

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ◇ Wildlife ◇ Water ◇ Soil ◇ Best Management Practices ◇ Forest Health ◇ Recreation ◇ Aesthetics

## EPA DELAYS BIOMASS DECISION

*posted by Joanna Schroeder, January 12, 2011, on domesticfuel.com*

*For more information:*

- <http://domesticfuel.com/2011/01/12/epa-delays-decision-on-biogenic-carbon-emissions/>
- <http://westernfarmpress.com/management/rfa-encouraged-epas-deferral-biogenic-ghg-emissions-penalty>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that they will be delaying any decisions on greenhouse gas (GHG) permitting requirements for carbon dioxide from biomass combustion and other biogenic emissions. Last fall, the EPA said that they were considering adding these types of emissions to the required reporting under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) Tailoring Rule. With this news, the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) expressed gratitude.

“EPA’s deferral of permitting requirements for biogenic emissions sources is good news and it is the right step, given that the science clearly shows using biomass for energy does not add to atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels on a net basis,” said RFA President Bob Dinneen. “Failure to exempt biogenic ethanol fermentation emissions from the GHG Tailoring Rule’s permitting requirements would have been unnecessarily costly and burdensome for our industry. Inclusion of biogenic fermentation emissions meant the permitting requirements would have applied to many ethanol plants that otherwise would not have been subjected to requirements. We appreciate EPA’s sensible approach to this complex issue and look forward to working with the agency on a commonsense solution.”

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack also made remarks about the delayed ruling. “I strongly support EPA’s announcement today that it is starting an expedited rule-making so that it can defer for three years greenhouse gas permitting requirements for biomass and that it is also undertaking

a scientific assessment of how emissions from biomass should be treated under the Clean Air Act.”

Vilsack continued, “America’s forest owners, farmers and ranchers can play a crucial role in providing renewable energy from wood, switch grass and other agricultural products. Homegrown energy can provide jobs in rural America while reducing greenhouse gases. Markets for woody biomass in particular can be especially important in allowing the US Forest Service and other landowners to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire while restoring more natural conditions in our forests. EPA’s action today will provide the agency with the time it needs to ensure that greenhouse gas policies properly account for the emissions and carbon sequestration associated with biomass.”

The deferment of a decision means for the time being, biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from ethanol fermentation will not be subject to newly enacted permitting requirements under EPA’s GHG Tailoring Rule for at least three years. In the past, biogenic emissions had never been considered for monitoring because they are naturally occurring as plants die and decay and their emissions are offset when the carbon is removed from the environment by living, thriving plants – a process known as photosynthesis. Biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that result from the fermentation of corn or other biomass are, by nature, carbon neutral because those emissions are naturally offset when the biomass removes an equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere via photosynthesis.

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## 2010 AERIAL PHOTOS FOR TEXAS

by Chuck Coup, Staff Forester, TFS, Lufkin, TX

For more information:

- <http://www.tnris.org/Default.aspx>

Taking time to plan out a forestry activity is an extremely important step in protecting water quality. Planning allows you to layout your operation in the most productive, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner possible. Management activities undertaken without planning can produce undesirable environmental, economic, and aesthetic consequences. However, with a little planning you can spend more time preventing problems and less time solving them.

Aerial photos are an excellent tool for planning forestry operations, especially when used in conjunction with topographic maps and soil surveys. Aerial photographs give you a bird's eye view of the forest. They show the location of roads, towns, pipelines, lakes, wetlands, streams, and the arrangement of different land uses and forest types across the landscape. They are useful for identifying existing road systems and cover type changes, and help to indicate drainage patterns or the presence of wetlands. Knowledge of current road systems may help in identifying backside access to a tract or avoid the expense of crossing a large stream.

2010 aerial photos of Texas are now available on the Texas Natural Resource Information System (TNRIS) website. These

photos were taken between April and September of last year as part of the USDA's National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) and provide the most current aerial view of the State. The photos are captured using color infrared (CIR) film. While natural color images display colors as they would appear to human eyes under normal conditions, a CIR image is set up to display the image with a red tone. This helps natural resource managers in determining the health of vegetation, distinguishing between land uses, and identifying surface water bodies.

The photos are available for free and can be downloaded at <http://www.tnris.org/datadownload/download.jsp>. To access the imagery, select the county you are interested in from the drop down menu and click search. That will bring up all the datasets for that particular county. Click "2010" under the NAIP Compressed County Mosaics to download the 2010 aerial imagery for that county.

If you do not have Geographical Information System (GIS) software on your computer you will need to download and install LizardTech's free ExpressView Browser Plug-in (MrSID) for Windows at <http://www.lizardtech.com/downloads/plugins.php> to open the .sid image file.

## PLAINVIEW HACKBERRIES

Located in a city park between Broadway and Date streets in Plainview is the last survivor of two hackberry groves which once dominated the landscape and served as a landmark to travelers on the high plains more than a century ago. Near this tree a spring flows into Running Water Draw. The trees and the spring later gave Plainview the name "Oasis of the Plains."

Near the groves, E. L. Lowe and Z. T. Maxwell made their first homes. In the spring of 1887 the two men decided to establish a town. The names "Hackberry

Groves" and "Running Water Draw" were considered. However, noting that the view in all directions was obstructed only by the two hackberry groves, they decided to name the town Plainview.

In the fall of 1887, the town was surveyed, lots were offered for sale, and a grocery store was opened near the courthouse square. During the remainder of 1887, settlers began arriving. The following year Lowe and Maxwell deeded portions of their own lands to the town of Plainview for streets, alleys, and a public square.

from Texas Forest Service website—Famous Trees of Texas

For more information:

- <http://famoustreesoftexas.tamu.edu/TreeHistory.aspx?TreeName=PlainviewHackberries>

## FREE UPLAND HARDWOOD COURSE

The USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is distributing free copies of a DVD that features videos and other resources from the Station's popular Upland Hardwood Silviculture course. The course provides foresters, land managers and other natural resource professionals with the latest information on practices and research results needed to manage upland hardwood forests.

"We noticed several years ago that foresters and others were sometimes unable to attend the face-to-face course because of budgetary constraints or other reasons," said Katie Greenberg, project leader of the Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management research unit, which includes the Bent Creek Experimental Forest where the training is conducted. "Offering the videos and other materials from our Upland Hardwood Silviculture course is a user friendly and cost effective way to share information with practicing foresters."

The Upland Hardwood Silviculture DVD captures the 2007 week-long, face-to-face workshop offered at Bent Creek Experimental Forest by the SRS Upland Hardwood Ecology and Management unit. The DVD includes video lectures, transcripts, PowerPoint presentations and references. The course features Forest Service and university researchers and land managers. Modules include forest health, management objectives, site classification, stand management, regeneration, restoration of the American chestnut, and wildlife management. Among the 16 videos are two presentations by David Loftis, who dedicated much of his Forest Service career to researching oak regeneration. The Station collaborated with the University of Georgia to produce the DVD and online versions of the course.

To receive a copy of the Upland Hardwood Silviculture DVD (SU-SRS-27), send your request to [pubrequest@fs.fed.us](mailto:pubrequest@fs.fed.us) or call 828-257-4830.

*by Claire Payne, Technical Information Specialist, Southern Research Station, Asheville, NC*

*For more information:*

- <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/news/course.html>

## TEXAS WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

The Texas Watershed Steward (TWS) program is a statewide one-day educational program designed to improve the quality of Texas' water resources by educating and informing local stakeholders about their watershed, potential impairments, and steps that can be taken to help improve and protect water quality in their watershed.

The program is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and made possible through a Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the TSSWCB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Active public participation in local watershed management efforts is critical in addressing local water quality problems and concerns. The program is open to all wa-

tershed residents including homeowners, business owners, agricultural producers, decision-makers, community leaders, and other citizens. Check the website in the sidebar for information on the free and very informative workshops.

Two upcoming workshops:

- **Thursday, March 24, 2011**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Sabine River Authority's new building  
12777 Hwy. 87 N.; **Orange, Texas**
- **Tuesday, March 29, 2011**  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Bryan/College Station, Texas**  
More information to be posted soon.

Go to <http://tws.tamu.edu/workshops/upcoming> for more information and to enroll in a workshop.

*from Texas Watershed Steward website*

*For more information:*

- <http://tws.tamu.edu/>

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Editorial Board

- Rusty Wood, TPWD, Nacogdoches, Texas
- Joe Pase, TFS, Lufkin, Texas

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Texas Timber Income and Property Tax Workshop

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Lottie and Arthur Temple Civic Center  
Diboll, Texas

This daylong workshop will provide an understanding of timber tax, including the latest changes to tax laws and rules for 2010 income tax return preparations with a refresher on local timberland property tax incentives. Registration fee is \$70 per participant; \$30 per additional family member. Registration fee includes the workbook, catered lunch, and refreshments. Space is limited. Go to <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=12018> for more info and to register.

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### Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo and Spring Fling

Saturday, March 26, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lone Star College - Montgomery  
Conroe / The Woodlands

Free classes by natural resource and outdoor professional; outdoor-related demonstrations and tips; family fun and adventure! For more information: (936) 273-2261 or <http://expo.tamu.edu>



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