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# FOREST STEWARDSHIP BRIEFINGS

Timber ✪ Wildlife ✪ Water Quality ✪ Soil Conservation ✪ Best Management Practices ✪ Recreation ✪ Aesthetics

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## Sustainable Forests Report

The USDA Forest Service will publish in 2003 a comprehensive national report on the state of the nation's forests. The process of collecting and assessing data for the report is under way, and public input is being solicited to ensure that the concerns and interests of non-federal entities are considered. There will be public workshops in spring 2002 to elicit input about the national report's format and content.

At a November 15, 2001 meeting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth shared his expectations for the report. "This benchmark report will greatly affect what we know and understand and will have major implications for how we work together to conserve and manage natural resources today and for future generations."

The report will organize and summarize data under a set of 7 criteria and 67 indicators (referred to as "C&I") for sustainable forest management. The C&I provide a common framework for collecting and organizing information and to enhance informed dialogue, policy-making and forest management activities at all levels.

Members of the roundtable say that the report is not an endpoint but rather part of an ongoing process to achieve improved forest conditions and sustainable forest management in the United States. The report will be the first in an ongoing series and will form a benchmark for assessing future progress in the U.S.★

For more information: [www.sustainableforests.net](http://www.sustainableforests.net)

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## Managing Storm Damage

In general, the following guidelines can apply to both pine and hardwood trees.

### Assess Types of Damage

**Breakage:** Trees with less than 50% crown loss will most likely recover; trees with more than 75% crown loss are likely to die and be a greater risk for both insects and diseases; trees with 50-75% crown loss should be maintained but reevaluated in 4 to 6 years.

**Uprooted:** Uprooted trees will be degraded quickly by insects, stain and other fungi. Partially uprooted trees with crowns possessing leaves will last longer.

**Major Wounds:** If trees have wounds more than 2 inches deep and that affect more than 25% of the circumference of the tree's trunk, they are major sites for stain and decay and should be salvaged.

**Bent:** If cracks or fractures extend down more than 25% of the tree trunk, harvesting is recommended. Trees less than 15 feet tall with small cracks will usually straighten and recover.

### Assess Salvage Potential

There needs to be sufficient quantity as well as quality of timber to attract buyers. If less than 50 trees are damaged, consider transporting trees to a sawmill for custom sawing or using a portable sawmill. For a larger number of trees, a consulting forester should be hired to mark the salvage as a timber sale and seek bids.

### Maintain Good Management

Keep the stock up in stands even if this means leaving some damaged trees to occupy the sites. If damage is severe in small patches, consider small group clearcutting to remove the damaged vegetation and provide sunlight for seedlings to reoccupy the site.★

For more information: [www.forestry.iastate.edu/ext/ext.html](http://www.forestry.iastate.edu/ext/ext.html) or [http://txforests.tamu.edu/landowner\\_assistance/storm\\_recovery/trees\\_saved.html](http://txforests.tamu.edu/landowner_assistance/storm_recovery/trees_saved.html)

# Windbreak Maintenance and Renovation

Windbreaks are integral parts of many Texas farming and ranching operations. They protect man, animals, crops and buildings from hot summer winds, cold winter winds and deep snows. Windbreaks prevent soil erosion caused by wind and provide wildlife habitat.

Many windbreaks in Texas throughout the High and South Plains are old, and some are poorly designed. Often, species diversity is lacking.

Windbreak maintenance is necessary throughout the life of a windbreak to keep it growing healthy. This would include weed control, pruning, watering, fertilization and fencing (if livestock are around).

Windbreak renovation becomes necessary as a windbreak ages or deteriorates. Poor maintenance or design also leads to renovation. Renovated windbreaks should have windward rows of conifers and leeward rows of deciduous trees. Renovation includes increasing diversity, improving function, adding or removing tree and shrub rows and thinning within rows.

Questions to ask yourself when trying to decide if renovation is necessary and what to do include:

- Do the tree crowns appear healthy, vigorous and full? Are the tips of the branches not significantly touching or interlaced with adjacent trees?
- Is the windbreak composed of only one species of tree, such as all Siberian elm or all red cedar?
- What is the spacing distance between trees within the rows and between each tree row?
- Does snow drift into the area you are trying to protect?
- Does the windbreak attract a variety of wildlife?

The answers to these questions may help you decide if you need to do some thinning in the windbreak and/or possibly add different species of trees and shrubs.★

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# Prevention and Control of Pine Engraver Beetles

Pine engraver beetles (three species of *Ips*) generally limit their attacks to logging debris and stressed, weakened or damaged pine trees. They seldom bother reasonably healthy trees and tend to attack scattered single trees or small groups of 2-5 trees. Therefore, maintaining healthy trees is a landowner's best policy for preventing engraver beetle attacks.

In a forest situation, good forest management practices are also good beetle prevention practices. If direct control is needed for an infestation of engraver beetles in a forest situation, cutting and removing the infested trees is the best course of action to follow. If only a few trees are involved, doing nothing is often a good choice. Felling trees and leaving them on a site (a control tactic for another beetle called the southern pine beetle) is of no value for controlling *Ips*. In addition, trees from which the beetles have already emerged are not a concern for control. Cutting a buffer of green, uninfested trees around *Ips*-killed trees is not recommended either.

In yard situations, root damage caused by construction and drought are the two most common stress factors for

pine trees. Watering trees (slow and deep) during periods of drought and avoiding damage to root systems would be good prevention options for a homeowner. Prompt removal of visibly infested trees is recommended. If a beetle-killed tree is cut, care should be taken to avoid damaging uninfested pines. Damaged trees may be more susceptible to attack by pine beetles.

Another pine bark beetle of concern in East Texas is the black turpentine beetle. This beetle readily responds to fresh pine sap (resin, pitch) associated with injured trees. Like the engraver beetles, the black turpentine beetle is not usually a serious problem because its typical attack pattern is to infest scattered trees. The black turpentine beetle is most commonly found in stumps and injured trees associated with construction or logging activity. Attacks of the black turpentine beetle are usually limited to the bottom six to eight feet of the trunk of the pine tree and a large mass of pitch or resin will usually form where each beetle attacks.★

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## BITS · AND · PIECES

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LOGGING PROFESSIONALS:

### 2002 BMP WORKSHOPS

Jan. 25	Marshall
FEB. 15	LUFKIN
AUG. 16	LUFKIN
SEPT. 13	MARSHALL
OCT. 11	LUFKIN
NOV. 8	LUFKIN

2002 PHASE II WORKSHOPS (Silviculture, Endangered Species, Wildlife, Wetlands)

FEB. 16	DIBOLL
SEPT. 14	MARSHALL

-Fee (per workshop): \$10 for TFA/TLC members; \$35 for non-members

-For registration, call TFA at (936) 632-8733

✓ **HARDWOOD AND WILDLIFE SEMINAR** – sponsored by the Tri-County Timber Growers Association.

**FEBRUARY 2, 2002** IN CENTER, TEXAS, AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE ON SAN AUGUSTINE STREET  
10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Open and FREE to the public. RSVP to Becky at (936) 598-2192 or Marilyn at (936) 275-3438.

♣ Now you can buy seedlings on-line! Pine and hardwood seedlings can be purchased at the TFS seedling store at <http://tfsstore.tamu.edu/onlinestore/>. There is also information there to help you choose the type of seedlings you want for your particular situation.

♣ Need digital photos for a presentation? The USDA On Line Photography Center has photos for anyone to use. They are sorted into different categories, mostly dealing with agriculture. There is a forestry recreation section and wildlife section that may be of interest to those involved in forestry. Go to [www.usda.gov/oc/photo/opchomea.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oc/photo/opchomea.htm).

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS QUARTER'S NEWSLETTER:

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## Hunting Lease Marketing

As a hunting lease operator, understanding your resources and clientele is necessary for a solid marketing plan. Several thoughts and activities make up the hunting experience. The time the client is on your property does not stand alone, but is part of the cycle that is the entire experience. The operator can use all parts of this cycle to market the hunting experience.

**Anticipation** – includes the planning of the trip. The lease operator can telephone the clients to report on hunting and weather conditions. A few minutes of conversation can raise the level of enthusiasm.

**Travel To** – some enjoy the travel to the lease; others don't. Operators who are working with their community can have a real advantage during this phase. Community hospitality and special events can provide an added dimension to the hunting experience for the hunter, as well as benefit the community economically.

**On-Site** – time actually spent on the hunting site. Remember that you are managing a hunting experience for you clientele, not just selling a product. Educating your hunters on game management tactics and creatively promoting the use of these can enrich their experience. Also, there are activities other than hunting that can make the experience more complete and enjoyable. You may be able to offer other activities as well as hunting on your site. Fishing, wildlife watching, camping and hiking are other activities that may interest the hunters and others in their party.

**Travel Back** – anticipation and excitement are usually replaced by pleasant memories of the hunt, or dreadful anticipation of job responsibilities back home. A pleasant hunting experience can make this often unpleasant trip home a time for reflection on the satisfaction of time well spent and the beginning of anticipation of next year's return.

**Recollection** – recalling to memory points of the experience (good or bad) that stand out in their mind. The recollection phase serves as a starting point for the anticipation of the next outdoor recreational experience. The operator can keep clients informed throughout the year of environmental and game conditions and improvements to the operation.★

For more information:

<http://texaserc.tamu.edu/catalog/query.cgi?id=98>



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- Brian Scott, TFS, Amarillo, Texas
- Pete Smith, TFS, College Station, Texas

## Southern Forest Resources

The Southern Group of State Foresters welcomes the release of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment. For the first time ever, citizens of the South have a credible and objective report of the present condition and probable future of their forests.

Some of the topics covered include:

- Human Influences on Forest Wildlife Habitat
- Effects of Forest Management
- Policies, Regulations and Laws
- Local Economic Impacts of Forests
- Forestry Impacts on Water Quality

Electronic copies of the draft report and summary can be obtained at the Assessment's official website listed below or by contacting your State Forester.★

For more information: [www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain](http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain)