

# THE TEXAS WATER SOURCE

UPDATING FRANKLIN, TITUS, MORRIS, & CAMP CO. FOREST LANDOWNERS ON FORESTRY AND WATER ISSUES

## Gearing up for Round 8 of Forestry BMP Implementation Monitoring

It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since the Texas Forest Service established the Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) program. This cooperative, non-regulatory program educates landowners, loggers, and foresters about the possible impacts to water quality from improperly conducted forestry activities, and offers technical assistance on how these impacts can be minimized by using voluntary conservation measures (BMPs).

In 1991, the BMP Implementation Monitoring Program was started to measure the degree of implementation of BMP guidelines by the forestry community, evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs as applied in the field, and identify any weaknesses in the guidelines. Since 1991, the Texas Forest Service has completed seven rounds of BMP implementation monitoring. The current overall BMP implementation rate is 91.5%, an increase of 20% since the program's inception.

Each round, the Texas Forest Service randomly selects a minimum of 150 tracts of forestland that have recently had some form of "normal

forestry" operation – harvesting, thinning, site preparation and reforestation, etc. These randomly selected operations are evaluated, with the landowner's consent, for the presence and functionality of BMPs. Operations monitored include public and private lands.

As previously stated, the Texas Forestry BMP program is non-regulatory. The program relies heavily upon voluntary cooperation from all individuals involved in forestry operations, including you as landowners. It is important to recognize that freedoms and flexibility in employing our forestry practices can be lost if these non-regulatory measures fail to achieve established water quality goals. If everyone involved in forest management implements these practices, water quality can be protected without strict government regulation.

**Other facts:**

- Over 1,000 operations have been monitored since 1991
- Tracts range in size from 10 acres – 3,000 acres

**For more information:**

- For BMP Guidelines: <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/BMP>; look under "Publications"

## Local Forest Landowner Association

Local landowner associations help landowners keep in touch with what is going on in the forest industry and know what is available to them. The **Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association** does just that for

landowners with property in your counties.

For information on how to join and upcoming meetings, contact Brian Pope at the number or address on the back of this newsletter.

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**Agency Spotlight****Environmental Protection Agency****For more information:**

- <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/whatwedo.htm>

The Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) encourages voluntary efforts to protect the environment, but sometimes mandatory requirements called regulations must be written. When Congress writes an environmental law, the Environmental Protection Agency implements it by writing regulations. Often, they set national standards that states and tribes enforce through their own regulations.

While Congress passes the laws that govern the United States, Congress has also authorized EPA and other government agencies to create and enforce regulations in order to put those laws into effect. EPA is called a regulatory agency because Congress authorizes them to write regulations that explain the critical technical, operational, and legal details necessary to implement laws.

EPA regulations cover a range of environmental and public health protection issues, from setting standards for clean water to specifying cleanup levels for toxic waste sites to controlling air pollution from industry and other sources.

EPA also enforces their regulations, and helps companies understand the requirements. EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) pursues enforcement and provides compliance assistance to areas that yield the most environmental benefit or reduce risk to human health. Enforcement and compliance actions are organized around environmental problems and broad patterns of non-compliance rather than provisions of single statutes.

Nearly half of EPA's budget goes into grants to state environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions, and others. The money is used for a wide variety of projects, from scientific studies that help us make decisions to community cleanups.

At laboratories located throughout the nation, the Environmental Protection Agency identifies and tries to solve environmental problems. To learn even more, they share information with other countries, private sector organizations, academic institutions, and other agencies.

**What EPA Does Not Do****For more information:**

- <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/whatwedo.htm>

Sometimes problems seem like something EPA would handle, but may actually be the responsibility of other federal, tribal, state or local agencies.

For example:

- Endangered Species Act - The ESA is primarily managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Nuclear waste - The Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management manages the problem of nuclear waste.
- Wetlands - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determines whether an area is a wetland and issues permits for use of such an area.
- Workplace environment - Environmental problems inside the workplace, such as handling of chemicals or noxious fumes, are under the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Noise complaints - EPA no longer regulates most types of noise pollution. You should consult with your local governmental (e.g., city and county) authorities to see if there are local or state laws that might apply to your situation.

## BMP Round 7 Implementation Report

Texas Forest Service recently completed its seventh round of Best Management Practices (BMPs) Implementation Monitoring. Randomly selected sites for monitoring include public, private, forest industry, and corporate lands (commercial landowners who do not own processing facilities).

Overall BMP implementation on all sites monitored this round was 91.5%. In general, implementation was highest on sites under public ownership. These national forestland sites had an overall implementation of 100%, while industrial sites had a 91.1% implementation rating. Corporate lands scored 95.7% overall, while family forest owners scored 88.7%.

The overall implementation for the Lake O' the Pines Watershed was 90.7%, which is slightly below the East Texas average. A total of 25 sites were monitored in the watershed which consists of Camp, Cass, Harrison, Hopkins, Franklin, Marion, Morris, Upshur, Titus, and Wood Counties.

Of the 25 sites monitored in this watershed, 21 were owned by Family Forest Owners (FFO), of which 11 were owned by absentee owners (owners who live outside the county). Four of the 25 were owned by corporate owners. The overall implementation rate for FFO was 89.4% (with resident FFO having an overall implementation rate of 90% and absentee FFO 88.7%) and corporate owners had a 97.8% implementation rate.

Implementation of BMPs was statistically significantly higher when:

- the landowner was familiar with BMPs
- the logging contractor had attended formal BMP training
- a forester was involved in the sale or activity

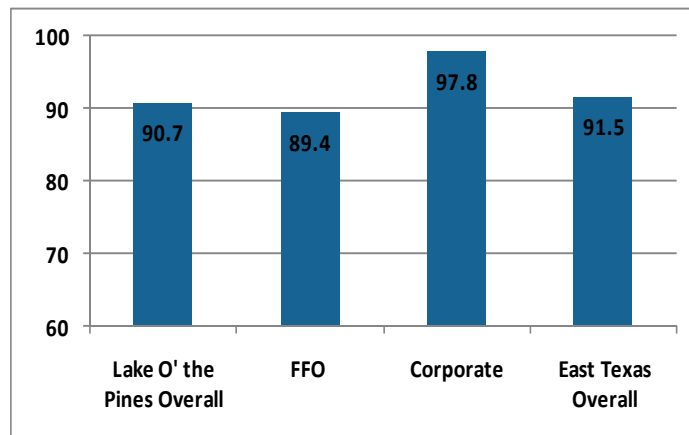
- BMPs were included in the timber sale contract
- the landowner was a member of the American Tree Farm System
- the timber was delivered to a Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) mill

Overall, in the Lake O' the Pines watershed and all of East Texas, the forestry community is doing a good job in implementing BMPs.

For more information:

- <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/BMP>
- Shane Harrington  
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(936) 639-8180

Round 7 Results for Lake O' the Pines



The use of BMPs in Texas is voluntary. Sites that are monitored are only done with landowner consent. The information that is collected from the Texas Forest Service's monitoring efforts is used to help keep the use of BMPs voluntary in Texas. Improvements continue to be seen, and can be furthered if we recognize the importance of using BMPs to protect water quality by treating every site as if it will be evaluated.

A full version of the report titled "Voluntary Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices in East Texas, Round 7" can be viewed or downloaded by visiting the Texas Forest Service webpage listed in the sidebar on this page.

*Did you know...*

You can see previous issues of *The Texas Water Source* newsletter by going to the TFS website at <http://texasforestservicetamu.edu/BMP> and clicking on "Publications."

**Updating Franklin, Titus, Morris, & Camp Co. Forest Landowners on Forestry and Water Issues**

Distribution of *The Texas Water Source* is provided free of charge to forest landowners of Franklin, Titus, Morris, and Camp Counties. Funding has been provided through cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and Texas Forest Service (TFS). PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR NAME TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

*The Texas Forest Service is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to Excellence Through Diversity.*

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## How to Contact EPA

Region 6 covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Region 6 mailing and physical address:

Environmental Protection Agency  
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Phone: (214) 665-2200

Fax: (214) 665-7113

Toll free within Region 6: (800) 887-6063

Website - <http://www.epa.gov/region06/>

You can also send your comments, questions or requests online at <http://www.epa.gov/region06/r6comment.htm>. This is also where you would go with questions and comments about Region 6 Water Programs or issues, including: Grant Assistance, Marine, Estuaries, Wetlands, Watersheds, Ground Water, Gulf of Mexico, Under Ground Injection, Source Water Protection, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).



TDD Line: 1-866-419-4872