

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program evaluated the level of compliance with voluntary forestry BMPs. A total of 150 sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites are believed to be a representative sample of the forestry activities that occurred in East Texas between June 3, 1998 and August 31, 1999.

Overall BMP compliance of the sites monitored was 88.6%. In general, compliance was highest on sites owned by the USDA Forest Service or forest industry. Forest Service sites had an overall compliance of 97.9%, while industry sites had a 94.2% compliance rating. Nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) lands scored 81.2% overall.

Compliance with BMPs was statistically significantly higher when:

- the landowner was familiar with BMPs
- the logging contractor had attended formal BMP training
- a professional forester was involved
- BMPs were included in the timber sale contract

Compliance was generally lowest on sites:

- owned by nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) landowners
- where the landowner was not familiar with BMPs
- where the logging contractor had not been trained in BMPs

Major deficiencies noted during the evaluations were:

- sedimentation from stream crossings
- erosion problems from skid trails and temporary roads

Major improvements from previous rounds:

- presence of SMZs where needed
- increase in NIPF compliance

In previous rounds (1, 2, and 3) of monitoring, tracts were graded for compliance using a "Pass or Fail" method. For Round 4, a new system was developed that uses percentages to denote compliance. The tracts in Round 4 were also rated using the old method. When looking at ratings using the old method, this fourth round shows an increase in compliance overall and by NIPF landowners and industry. U.S. Forest Service lands again rated 100% in compliance.