BMPs that were installed in the



*Crushed concrete was used to stabilize this road providing access during wet months.*

90's had deteriorated and were no longer visible. Many of the original BMP demonstrations were renovated and new BMP demonstrations were added. Renovation work consisted of remarking the SMZ, clearing brush away from culvert crossings making the culverts visible again, and replacing the existing signs with new ones which explain what BMP is being used and its purpose.

A highway entrance using large rocks and timber mats was added showing how mud can be removed from tires before entering the highway. Tracking mud onto the highway can cause the roadway to become slick making it hazardous for other motorists. Also a flat rail car was placed across a stream demonstrating how it can be used as a bridge. Sometimes a stream is too large for a culvert or other type of crossing and a bridge must be used and while there are several options a flat rail car can provide a sturdy and safe crossing alternative. Another new demonstration is road stabilization using crushed concrete which will allow a road to be used during wetter months. Also grass was planted along other roadways showing how seeding roads can prevent or minimize any erosion that may occur.

The guidelines and recommendations for using BMPs can be found in the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices Handbook. You can get a copy of the handbook by contacting your local Texas Forest Service office or view it online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. For more information regarding the BMP demonstration area or BMPs in general please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

## When We Get Old

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out. I've still got it, but nobody wants to see it. I'm getting into swing dancing. Not on purpose. Some parts of my body are just prone to swinging. It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker. I think I've reached my expiration date. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be. These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief." I've tried to find a suitable exercise video for people my age, but they haven't made one called "Buns of Putty." Don't think of it as getting hot flashes. Think of it as your inner child playing with matches. Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up. Remember: You don't stop laughing because you grow old, You grow old because you stop laughing.

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I heard that you can now get Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours for taking a quiz in the Texas Logger in the BMP Q&A article. A buddy of mine told me he heard this at a BMP workshop that he attended a few months ago. Is this correct that I can take a quiz and get continuing education hours?

**A:** Congratulations to your friend for participating in the BMP workshop and I hope that you are able to attend the next one. Yes, you are able to take a quiz in Texas Logger and obtain Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours. These quizzes are offered once a quarter

through out the year.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the second of four times during the year the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A. Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you will need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed to the:

Mail To:

Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488  
TFA Fax: (936) 632-9461

Here is the second quiz for 2006:

## June-2006 Quiz

**Question:** Using the culvert sizing chart in the bluebook what size culvert would you need to drain a 50 acre tract that has medium soils and a slope greater than 15%?

**Answer:**

---

---

---

**Name:**

---

**Address:**

---

**Company:**

---

**Telephone:** (       )

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2105 West Interstate 10  
Vidor, Texas 77662

# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In recent months the outbreak of wildfires and the threat of wildfires occurring has been high. I want to protect my timber from a possible wildfire by installing firelanes around my tract. Are there any BMPs that I should follow during this project to prevent any impacts on water quality from occurring?

**A:** Installing firelanes around your timber is a great way to protect your investment by reducing the threat of a possible wildfire. Firelanes work by creating a barrier and removing the available fuel source between adjoining stands or tracts. By removing the fuel source along these barriers aids in preventing a wildfire one stand or tract to another. However, it is important to remember that there are potential impacts to water quality that can occur if caution is not taken.

Guidelines for properly constructing and maintaining firelanes can be found in the Texas Forest Service's BMP Bluebook. These recommendations are designed to prevent any unnecessary erosion from occurring thus minimizing the potential for impacts on water quality.

Firelanes should be constructed along the perimeter of the tract and follow the boundaries of Streamside Management Zones. Locating these barriers outside of SMZs will limit the amount of sedimentation that may result. This will also protect the litter and organic matter of the SMZ so it can continue to serve as a filter.

To allow for proper drainage and erosion control, waterbars and wing ditches should be installed in a timely manner. Recommendations for installing these devices can be found on pages 34 and 38 of the BMP Bluebook. These recommendations include how to properly build waterbars, proper spacing for

waterbars, and specifications on properly installing wing ditches. When installing wing ditches, make sure that the runoff water is not being discharged directly into streams.

Regular maintenance on firelanes is necessary to avoid potential erosion problems. This includes periodic inspections, especially after heavy rains, to make sure that they are still functioning properly and are not washed out. Mowing, rather than blading, is the preferred type of maintenance because it minimizes the amount of exposed mineral soil. Care should be taken when blading is the only option.

Implementing these control structures can be very costly when using heavy machinery. For economical as well as environmental reasons, it is important to only build firelanes as wide and deep as necessary. Woody debris and other flammable material should be kept away from firelanes. These objects can ignite, creating a pathway for the fire to spread into SMZs or adjoining lands. If you have a question regarding BMPs, please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

## Double Talk

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day...30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men..."

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

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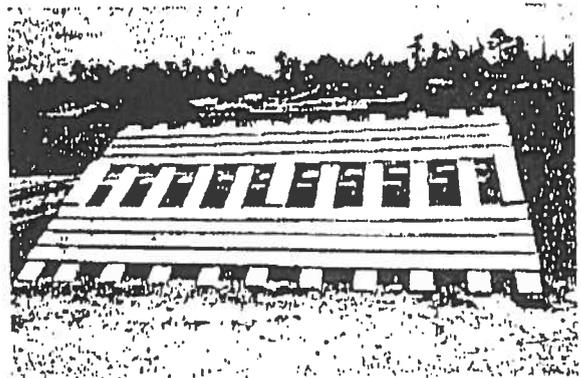
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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I heard that you can now get Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours for taking a quiz in the Texas Logger in the BMP Q&A article. A buddy of mine told me he heard this at a BMP workshop that he attended a few months ago. Is this correct that I can take a quiz and get continuing education hours?

**A:** Congratulations to your friend for participating in the BMP workshop and I hope that you are able to attend the next one. Yes, you are able to take a quiz in Texas Logger and obtain Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours. These quizzes are offered once a quarter through out the year.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. **This is the third of four times during the year the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A.** Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you will need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in

the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed to the:

Mail To: Texas Forestry Association TFA Fax: (936) 632-9461  
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Lufkin, TX 75902-1488

Here is the third quiz for 2006:

Question: What is the formula that is used when determining the basal area of a tree? (Hint look in the "How to Calculate Basal Area" section of the Bluebook.)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

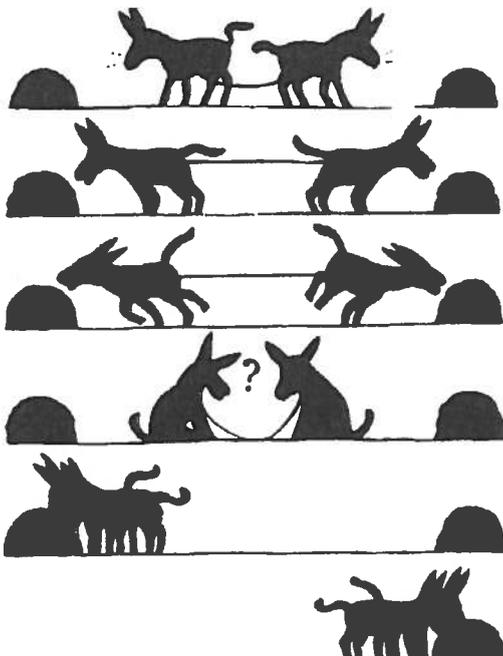
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You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at

<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu>.

If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or e-mail me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).



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## U. S. Invites Mexico to Take Territory in Kansas City

Phyllis Schlafly writes that business interests, aided by the U. S. government, are planning to set up a cargo inspection port run by Mexican officials in downtown Kansas City. An e-mail obtained through Missouri's Sunshine law read; "The space [in Kansas City] would need to be designated as Mexican sovereign territory." The project is being spearheaded by a newly-formed non-profit economic development corporation, Kansas City Smartport, Inc. Smartport's website discloses plans to ship Chinese-made goods from the port of Lazaro Cardenas in southern Mexico up "the evolving trade corridor," (NAFTA Super Highway) to the Kansas City site for cargo inspection. According

to Mrs. Schlafly's report, "A key purpose of the project is to take jobs away from U. S. longshoremen in Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif., who earn \$140,000 a year and replace them with Mexican laborers at \$10,000 a year. U. S. truck drivers and railroad workers will likewise be replaced by Mexicans." Smartport applied for a \$1.5 million grant from the U. S. Economic Development Administration to pay for gamma-ray machines to scan the containers after Mexico refused to pay the cost. The Kansas City City Council has already approved \$2.5 million in loans and \$600,000 in direct aid to Smartport to help get the project underway. The U.S. State Department must now approve Mexico's invasion of U.S. soil. It has already been approved by U. S. Customs Department. (From Dan Byfield; *Liberty Matters* - August, 2006)

### BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I live in Southeast Texas and much of my timberland was damaged by Hurricane Rita last fall. My streamside management zones were damaged as well and I am trying to restore these areas in order to continue protecting water quality. Would it be better to allow these areas to naturally heal themselves or should I take action in restoring these areas myself?

**A:** That is a really good question. I am sure that a lot of people in your area have the same question. Streamside management zones (SMZs) are important in protecting water quality and providing excellent wildlife habitat. The purpose of an SMZ is to reduce the potential quantity of sediment and logging debris reaching the stream and to prevent increased water temperatures. Caution should be taken when conducting any forest management activity within the area immediately adjacent to stream channels to ensure the protection of both instream and downstream water quality. Under proper management, timber production, wildlife enhancement and water quality may all be achieved.

An initial assessment should be made of any damaged SMZ to determine the severity, current stocking level, and ability to regenerate. The best option for restoring the SMZ may be to allow it to naturally regenerate if there are adequate sources for regeneration of desirable species. Damage to the SMZ may be severe enough that natural regeneration is not an option and the area must be artificially regenerated. Preferred species for planting are Water

Oak, Willow Oak, Cherrybark Oak, Swamp Chestnut Oak, Nuttall Oak, Green Ash, Sweetgum, Cottonwood, and Loblolly Pine. These seedlings should be hand planted. Intensive site preparation and machine planting should be avoided in these areas in order to minimize the potential for sediment and debris from entering the stream.

The SMZ should encompass 50 feet on both sides of all perennial and intermittent streams and carry a minimum basal area of 50 square feet per acre. When replanting, every effort should be made to ensure that the number of seedlings planted will meet the minimum basal area of 50 square feet in ten years.

Herbaceous weed control may be needed to control competing vegetation and to increase seedling survival. The application of herbicides within the SMZ should be done through spot treatment or individual stem injection. Aerial or ground broadcast of herbicides should be avoided within the SMZ to prevent any chemicals from entering the stream. If the area where the herbicides are to be applied is prone to flooding extra caution should be taken when applying the treatment or the treatment should be avoided. Always follow all manufacturing labels on containers when applying herbicides and always dispose of empty bottles and trash appropriately.

Whether the SMZ is naturally or artificially regenerated, Texas Best Management Practices (BMPs) Guidelines should be followed. These guidelines are designed to protect water quality during any forest management activity. For a copy of the BMP handbook visit your local Texas Forest Service office or view online at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu>. For questions regarding repairing damaged SMZs or BMPs in general please contact me by calling (936) 639-8180 or emailing at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I heard that you can now get Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education hours for taking a quiz in the Texas Logger in the BMP Q&A article. A buddy of mine told me he heard this at a BMP workshop that he attended a few months ago. Is this correct that I can take a quiz and get continuing education hours?

**A:** Congratulations to your friend for participating in the BMP workshop and I hope that you are able to attend the next one. Yes, you are able to take a quiz in Texas Logger and obtain Texas Pro Logger Continuing Education

hours. These quizzes are offered once a quarter throughout the year.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. **This is the last time the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A this year.** Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you will need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed to the:

Mail To: Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
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Here is the fourth quiz for 2006:

**Question:** According to the Bluebook how far away from an SMZ should a landing/deck be placed?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or e-mail me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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## Ronald Reagan Wisdom

"Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose."  
"The most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'"  
"Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong."  
"I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."  
"The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't take the civil service exam."  
"Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other."

**BMP Q&A****By: Shane Harrington, BMP Forester, Texas Forest Service**

**Q:** I take pride in all of my harvesting operations and that I'm doing my part to protect water quality by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). However, it is not always easy dealing with landowners and conveying to them the importance of using BMPs and protecting water quality. Do you have any advice on dealing with these landowners and conveying to them the importance of using BMPs?

**A:** This is a tough problem that many loggers and contractors are faced with every day. Implementing BMPs is not only time consuming, but can also be costly. However, after looking at the advantages they provide, using BMPs becomes more appealing.

The ultimate goal of BMPs is to provide us with clean water. There is a limited amount of fresh water available for human consumption. This supply is constantly declining due to our explosive population growth. We cannot afford to do anything that will further reduce our water source. Polluted water is very expensive to treat, causing our water bills to rise.

In Texas, we are operating under a non-regulatory BMP system. This means that there are no laws mandating that we follow the recommended guidelines. If we choose not to adhere to these principles, then we might enter into a regulatory system. This type of situation would further infringe upon private property rights, be more costly, and less efficient.

Erosion control is also another important function of BMPs. Erosion can be very damaging to the productivity of the site as well as the environment. This process removes valuable soil that is necessary to grow quality timber. At the same time site productivity is decreasing, there is also an increased risk of sedimentation into our streams.

Wildlife can also benefit from implementing BMPs. Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) can provide habitat for many species, including deer, birds, and squirrels. They also function as travel corridors. Water temperatures in streams are kept inside a constant range due to the shade provided by the SMZ, maintaining aquatic populations of fish, amphibians, and insects.

The Texas Reforestation and Conservation Act of 1999 (SB 977) allows for a financial incentive to using BMPs. This legislation gives forest landowners property tax relief in special qualified zones, such as SMZs and reforested acres. Under this bill, a landowner would receive a 50% reduction in their appraised value for these restricted use timberland zones.

The reasons listed above can be used to convey the importance and benefits of using BMPs to landowners. The Texas Forest Service (TFS) has several brochures on that are very educational and available for you to use. They can be found on the TFS website by going to <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/sustainable/article.aspx?id=74> or stop by your local TFS office and pick some up. Also we are available to visit with any landowner to help convey the importance of using BMPs on their property. If you need help talking to a landowner or have questions regarding BMPs give us a call at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

# BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** The Texas Forest Service over the last several years has released several reports documenting how well BMP's are being used on forestry operations here in East Texas. I would like to know if the Texas Forest Service will be conducting any more of these surveys in the future and are the past reports available anywhere.

**A:** Since 1991 the Texas Forest Service has conducted six rounds of BMP implementation monitoring. During each round a minimum of 150 randomly chosen tracts are inspected for the implementation of BMP's with the cooperation of the landowner. Once all the tracts have been inspected the data that was collected is used to produce a report which shows how well BMP's are being used.

In September 2005 the sixth report was released showing an all time high in the overall implementation of BMP's. The overall implementation rate for the sites selected in round six was 91.7%. Family forest owners saw their highest ever implementation rate at 88.9%, forest industry had an implementation rate of

95.7%, and public lands (national and state forestlands) had an implementation rate of 98.3%.

During round six improvements were seen in several areas such as a decrease in the number of significant risks to water quality, higher BMP implementation on permanent and temporary roads, and the increase in BMP implementation on family forest lands. Although improvements were seen there were also major deficiencies seen. These deficiencies were failure to restore and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads and the failure to remove logging debris from streams.

Starting in January 2007 the Texas Forest Service will begin its seventh round of BMP implementation monitoring. Over the next year and a half the Texas Forest Service will randomly select a minimum of 150 tracts and with the cooperation of the landowner evaluate them for the implementation of BMP's. In 2008 the seventh report will be released showing the overall findings of the inspections. Hopefully we will continue to see an increase in the implementation rates and see a decrease in the number of deficiencies.

All previous reports can be found on the Texas Forest Service website at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/sustainable/article.aspx?id=710&>. You can look at each report and see how far we have come over the years in the implementation of BMP's but also see the areas in which we still need to improve. If you have any questions about the BMP implementation reports or BMP's in general please feel free to call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).



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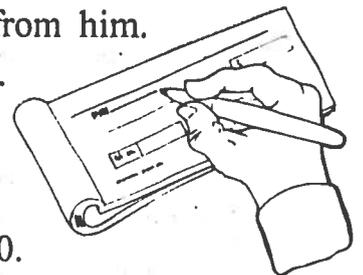
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# BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I have heard you mention various products such as logging mats, culverts, and geo-textile fabrics in past articles. I wanted to know where these types of products can be purchased and what do they typically cost.

**A:** A variety of products are used in the management of forestlands and some of these products can be difficult to find. The Texas Forest Service BMP Project Office maintains a product/vendor guide which lists a variety of products and the vendors who sell or manufacture them. Prices are also listed with these products but the vendor should be contacted to ensure prices have not changed.

Products such as logging mats or drag line mats can be found in the BMP Product/Vendor Guide. Logging mats are used when access across a stream or wet area is only needed for a short time during the harvest or planting of a tract. These temporary crossings are relatively inexpensive,



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can be used multiple times, and when installed correctly greatly minimize or prevent any negative impacts to water quality. Most logging mats when cared for properly can last anywhere from five to seven years and can be transported easily from operation to operation. Logging mats are typically made of several hardwood cants that are bolted together and provide a secure and stable crossing for equipment. Depending on the size logging mat purchased to price can range anywhere from \$300 to \$1200 each.

Another common product that can be found in the BMP Product/Vendor Guide is culverts. Culverts are used when permanent access is needed across a stream or the stream is too large for logging mats. When installing culverts care should be taken to ensure that the proper size culvert is used and that it is installed correctly. Soil type and topography greatly influence the size of culvert that is needed to adequately handle expected water flow through a stream. A topographic map and soil survey can be used to determine the amount of water being drained from a watershed and the soil type of the area drained. Culverts not properly installed can negatively impact water quality and can be very costly to repair. There are several types of culverts and they come in various sizes ranging from 18 inches in diameter and larger and range widely in price depending on the size

Geo-textile products such as Geoweb are listed as well. Geoweb is used for shallow stream crossings or low water crossings. These crossings are permanent crossings on streams that have relatively flat approaches and shallow stream channels. The purpose of using a product such as Geoweb is to provide a stable low water crossing and to prevent rutting up the stream channel for passing vehicles. The stream must have a stable bottom for this type of crossing to be effective. When purchasing Geoweb it is important to purchase enough material so that it stretches several feet out past the edge of the stream channel. This is to ensure that the approaches do not become washed out and rutted which can increase the amount of erosion and sediment entering the stream. Geoweb, when installed correctly, can provide a stable low water crossing that can last for many years. Several companies sell Geoweb or products that are similar and they come in various sizes and range in price from \$150 to \$500 per unit.

For more information concerning these products or other products please consult the BMP Product/Vendor Guide which can be viewed by visiting the Texas Forest Service website at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. If you have any questions concerning the BMP Product/Vendor Guide or BMPs in general please contact me by calling (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Are you going to continue the quizzes that were offered in 2006 so that we can get the 1 hour continuing education credit?

**A:** Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. **This is the first quiz for 2007 so you can earn your first credit hour of the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the next quiz arrives.** The quizzes will be offered in four issues of the *Texas Logger* in 2007: the quizzes will be offered in February, May, August, and November and will count as 2007 continuing education hours.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the first quiz for 2007. You can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quizzes. In other words, you can submit answers to all of the quizzes but you would still only earn one (1) hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in all the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed or faxed to the Texas Forestry Association:

Mail to: Texas Forestry Association  
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TFA's Fax: (936) 632-9461

Here is the first quiz for 2007:

## February-2007 Quiz

Match the following terms with the correct definition.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Forest Road _____                | A: Forested area immediately adjacent to stream channels       |
| Residual Tress _____             | B: A way or channel for water or the movement of water         |
| Streamside Management Zone _____ | C: An access route for vehicles into forest land               |
| Water Way _____                  | D: Live trees left standing after the completion of harvesting |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>.

If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at: [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

## BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Prior to all the rains, I was operating in what I call flatwoods. Now, that same area I was cutting in back in November is too wet and portions are flooded. This got me to wondering if there are any special BMPs that I needed to follow in the flatwoods once I am able to get back in there to finish the harvest.

**A:** Sorry the rain put a pinch on your harvest operation but I am glad you moved out of there when the rains came. The bluebook defines flatwoods as: forested areas with slopes of 1% or less that usually contain mixed pine and hardwoods. If this is the kind of area you were working in then the short answer to your question is; no, there are no special BMPs that need to be followed in a flatwoods.

Flatwoods are not necessarily jurisdictional wetlands and therefore the 15 mandatory road BMPs do not always apply. It is very difficult however, to determine when the criteria of jurisdictional wetlands has been met; if there are any questions about whether a tract contains a jurisdictional wetland, consult a hydrologist or qualified personnel from the local

Natural Resource Conservation Service office.

For this example we will assume that these flatwoods are not jurisdictional and are indeed just your average, everyday flatwoods. In this case, we could expect that during the wet season, the soil is often saturated and may even have water at or near the soil surface. There may be the presences of mounds and intermounded soils which would create for a rough ride in a skidder or shear. Common trees found in this type setting would be mixed pines, sweetgum, willow oak, water oak, cherrybark oak, and mixed white oaks. Despite the presence of water, these areas do not require a streamside management zone (SMZ). The primary concern for an area like this would be rutting which could cause damage and changes to the natural hydrology.

Also in your situation, you mentioned some areas that remain flooded on the tract. These areas could be backwater basins which are areas that hold water from backwater flooding when adjacent water bodies overflow. Backwater basins do not require the protection of a SMZ. Be aware though that these basins can be difficult to distinguish from intermittent streams (which do require and SMZ) and intermittent ponds. In cases where backwater basins have well-defined banks, trees should be left or selectively thinned on the bank and inside the basin. Trees should not be cut within the basin if there is a possibility of disturbing the backwater basin's natural flow by rutting or jeopardizing soil stability.

For more information regarding flatwoods, backwater basins, and BMPs consult the bluebook. If you prefer, you can contact me at (903) 297-3818 or email me a [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu).

## Unique Compromise Could End Tiny Fly's Grip On Southern California Town

COLTON, Calif. - This city lives in the shadow of a 1-inch fly that zooms around like a hummingbird.

For more than a decade, the Delhi Sands flower-loving fly has been the only fly on the federal endangered species list, its best hope of survival pinned on prime breeding habitat in this city east of Los Angeles. For just as long, city officials have fought to get it off the list, arguing that restrictions on building on its habitat have cost tens of millions of dollars in economic development.

Now, however, the working-class city is offering a new proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that could help relax the insect's economic clout: hassle-free development in one neighborhood in exchange for a pristine preserve nearby. The compromise could end a stalemate that has left the city with limited commercial development and the fly's best habitat marred by rusting refrigerators, off-road trails and homeless encampments.

"I'm thinking there's hope we'll finally find a good solution to a problem that has been intractable for many years," said Dan Silver, executive director of the

Endangered Habitats League, an environmental group that tracks Southern California's desert ecosystem. "We'll look back and say, 'Gee, there was a lot of foresight in protecting that.'"

The city's recent about-face is a promising story in the often bitter debate over the Endangered Species Act. Entire regions have battled with environmentalists and federal agencies over protections for species such as the spotted owl and tiger salamander.

"The joke ... has always been if you've got an endangered species on your land you shoot, shovel and shut up. Don't ever tell anybody about it," said Tom DeWeese, president of the American Policy Center, a conservative think

*(continued on next page)*

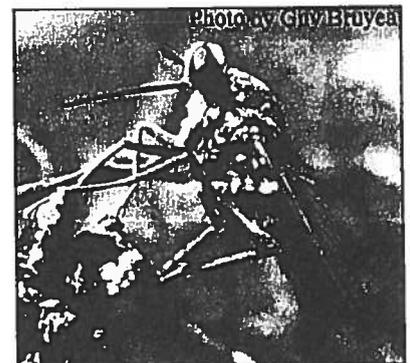


Photo by Gary Bruyca

## BMP Q&A

by Jacobi Donellan  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Back in September of 2006, the BMP Quiz question dealt with how far a landing should be constructed outside of a streamside management zone (SMZ). I answered that as long as the landing was 50 feet from the stream channel that it would be okay. Evidently that was the wrong answer, could you please tell me what the distance is and what reasons there are for having it further away?

**A:** This is an excellent question! The correct answer to the Quiz in the September issue of the *Texas Logger* should have been that landings be established at least 50 feet from the edge of the SMZ. This would thereby equate to a distance of 100 feet from the stream channel for a landing if you use the minimal 50 feet wide SMZ.

It is important to note that the "Recommended Specifications" in the bluebook call for the distance to be measured from the edge of the SMZ and not the stream channel. Rather than trying to figure out how wide your SMZ extends from the stream channel and then add the 50 feet, it is much easier to find the edge of the SMZ and establish the landing 50 feet from it.

There are a couple of reasons for this specification on landing design: The first reason is that landings almost always contain a large amount of woody debris and occasionally are the site of

hydraulic fluid leaks/spills from various sources like equipment repair or unexpected hose failures etc. It is important to keep this material from entering a water source since it is deemed nonpoint source pollution. By establishing the landing 50 feet from the edge of the SMZ you create less opportunity for that woody debris and perhaps even the oil spills to reach the stream. This additional 50 feet helps in most cases to ensure that most of the excess woody debris at a landing will remain at the landing site and not end up in the stream channel if the stream floods up to and out of the SMZ, except of course under extreme flooding conditions.

Secondly the SMZ has always been referred appropriately as the "final filter" because it is the final opportunity on the site to filter overland flow before it reaches the stream. If it were necessary to establish a wider than the minimal 50 feet SMZ, say for instance on a steep sandy site, it would be counter productive to establish a wider SMZ if you created a landing 50 feet from the stream channel. This would place a landing within your SMZ thus reducing its overall filtering capacity.

Landings are high traffic areas that have the potential to concentrate some of the nonpoint source pollution that forestry operations generate. This is why it is important to keep them at least 50 feet from the SMZ or "final filter." As always, though, each site is unique and some situations may not allow this 50 feet, when those occur it is important to use your professional judgment when placing the location of the landing in relation to the SMZ. That is the beauty of the voluntary, non-regulatory system we have in place; it allows us to set minimum guidelines but also apply common sense when the situation arises.

For more information regarding landings, streamside management zones, and BMPs consult the bluebook (Texas Forestry Best Management Practices). If you prefer, you can contact me at (903) 297-3818 or email me at [jdonellan@fs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@fs.tamu.edu).

## "The Importance of Good Labor"

In the soon to be 36 years that I have been in the logging industry one thing that has always been key to our business is quality employees. For whatever reason, I have never liked for an employee to say he or she works "for" Charles Johns or Johns & Conner. I prefer them to say they work "with" Johns & Conner. I try to encourage a team concept that means everyone on the job is important to the ultimate success of the operation.

In northeast Florida, logging contractors have always competed against pulp and paper mills, naval bases and construction companies for labor. Many of these jobs were not only higher-paying, but offered paid vacations, sick days, health insurance, as well as retirement plans, not to mention eye and dental coverage. I would say if there is one thing that saddens me, it is the fact that I have employees that have been with our company for 20+ years, and we're still unable to provide all of benefits that these men and women are deserving of.

As a business owner since 1971, I have seen logging in the South change from being a labor-intense occupation to a mechanized business that requires capable people to operate and maintain equipment that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Expectations for increased production have soared because of higher fuel and equipment cost, but, at the same time, we have not let our employee safety be compromised and have maintained good silvicultural practices to insure the environment is protect-

ed. We have come to expect much from our employees, while only being allowed to share with them the satisfaction of a job well done.

I like many of you would say without hesitation our greatest assets are ultimately our employees. The equipment operators, the truck drivers, the secretaries, and the mechanics. John Deere produced a series of articles entitled "Unsung Heroes" in the summer of 2006. It was a reminder to many of us that these people, our employees, are the "backbone" of our businesses. While current margins may not allow us to provide them with all of the benefits we would like for them to have, we should always remain appreciative of their performance and production. Want to keep them up-to-date with the industry? Sign them up for a subscription to one of the trade publications for the industry, or for those that may have internet access, be certain and register for the free logger-online newsletter at [www.americanlogger.org](http://www.americanlogger.org) so that they can better understand how the industry is changing around them and around the country. Keep them engaged! *By Charles Johns*

*Charles Johns is the President of the American Loggers Council, which represents over 50,000 logging professionals in 29 states. Charles' operations are headquartered in Hilliard, Florida. For more information please contact the American Loggers Council office at 409-625-0206 or e-mail at [americanlogger@aol.com](mailto:americanlogger@aol.com)*

# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** When will the next quiz be available to earn Pro Logger continuing education credits?

**A:** You're in luck, this month marks the second time this year we are offering the quiz to maintain your Pro Logger continuing education credits. These quizzes are offered once a quarter throughout the year.

Loggers and other forestry professionals are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to

maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the second of four times during the year the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A. Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

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Mail To: Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488  
TFA Fax: (936) 632-9461

Here is the second quiz for 2007:

**Question:** List four (4) classification criteria used to determine if a stream is intermittent. This information can be found in the most recent publishing of the Texas BMP "Bluebook."

**Answer:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at <http://texasforests.tamu.edu>. If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or e-mail me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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## Chevron, Weyerhaeuser Ink Biofuels Alliance

Chevron Corp. and Weyerhaeuser Co. have announced a letter of intent to jointly examine the feasibility of creating biofuels made from wood fiber and other sources of cellulose. San Ramon-based Chevron and Federal Way, Wash.-based timber giant Weyerhaeuser said they will "focus on researching and developing technology that can transform wood fiber and other non-food sources of cellulose into economical clean-burning biofuels for cars and trucks." "Chevron is investing in cellulosic biofuels because we believe they will play a role in meeting future energy growth." Dave O'Reilly, chairman and CEO of Chevron, said in the announcement. In September, Chevron said it would fund up to \$25 million in research at UC-Davis over the next five years, to research and develop transportation fuels made from crops grown specifically for energy. (From *East Bay Business Times & Yahoo News*; April 16, 2007)

# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Do you expect any changes in the overall BMP implementation score given all the changes in forestland ownership that have occurred lately; specifically industry lands being sold to TIMOs (timberland investment management organizations) and REITs (real estate investment trusts)?

**A:** Thank you for the very interesting question. A recent study of long term trends of BMP implementation in Texas by Hughes Simpson, BMP Coordinator, Texas Forest Service, may be able to shed a little light on the subject. Historically, BMP implementation rates have generally trended higher. From a low of 76% in 1996 overall implementation rates have steadily increased to a high of 91.7% in 2005. Something that is not as clear is whether changes in forest ownership will result in a positive or negative change to the current average.

In order to answer your question we need to look at specific ownership categories that make up the overall rate: public ownership, Industry ownership, TIMO/REIT ownership, and Family Forest landowners. Public ownership, primarily the National Forests, has always had the highest implementation rates of all the categories with a six round average of 95.4% with little variability. Similarly, Industry has also implemented BMPs at a high rate with a six round average of 92.1%, again with little variability. Based on the three rounds of monitoring and a limited number of sites,

TIMO/REIT owned lands have initially demonstrated similar implementation rates as industry (93.0%). Finally, Family Forest ownership has the lowest overall average of 77.6% but demonstrates a generally increasing trend from a low of 68.5% in 1996 to 88.6% in 2005.

So what effect do we think TIMO/REIT ownership will have on overall BMP implementation rates? Because TIMO/REIT owned lands have long-term fiber agreements with industry-owned mills, one can theorize that TIMO/REITs will continue to implement BMPs in a manner similar to the previous landowners (Industry). Therefore the net effect on BMP implementation rates should be negligible. Historically, increases in Family Forest ownership BMP implementation rates have resulted in an increase in the overall BMP implementation rate. This is due to the high scores and low variability of the other ownership categories. Therefore changes to the overall BMP implementation rate should continue to be driven by the BMP implementation rates achieved by the Family Forest ownership group.

For more information regarding BMPs and BMP implementation you can visit the new and improved BMP page on the Texas Forest website located at the following URL:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=71>.

Also, if you would like to view the BMP 15 year trend study, you can see it and previous BMP monitoring results at the following URL:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=710>.

Finally, if you prefer, you can contact me directly at (903) 297-3818 or email me at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu).

## 50 DOLLARS

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year, and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter."

Esther always replied, "I know Morris, but that helicopter ride is 50 dol-

lars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair, and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance."

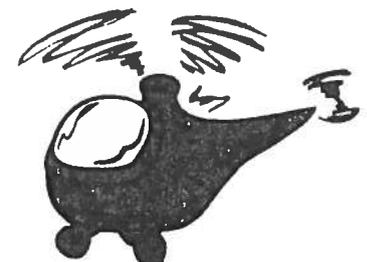
Esther replied, "Morris that helicopter is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word I won't charge you! But if you say one word, it's 50 dollars."

Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers, but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over

and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know - 50 dollars is 50 dollars."



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## BMP Q&A

by Jacob Donellan

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** It is starting to warm up now and it has become harder to tell whether or not streams need a SMZ (streamside management zone) or not. Is there any "rules of thumb" for knowing which streams ought to have a SMZ?

It is important to remember that there are three general classifications of streams that are used in Texas: Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral. Both perennial and intermittent streams should have a SMZ according to the Texas forestry BMP guidelines. Ephemeral streams do not necessarily need a SMZ but in some cases it is wise to leave some trees to buffer the stream especially if it is clear that the stream may erode or "wash" if nothing is left. This article will look specifically at ephemeral streams while the next couple of BMP Q&A articles will address perennial and intermittent stream classification in greater detail.

According to The American Heritage<sup>®</sup> Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, the term ephemeral is defined as, "adjective – lasting a very short time; short-lived; transitory." By definition, ephemeral streams are streams that only last for a very short time. Ephemeral streams usually have a cumulative flow that is less than 30% of the year (about 3 ? months). This normally equates to flow after rain events with the flow usually ending anywhere from immediately following the rain event to

flow ending several days later.

During the dry summer months, identifying flow characteristics can often be difficult. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of three or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing an ephemeral stream:

1. May have no well-defined channel
2. The absence of water pools
3. A flow area (channel) that is almost always straight and either "flattens" out at the bottom of the slope or grades into intermittent or perennial streams
4. No or very little evidence of fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or sediment transport
5. The presence of leaf litter and/or small debris jams in the flow area
6. Usually sparse or no wetland (hydrophytic) vegetation present
7. Side slope soils with characteristics typical of the surrounding landscape
8. Usually not identified on USGS topographic maps or NRCS soil maps

These characteristics are found on page 62 of the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book or "bluebook."

You should rely on your professional judgment to determine when an ephemeral drain needs some type of protection in the form of a small SMZ or more simply a few buffer trees. These small streams are almost always connected to larger intermittent and perennial streams and severe erosion could enter the larger stream network if the ephemeral streams are not protected when necessary. For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book, contact your local Texas Forest office, or you can contact me directly by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

## Cornyn: Senate Missed Opportunity to Bar Felons from Immigration Benefits

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship subcommittee, made the following statement Wednesday regarding the Senate's vote to keep in place loopholes in the proposed immigration bill which would allow a range of felons to pursue a path to legal-

ization, and ultimately, U.S. Citizenship.

The Senate today narrowly defeated, by a vote of 51 to 46, an amendment offered by Senator Cornyn which would have permanently barred all convicted felons – including terrorist associates, gang members, sex offenders, violent criminals and identity thieves – from receiving any immigration benefits.

"Today's vote was a missed opportunity to close serious loopholes in this legislation. Senators could have demonstrated they want to restore respect for our laws. They failed to do so.

"If we are serious about restoring the rule of law, then how in good conscience can we reward those who have repeatedly committed felonies, such as identity theft, with a path to American citizenship? In our post 9/11 world, how can we in good

conscience retain a loophole that would allow members of terrorist organizations and gang members to stay here legally and possibly become U.S. citizens?"

My amendment made clear that those loopholes would be closed and that would be impossible. I can't imagine the American people support providing these benefits to people who so clearly have shown themselves unworthy of receiving them.

"This vote was disappointing but it does not weaken my resolve to continue working to improve this bill in the days ahead. There are still a range of areas that need to be reformed and strengthened in this legislation. I hope my Democrat colleagues will allow the Senate to have a full and fair debate." (*From Texas Insider – June 7, 2007*)

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# BMP Q&A

by Jacob Donellan  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** When will the next quiz be available to earn Pro Logger continuing education credits?

**A:** You're in luck, this month marks the third time this year we are offering the quiz to maintain your Pro Logger continuing education credits. These quizzes are offered once a quarter throughout the year and the next quiz will be in October.

Loggers and other forestry professionals are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order

to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the third of four times during the year the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A. Even though the quiz will be offered four times during the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

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Lufkin, TX 75902-1488  
Fax: (936) 632-9461

Here is the second quiz for 2007:

## July-2007 Quiz

**Question:** List four (4) classification criteria used to determine if a stream is ephemeral. This information can be found in last month's BMP Q&A article or the most recent publishing of the Texas BMP "Bluebook."

**Answer:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone: (     )** \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at [txforest-service.tamu.edu](http://txforest-service.tamu.edu).

If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or e-mail me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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## USED DOG

A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog.

The children started discussing the dog's duties. They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster. "No, said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs", she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."

# BMP Q&A

by *Jacobi Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In June you described several key attributes or criteria to help to identify ephemeral streams. Can you provide similar identifiable attributes or criteria for intermittent streams?

**A:** Certainly, it is important to remember that there are three general classifications of streams that are used to describe streams: perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral. Both perennial and intermittent streams should have a SMZ according to the Texas forestry BMP guidelines. Ephemeral streams do not necessarily need a SMZ but in some cases it is wise to leave some trees to buffer the stream especially if it is clear that the stream may erode or "wash" if nothing is left. This article will look specifically at intermittent streams while the next BMP Q&A article will address perennial stream classification in greater detail.

Dictionary.com defines, the term "intermittent" as an adjective: "stopping or ceasing for a time; alternately ceasing and beginning again" Because water flow in intermittent streams can start and stop several times during a year, this is a great definition to describe the characteristics of intermittent streams. Intermittent streams have seasonal flow usually 30% to 90% of the year (3 1/2 months to 10 1/2 months) under normal climatic conditions.

This interpretation of intermittent streams means that a large majority of streams fall into this category. All that is required for a stream to be considered intermittent is for it to have some flow for 3 1/2 months cumulatively during a year. So if a stream only flows during the wet winter months from November to February is it an intermittent? The answer in this case would be YES, since that equates to 4 months and all that is required is 3 1/2 months. The same result would occur if this stream were to flow for two

months in the spring and then again for two months in the winter.

During the dry summer months, however, identifying flow characteristics can often be difficult. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of five or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing an intermittent stream:

1. Well-defined channel.
2. Water pools absent during dry conditions but present during wet conditions.
3. A channel that is mostly sinuous (winding or curvy).
4. Some evidence of fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or sediment transport, also the indication of a flood zone parallel to the stream by sediment deposits, sediment stained leaves, bare ground and/or drift lines.
5. Evidence of soil and debris movement (scouring) in the stream channel. Leaf litter is usually transient or temporary in the flow channel.
6. Wetland or hydrophytic vegetation is usually associated with the stream channel or flow area
7. Predominately brown soils with inclusions of gray soils (except soils of deep sands with extreme red soil color). Usually alluvial type soils with loamy to sandy texture.
8. Usually identified on USGS topographic maps as a thin blue line or a blue line separated by three dots or identified on a NRCS soil maps as a black line separated by two or more dots.
9. Intermittent streams are considered "Waters of the United States" and therefore fall under the jurisdictional limits of the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act.

These characteristics are found on page 61 of the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book or "bluebook" and are designed to be a guide to help determine stream classification.

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book, contact your local Texas Forest office, or you can contact me directly by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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## WHEN UNCLE BUBBA WAS IN CHARGE

Bubba's sister is pregnant and is in a bad car accident, which caused her to fall into a deep coma. After nearly six months, she awakens and sees that she is no longer pregnant. Frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins - a boy and a girl. The babies are fine. Your brother came in and named them." The woman thinks to herself, "Oh, no! Not Bubba; he's an idiot!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name "Denise," the doctor answers. The new mother thinks, "Wow! That's a beautiful name, maybe I was wrong about my brother. I really like the name Denise." "What's the boy's name?" The doctor replies, "Denephew."

# BMP Q&A

by Jacobi Donellan  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In June and July you described several key attributes or criteria to help to identify ephemeral and intermittent streams. Can you provide similar identifiable attributes or criteria for perennial streams?

**A:** Certainly, it is important to remember that there are three general classifications of streams that are used to describe streams: perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral. Both perennial and intermittent streams should have a SMZ according to the Texas forestry BMP guidelines. Ephemeral streams do not necessarily need a SMZ but in some cases it is wise to leave some trees to buffer the stream especially if it is clear that the stream may erode or "wash" if nothing is left. This article will look specifically at perennial streams. If you need more information about classifying intermittent or ephemeral streams you can look back at the June and July editions of the Texas Logger or you can find the information in the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices manual or "the bluebook."

Dictionary.com defines, the term "perennial" as an adjective: "lasting for an indefinitely long time; enduring" and also, "lasting or continuing throughout the entire year, as a stream." Perennial streams have regular flow usually 90% to 100% of the year (10 1/2 months to 12 months) under normal climatic conditions. During times of drought, some perennial streams may cease flow but this is not the "normal" condition of these streams.

While this definition seems at first glance to limit

the number of streams that fall into this category, there are still a lot of streams in Texas that fit this definition. There are a lot of spring fed streams that a person could easily step across

that fit this description. A spring that flows 10 1/2 months or more is a perennial stream. During the drought conditions and summer months, identifying flow characteristics can often be difficult. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of five or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing a perennial stream:

1. Well-defined channel.
2. Water pools present, even during dry conditions.
3. A channel that is almost always sinuous (winding or curvy).
4. Evidence of fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or sediment transport, also the indication of a flood zone parallel to the stream by sediment deposits, sediment stained leaves, bare ground and/or drift lines.
5. Evidence of soil and debris movement (scouring) in the stream channel. Leaf litter is usually transient or temporary in the flow channel.
6. Wetland or hydrophytic vegetation is usually associated with the stream channel or flow area. Also, even along deeply incised or "down cut" channels there is usually wetland-like vegetation present along the banks.
7. Predominately gray soils (except soils of deep sands) with a loamy to clay texture. Red mottles or "specks" are usually present in gray soil matrix.
8. Usually identified on USGS topographic maps as a thin blue line or identified on a NRCS soil maps as a black line separated by one dot.
9. Perennial streams are considered "Waters of the United States" and therefore fall under the jurisdictional limits of the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act.

These characteristics are found on page 60 of the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book or "bluebook" and are designed to be a guide to help determine stream classification.

While it is important to know the differences in the streams and how to identify them, it is equally important to know that intermittent and perennial streams are treated in the same manner in the "bluebook." The guidelines and recommendations should be applied the same once a stream is determined to be at least an intermittent. As you conduct your operations, always remember that your actions in the woods have the potential to affect water quality either positively or negatively.

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book, contact your local Texas Forest office, or you can contact me directly by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

by Jacob Donellan

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** When will the next quiz be available to earn Pro Logger continuing education credits?

**A:** Your in luck, this month marks the fourth time this year we are offering the quiz to maintain your Pro Logger continuing education credits. These quizzes are offered once a quarter throughout the year. The correctly answered quiz will count as one (1) hour of continuing education credit.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you will need to copy or cut out the quiz from this article, fill in the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed or faxed to the Texas Forestry Association:

Mail To: Texas Forestry Association  
PO Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488

or

TFA Fax: (936) 632-9461

Loggers and other forestry professionals are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the fourth and last time during this year (2007) the quiz will be offered in the BMP Q&A. Even though these quizzes are offered four times during

the year, you can only earn one hour of continuing education credit per year from the quiz. In other words, you can answer all four quizzes but you would still

only earn one hour of continuing education training for the year.

Here is the fourth quiz for 2007:

## October 2007 Quiz

### Question:

What is the section number and the name of the Federal law that "normal silviculture" operations are exempt from being required to obtain a permit when operating in wetlands?

### Answer:

---

---

### What is the name of the Federal Law?

---

---

### Which Section of that law covers the exemption for "normal silviculture" activities?

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at [www.texasforests.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforests.tamu.edu). If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (903) 297-3910 or e-mail me at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu).

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# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I am about to begin harvesting on a tract which shares a border with one of our National Forests and is also bordered by a major river; Are there any special BMPs that I should be aware of before I begin cutting? Specifically do I need to leave a buffer strip on the border with the National Forest or a wider SMZ on the major river?

**A:** I recently received a phone call asking this very question from an interested individual. It is important to remember that the primary function of any BMP is to protect and minimize impacts to water quality from forestry operations. This question reveals that often times there can be confusion between what exactly are BMPs and what are policies/requirements that some companies, consulting foresters, and even landowners want met during operations.

For example, a timber company may require that an aesthetic buffer strip be left on any adjacent boundaries to the National Forestland. While this may be a requirement by the timber company, it is not related to the protection of water quality and thus it is not a BMP guideline or recommendation. It would certainly be prudent (especially if you wanted to continue your employment with this company) to leave the buffer strip, but during a BMP implementation evaluation, there would be no consideration given as to

whether or not you followed company guidelines. The only consideration would be did the operators follow the guidelines set forth in the "Bluebook" and did the BMPs

that were implemented effectively minimize and protect water quality on the site.

The second part of the question deals with the width of the SMZ on a major river. There is no special classification for rivers whether they be considered major or minor, they are all classified as perennial streams. There are however, several factors that need to be addressed before an answer about SMZ width can be determined. It is a known that the SMZ should meet the minimum width of 50 feet on each side of the river. There are two separate directives in the "Bluebook" that address the need to determine if the SMZ should be wider:

## **BMP Guidelines, Section 9.23, Pg. 28**

The width of an SMZ should be a site-specific determination made by foresters or other qualified professionals. Soil types, slope gradient, vegetative cover, volume of flow, and stream classification should be taken into consideration when designing each SMZ.

## **Recommended Specifications, Section 9.11, Pp. 58-59**

The width of the SMZ should be adjusted for slope, soils, and cover type and especially when protecting municipal water supplies

Both of these directives indicate that a wider SMZ is certainly a possibility. Both of the directives also point to site conditions that should help you to determine if a wider SMZ is needed. According to the SMZ width chart on page 59 of the "Bluebook," a 100 feet wide buffer is necessary if the river is a municipal water supply, i.e. water is being treated and used as the water supply for a community. I would suggest that some evaluation is needed of the soils and slope to fully answer this question. However based on the information that this is a "major river," it probably has a large volume of flow. I would make a recommendation that the SMZ width be increased past the minimum width of 50 feet and I would further use the site's soil and slope conditions to determine how much wider.

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book (a.k.a. the "Bluebook"), contact your local Texas Forest office, or you can contact me, Jacob Donellan, directly by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I was logging a tract the other day and a guy in a pick-up stopped by and said he was going to call Texas Forest Service (TFS) and file a complaint on us because he thought we were tearing up the place. I told him to go right ahead and he left looking mad. He had to be a neighbor or something because I know he wasn't the landowner. My question is what if anything does TFS do when it gets complaints from people?

**A:** This question is not necessarily directly related to BMPs but it is a question that is asked from time-to-time. There seems to have been a few more complaints received this year than in previous years. While this certainly could be an aberration, I think that this increase may likely be due to the fact that there are more people in the Urban/Wildland Interface (UWI - areas where urban developments and people come into contact with the forests and other wildlands) than ever before and also their general overall lack of exposure to forestry (an issue we can address next month).

Complaints can come from a variety of sources; landowners, neighbors, loggers, foresters, State agencies, Federal agencies, and often times random passer-bys. Regardless of who complains, TFS takes all complaints seriously and that sets in motion a complaint resolution process. Most logging complaints that are not of the timber theft or timber arson variety are forwarded to the BMP Program of TFS since this program deals directly with and is well versed in the best management practices for forestry. I am sure most of you are familiar with the BMP Program which is the program within TFS that is trained to determine if BMPs were implemented properly during forestry operations.

It is important to note before describing this process that TFS BMP Program usually receives on average only 3-5 complaints per year. Usually of those 3-5 complaints, only 1-2 of them turn out to be complaints that have reasonable environmental concerns.

When we receive a complaint we always state up front that TFS is not a regulatory agency and that forestry BMPs are voluntary practices

implemented cooperatively by landowners, foresters, and loggers to protect water quality. If that is unsatisfactory to the complainant we may disclose other available options for addressing logging

complaints which include calling the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's (SFI) Inconsistent Practices Board at the Texas Forestry Association, contacting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if the complainant believes a violation occurred in a wetland, or contacting Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) which is the State's regulatory agency. After describing all the options available, the BMP forester will make every effort to resolve the complaint before the complainant chooses to escalate it to any of the other options. In nearly all cases, the complainants are content to allow the TFS to address the merits of their complaint.

The first step in the process is to determine the exact nature of the complaint. We attempt to determine the location of the complaint and also the true severity of the complaint. This determination of severity may include a conversation about the specifics of the complaint and it may even require an informal site visit by a BMP forester to the tract in question. In many cases, after assessing the complaint, it is determined that the best course of action is to address the complainant's understanding of forestry and forestry operations. Sometimes a discussion with the complainant about normal forestry practices helps to resolve unwarranted complaints.

If a complaint is assessed and then determined to be warranted, the BMP forester will then attempt to contact the landowner to find out more information about the tract. All information gathered about the tract including the landowner's objectives, the landowner's understanding of BMPs, and the agreement the landowner had with the forester or logger, etc., is used to determine what caused the issue related to the complaint. TFS BMP foresters then attempt to develop a cooperative and completely voluntary plan with the landowner to address the issues related to the complaint. This resolution process may sometimes include working with the forester who handled the sale and also the logger who conducted the operation to help remediate any problem areas.

If efforts to contact the landowner are unsuccessful or the landowner is unwilling to participate in the remediation process, then the complaint is typically left unresolved. However, because TFS generally has a great relationship with forest landowners usually some type of resolution is realized.

TFS does not share any specific information about the complaint to either of the parties involved in the process. The landowner is not told who lodged the complaint and the complainant is also not given any information about the landowner, foresters or the loggers involved. The only information shared with the complainant is that they may be kept informed about the status of a resolution process; for example we may share if the process is on-going, stalled or if there is no participation. In the end, complaint resolution all relies on cooperation just like the voluntary implementation of BMPs relies on cooperation from landowners, foresters, and loggers. This formula of voluntary cooperation has definitely been proven successful in Texas which I believe is why we have so few complaints to deal with annually. Keep up the good work!

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book (a.k.a. the "Bluebook"). contact your local Texas Forest Service office, or you can contact me directly, Jacob Donellan, by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

*Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



## Here is the first quiz for 2008:

*Question:* According to the Bluebook what are the three types of wing ditch outlets that can be used?

Answer:

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City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

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Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office, the Texas Forestry Association office, or you can view it online at [www.texasforests.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforests.tamu.edu). If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

**Q:** Are you going to continue the quizzes that were offered in 2007 so that we can get the 1 hour continuing education credit?

**A:** Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. This is the first quiz for 2008 so you can earn your first credit hour of the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the next quiz arrives. The quizzes will be offered in four issues of the Texas Logger in 2008: the quizzes will be offered in February, May, August, and November and will count as 2008 continuing education hours.

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In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in all the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed or faxed to the Texas Forestry Association:

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# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In one of your most recent BMP Q&A articles, you mentioned that you thought that there may be an increase in the number of complaints about logging. What evidence do you have that would make you believe that, and if it turns out to be true, what can we do to avoid having a complaint against our operation?

**A:** Forestry as we know it is currently undergoing a change. In fact, Texas Forest Service (TFS) has recently offered several workshops called "Changing Roles in Forestry" and "Texas Forest Expo" to landowners, loggers, and foresters highlighting some of the issues related to this change. These workshops identify some trends that are beginning to emerge across the forestry landscape affecting its participants. A couple of the trends identified in these workshops are the basis for my claim regarding a possible increase in logging complaints but I would like to focus on what I consider to be the primary reason.

The most important trend in my opinion is that the urban wildland interface (UWI) is expanding rapidly, bringing with it more people with limited experiences concerning forestry operations. With this increase in population, comes an increase in the chance some of these people may pass by a timber harvest operation. The limited experience and potentially unfavorable view of timber harvesting of some of these individuals may cause them to complain about the harvest. In other words, the visibility of timber harvests increases as more and more people move into the areas where the majority of harvests occur. The increase in visibility combined with the number of people, all with varied ideologies regarding timber harvesting, could lead to more complaints.

An increase in complaints is not a certainty by any means, but it is a possibility. Furthermore, it is important to note as mentioned in the previous article, TFS Best Management Practices program usually receives on average only 3-5 complaints per year. Usually of those 3-5 complaints, only 1-2 of them turn out to be complaints that have reasonable environmental concerns. Despite my speculation that the number of complaints may increase, I don't expect the number with reasonable environmental concerns to increase because of the high BMP implementation rate (91.7%) throughout the state.

In regard to the second portion of the question, I don't

know if it is possible to avoid a complaint in all cases. The most important thing is to make sure you follow the BMP guidelines and implement BMPs properly on each job. BMPs have been proven to be effective and help to ensure that the timber being harvested is having a minimal effect on water quality and thus a minimal environmental effect.

If BMPs are implemented properly on a tract that received a complaint, then that creates an opportunity. The opportunity that is created is one of education for the person who lodged the complaint. A return call by a TFS BMP forester would include an explanation to the complainant as to why no further action was taken. This explanation would most likely include a description of the voluntary BMP system adopted in Texas, the high implementation rate that exists statewide, and possibly a very general overview of what was viewed i.e. if BMPs were implemented at the site in question. In some circumstances this explanation/educational opportunity could spill over into other aspects of forestry such as reforestation, harvest/reforestation rates, ecology, wildlife, or any other numerous avenues related to forestry.

The alternative is that if a complaint is legitimate, then it creates another opportunity for education. This opportunity relates to the landowner, forester, and logger of the operation in question as well as the BMP forester that addresses the complaint. It is important to understand why BMPs weren't implemented properly: was it simply poor implementation of BMPs; could it be a poor understanding of how to implement the proper BMPs; did the landowner request that BMPs not be implemented; or was there some other reason? In all of these cases, some education needs to occur so that all the parties involved are aware of the implications of their actions.

Education always seems to be the key to solving most of our issues. Loggers should be well aware of how much education exists to help with Pro-Logger certification. It is important to know that the loggers aren't the only ones who are the target of all the educational efforts. TFS, the Texas Forestry Association and other agencies and groups continue their efforts to educate these new landowners and UWI residents about forestry and forestry related issues. While we are educating these relative new comers about forestry, we are also educating ourselves about the different values and objectives they have for the land. This dialogue presents both sides with opportunities to build trust and with that the potential to see things from a different point of view.

The bottom line is while forestry may be changing, one thing that is not changing is people's attitudes about timber being harvested in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner. Whether complaints increase or stay the same, as long as BMPs are being implemented at a high rate like they are today, loggers can take pride in the fact that they are doing their part. In fact, all you loggers should be proud to be such an outstanding group of environmentally sensitive lumberjacks and lumberjills, you've got the numbers to back it up (91.7% BMP implementation rate). Now, I have a question for you loggers, how many of you have been called environmentally sensitive before today?

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book (a.k.a. the "Bluebook"), contact your local Texas Forest Service office, or you can contact me directly, Jacob Donellan, by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

by Jacob Donellan

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In the past couple of articles you have mentioned that the forestry community has achieved a BMP implementation rate of 91.7% in the "last round." When was the last round completed and when will we know the results of the next round?

**A:** The Texas Forest Service BMP Program currently conducts its implementation monitoring study on a three year cycle. The study has been conducted in various intervals since the TFS BMP Program began in 1989, with the most common interval being two years between studies and the longest interval between studies being four years. It is important to know that there have been some modifications to the forms used to evaluate BMP implementation over the years. The method of evaluation remained the same in the first two rounds of monitoring but by the third round, an improved, less subjective form was adopted and put into use. The sites that were evaluated in the third round were actually evaluated using both forms so a basis of comparison could be made to the earlier rounds.

The first report, Round I, was published in October 1992 and included sites evaluated from

*In 2005, BMP implementation rates reached 91.7% a record high. The next report will be available after September.*

mid-1990 to mid-1992. The Round I study found that overall BMP implementation rates were about 88% (79% based on the current BMP implementation evaluation form)

and it noted major deficiencies in several major categories of evaluation: permanent roads, temporary roads, streamside management zones, site preparation.

The second report was published four years later in March 1996 with this being the longest interval between monitoring cycles. The Round II study found that overall BMP implementation rates actually dropped to 87.4% (76% based on the current form). Since this study concluded in 1996, there has yet to be another drop in implementation rates.

After 1996, a two year monitoring cycle was adopted so that in 1998, 2000, and 2002, three more rounds of monitoring took place and subsequently three additional reports were published: Round III, Round IV, and Round V. During this six year span, the BMP implementation rate increased from 83.7% in 1998 to a 90.8% in 2002. Progress was definitely made during this period of monitoring to increase implementation rates, minimize non-point source pollution, and improve on the major deficiencies noted in Round I of monitoring.

After 2002, a three year monitoring cycle was adopted, primarily for managerial reasons related to the Federal grant that helps fund the BMP program, so that the next report was published in 2005. In this round, Round VI, BMP implementation rates reached 91.7% which is the implementation number that has been referred to most recently in my articles and also in

other publications and at presentations. Simple math indicated that the next report is due out some time this year. In fact, the report will be completed by August 31st and a publication of the results will most likely be available in September or soon thereafter. It is still too early to say if the implementation rate will continue its increase or not but whatever the case, we will have a new number for you soon.

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book (a.k.a. the "Bluebook"), contact your local Texas Forest Service office, or you can contact me directly, Jacob Donellan, by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Is it time for another quiz?

**A:** Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. This is the second quiz for 2008, you can earn 1 credit hour of the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the next quiz arrives. The quizzes will be offered in four issues of the Texas Logger in 2008: the quizzes will be offered in February, May, August, and November and will count as 2008 continuing education hours.

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Lufkin, TX 75902-1488

Here is the first quiz for 2008:

May-2008 Quiz

**Question:** In a recent BMP Q&A that addressed logging complaint, I defined the Urban Wildland Interface or UWI. Please define what the UWI is (you can copy the definition directly from the article):

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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# BMP Q&A

by *Jacob Donellan*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** In your opinion, if loggers had to focus on one specific BMP or area of BMPs what would it be and why?

**A:** In evaluating BMP implementation all over east Texas, I see a lot of logging operations. Each logging operation is very different and yet the same elements are present on the majority of the sites I see. If I could get loggers to focus on one thing specifically it would be stream crossings.

I know we have beat this drum for a long time now but it really is a critical area of any harvest operation. Stream crossings are critical areas because this is where loggers can potentially have the greatest impact to water quality if precautions are not taken. As most of you have learned, sedimentation is the biggest concern with forestry operations and 90% of the sediment load comes from our forest roads. It is fairly clear to see that where our roads actually come into contact and cross streams, we have a recipe for problems if attention is not paid to protecting water quality by using proper BMPs.

Removing temporary crossings seems like a very simple task to undertake, it always amazes me when I run into temporary crossings that are left in streams. Most "temporary" crossings that are left behind are typically brush type crossings. These types of crossings do allow some water to pass through which makes them extremely useful to use during the operation. The reason they need to be removed is because they still impede water to a degree and also they trap debris on the upstream side of the crossing. Eventually they become blocked with leaf litter and become in effect a dam. Once this happens, it is only a matter of time before a blow out occurs and an extremely large sediment load around the crossing is eroded away and into the stream channel.

This process is sped up during periods of high flow for the stream like during a major rain event. For this reason, most of these types of problem areas are considered significant risks to water quality both in real terms and also on the BMP Implementation Evaluation form. This process holds true for other types of temporary crossings left behind such as pole crossings or log crossings. According to at least one logger I spoke to, it takes less time to remove a brush crossing than it does to install it, and for that reason alone, there should be no reason a temporary brush crossing should ever be left behind.

Another BMP as equally important as removing a stream crossing is stabilizing stream crossings and approaches. A lot of good work can be undone by simply not stabilizing the approaches. Approaches have to be stabilized because of their proximity to the stream channel itself. This limited amount of area provides little room for error when it comes to implementing BMPs properly. You can stabilize the approaches by laying down slash, laying down hay, seeding grass, and when necessary installing water bars. Water bars should only be installed on approaches if it is absolutely necessary to prevent a washout occurring on the approach due to steep slopes or moderate slopes on sandy sites. Again, because of the nearness to the stream if water bars are used, they must be installed properly at a 30 to 45 degree angle, 1 to 2 feet in height, tied in properly on the uphill side and venting water off the approach but not directly into the stream itself. When approaches are not stabilized, what typically happens is water begins finding its way down the approach and into the stream and before long a head cut starts right at the stream bank eroding sediment directly into the stream. Rain intensity, slope, and soil type all play a roll into how rapidly the head cut advances back up the slope and ultimately how much sediment is eroded into the stream. Stabilizing with rock or geo-textiles may be considered or necessary on approaches to permanent crossings.

These two areas, removing temporary crossings and stabilizing crossings and approaches, have consistently been problem areas for loggers throughout the history of BMP implementation monitoring. As I have pointed out numerous times, we already have been successful in implementing BMPs but that is no reason to sit on our laurels. If we, the forestry community, focus on addressing these two issues, I think we will have succeeded beyond anyone's wildest expectations.

For more information regarding BMPs consult the Texas Forestry Best Management Practices book (a.k.a. the "Bluebook"), contact your local Texas Forest Service office, or you can contact me directly, Jacob Donellan, by email at [jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:jdonellan@tfs.tamu.edu) or by phone at 903-297-3818 ext. 11.

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Is it time for another quiz?

**A:** Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. This is the third quiz for 2008 so you can earn your first credit hour of the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the next quiz arrives. The quizzes will be offered in four issues of the Texas Logger in 2007: the quizzes will be offered in February, May, August, and November and will count as 2007 continuing education hours.

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Lufkin, TX 75902-1488

Here is the third quiz for 2008:

July-2008 Quiz

Question: What Federal Agency regulates operations that are conducted within jurisdictional wetlands?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Last year I heard that the Texas Forest Service was conducting a new workshop for loggers through the Texas Pro-Logger Program. Several years ago I attended the BMP Logger Training Workshop in order to obtain my Pro-Logger certification. Is the workshop I'm hearing about the same as the one that has been offered in years past or is it something new?

**A:** Texas Forest Service in 2007 began offering a new BMP workshop focusing on stream crossings to logging professionals as part of the Pro-Logger program. This course is approved for 6.0 hours of continuing education, meeting the annual requirements for logging contractors to maintain their certification.

To date Texas Forest Service has conducted six workshops in Lufkin, Jefferson, Silsbee, and Woodville. "The response we have seen from logging professionals in East Texas has been tremendous and the attendance at each workshop proves that with each being full thus far" said Shane Harrington, BMP Forester, Texas Forest Service. "We've even had other states contact us about using our workshop as a model for their own states" said Harrington. Future dates for additional stream crossing workshops are being planned now for 2008.

This new workshop is designed like the traditional BMP course in which attendees spend the morning

session participating in discussions, watching videos, and listening to slide presentations. After lunch, the class travels to several field sites to apply the principles that

were presented earlier that morning. Topics covered in this workshop include:

- How to plan a stream crossing
- Advantages and disadvantages of various stream crossing methods
- Proper installation and remediation of stream crossings

The idea to develop this course came after the release of the 2005 Texas BMP Implementation Monitoring report, a document produced to determine the extent to which the forestry community is voluntarily following the recommended guidelines. The report showed that stream crossings consistently ranked lower than any other category evaluated, which is a concern, given the sensitivity of these areas.

"Implementing BMPs on stream crossings is absolutely critical because these locations are direct contact points to the stream. Improperly constructing a stream crossing can have a negative impact on water quality," said Hughes Simpson, Texas BMP Coordinator.

Participants have seen the benefits in attending this course. Post workshop evaluations show that 97% of attendees would recommend this class to others. Also the evaluations showed that most attendees would like to see future workshops on streamside management zones and forest roads. Typical written comments from participants were:

*I think this was a good workshop and everyone that works on dirt needs to attend.*

*Good. The men did a great job of showing different ideas about future logging procedures.*

*Thanks for your effort. The class is needed to try to get everyone on the same page!*

*Good. Great opportunity to expand knowledge.*

A stream crossing workshop is currently being planned for later this fall in the Livingston area and to register for this workshop or any other course required for the Pro-Logger certification, contact the Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733. For more information on Best Management Practices, please contact the Texas Forest Service at (936) 639-8180 or go online at [www.texasforests.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforests.tamu.edu).

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# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Last month you wrote about the new logger training workshop focusing on stream crossings. I have attended both the new stream crossing workshop as well as the traditional BMP workshop several years ago. I wanted to know if there were any additional classes related to BMPs that I could take or even a refresher class?

**A:** Glad to know that you have attended both the BMP and Stream Crossing workshops. I hope that the information you learned at the workshops has benefited you on your logging operations since then. The Texas Forest Service along with the Texas Forestry Association are continuously working on new innovative workshops for loggers. The traditional BMP workshop was designed to educate loggers on the importance of using BMPs, as well how to implement them correctly on their operations. This workshop is one of five "core" classes that loggers must attend to gain their Pro-Logger status. Since 1995, almost 3,000 loggers have attended the BMP workshop. Data collected by Texas Forest Service shows that BMP implementation on logging operations has increased to 91.7% since the workshop was developed, an all time high. This is a direct result of the training that has been provided over the past 13 years.

In 2007 the Texas Forest Service along with the

Texas Forestry Association began offering a new workshop focused on stream crossings. This course was developed to provide in-depth training on the

design, layout, implementation, and remediation of stream crossings. To date, five workshops have been held throughout East Texas with over 170 loggers attending. While this workshop is not required to gain Pro-Logger status, it does offer loggers the opportunity to obtain their six hours of continuing education credits needed to maintain their Pro-Logger status.

In 2005 the Texas Forest Service developed an online BMP training course as a part of the Pro-Logger program. This course is meant to serve as a refresher for the core BMP training workshop. It reviews many of the fundamental aspects of using BMPs and their importance in protecting water quality, as well as highlighting some of the minor revisions that were made to the BMP guidelines in 2004. This course also provides loggers with a lot of flexibility in obtaining their continuing education hours. It can be taken at any time online by going to [www.professionallogger.com](http://www.professionallogger.com). Participants will receive two hours of continuing education credit.

New BMP workshops are currently being developed and plans are to unveil one of the new workshops in 2009. The newest BMP workshop being developed will focus on forest roads and how to properly install and maintain these roadways. The main focus will be on how to prevent erosion from occurring on roadways and entering nearby water bodies. Ninety percent of all sedimentation or erosion that occurs on logging operations can be attributed to the road system. There are also plans to unveil another BMP workshop focusing on streamside management zones (SMZs). For more information regarding current and future BMP workshops call the Texas Forestry Association at (936) 632-8733. To obtain a copy of the BMP Bluebook or for more information regarding BMPs visit [www.texasforestservicetamu.edu](http://www.texasforestservicetamu.edu) or email [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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**T E X A S**  
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The Texas A&M University System

# BMP Q&A

by Shane Harrington

BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** Are you going to continue the quizzes that were offered in 2007 so that we can get the 1 hour continuing education credit?

Yes, this article will continue to offer loggers an opportunity to earn 1 hour/year of continuing education credit for answering the quiz correctly. This is the last quiz for 2008 so this is your last chance to earn your credit hour for the year by submitting your correct answer to the Texas Forestry Association before the end of December. A total of four quizzes have been given throughout 2008 with this being the fourth and final. The hour of continuing education earned for successfully submitting the correct answer will count as 2008 continuing education hours.

Loggers are required to have six (6) hours of continuing education training every year in order to maintain their Texas Pro Logger Certificate. This is the first quiz for 2008. You can only earn one hour of continuing education per year from the quizzes. In other words, you can submit answers to all of the quizzes but you would still only earn one (1) hour of continuing education training for the year.

In order to earn your one (1) hour of continuing education training, you need to cut out the quiz from this article, fill in all the appropriate information, and you must provide the correct answer to the question. The completed quiz should then be mailed or faxed to the Texas Forestry Association:

Here is the final quiz for 2008:

October-2008 Quiz

**Question:**

According to the Bluebook what is the definition of basal area (the first sentence will be adequate)?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

You can get a copy of the Bluebook at your local Texas Forest Service office or you can view it online at [www.texasforests.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforests.tamu.edu). If you have any questions regarding BMPs please call me at (936) 639-8180 or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

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75902-1488

# BMP Q&A

by *Shane Harrington*  
BMP Forester  
Texas Forest Service



**Q:** I know that the Texas Forest Service conducts a BMP Implementation Survey every couple of years and publishes a report showing the results. I would like to know if there is any information on the South as a region and how the region as a whole is doing at implementing BMPs. I know that other states do similar surveys and would just like to know if there is anything showing BMP implementation results on a regional basis.

**A:** Great question! In 1997, a task force appointed by the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) developed guidance to assist states in conducting BMP implementation monitoring. This "Framework", which was revised in 2002, was created to promote a consistent approach across the region, allowing monitoring results to be comparable among the states. The SGSF could then compile results from conforming states and report BMP implementation across the region. This "regional report" would identify BMP categories needing improvement that the Water Resources Committee could address through regional training, demonstration, and information exchange.

In June 2008, the Water Resources committee released this report titled "Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices - A Southern Region Report." This publication is the first in the nation to report BMP implementation on a regional level.

The report covers results from 25 statewide BMP implementation monitoring surveys conducted across the Southern region from 1997-2007. Eleven of the 13 states in the region sub-

mitted data collected in conformance with the Framework, and thus were eligible for inclusion in this report. The two remaining states plan to submit eligible data for the next reporting period.

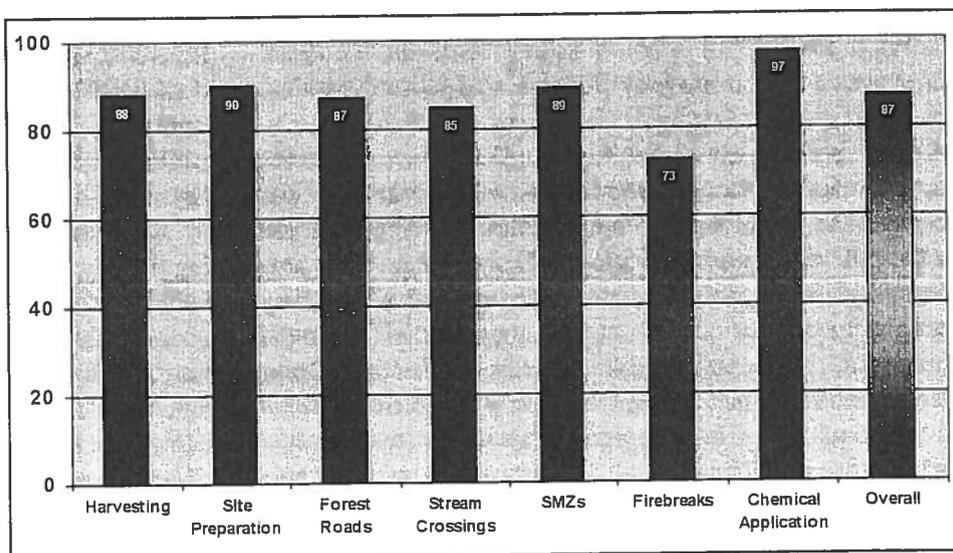
The Framework calls for the evaluation of seven BMP categories: Harvesting, Site Preparation, Forest Roads, Stream Crossings, Streamside Management Zones, Firebreaks and Chemical Application. Results from these categories, expressed as a percent, are compiled to determine Overall BMP implementation.

Although the regional data identifies several BMP categories in need of improvement, an overall regional implementation rate of 87% is considered notable. Likewise, "regional progress" has been made in most BMP categories since the Framework was initially published in 1997. States reporting multiple surveys have shown increases in BMP implementation. This is largely attributed to the numerous educational, outreach, and training efforts being conducted across the southern region by the states, and to the efforts of the SGSF via the Water Resource Committee.

This report is the first in a planned series to be published every 5 years. The objective is to provide information at a regional level, for the purpose of continuously improving monitoring methods and BMP implementation, and to promote consistency among states in the southern region for this activity. To that end, the report identified specific BMP categories (Firebreaks, Stream Crossings, and Forest Roads) the SGSF Water Resources Committee will target for improvement. To view a copy of this report, visit the Southern Group of State Foresters webpage at [www.southernforests.org](http://www.southernforests.org)

For more information on BMPs in Texas please visit [www.texasforests.tamu.edu](http://www.texasforests.tamu.edu) or email me at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu).

Overall Percent BMP Implementation by Category, Southern Region



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