

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program, funded through an FY93 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 319(h) grant, evaluated the level of compliance with voluntary forestry BMPs between June, 1996 and July, 1997. A total of 150 sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were a representative sample of the forestry activities that occurred in East Texas during that time.

Overall BMP compliance of the sites monitored was 87.3%. To be considered “in compliance,” a site must be rated Fair, Good, or Excellent. Compliance with BMPs varied by forest land ownership, type of operation, landowner and logging contractor knowledge of BMPs, level of forester involvement, and other site factors. Generally, compliance was highest on sites:

- owned by USDA Forest Service or forest industry

Compliance was generally lowest on sites:

- owned by non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners

Major deficiencies noted during the evaluations were:

- lack of SMZs where needed
- water quality impacts from stream crossings

In Round 1 of monitoring, conducted in 1990-1992, industry compliance was 89.6%. Compliance was at 95.1% during Round 2 of monitoring, conducted in 1993-1995. Compliance of 98.4% during Round 3 shows a continually improving trend. BMP compliance on USDA Forest Service lands has been at 100% in all three rounds of monitoring. Compliance on non-industrial private forest (NIPF) land was 86.3 % in Round 1 of compliance monitoring. During Round 2, NIPF compliance was 82.9%. Round 3 currently shows NIPF compliance at 76.3%.

Of the 95 inspections where the logging contractor was identified as being familiar with BMPs, 92 were in compliance (96.8%). Sites with landowners who were not familiar with BMPs had an overall compliance rating of 75.4%, while sites with landowners who were familiar with BMPs had a compliance rating of 95.5%. Ninety sites were identified as having a professional forester involved and had a compliance rating of 92.8%. Sites in which there was no or unknown forester involvement had a BMP compliance rating of 78.3%.