

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program evaluated the level of implementation of voluntary forestry BMPs. A total of 152 sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were monitored between June 20, 2007, and November 18, 2008, and are believed to be a representative sample of the forestry activities that occurred in East Texas during that time.

Overall BMP implementation on the sites monitored 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 (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 95.7% overall, while family forest owners scored 88.7%.

Implementation with 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

Implementation was generally lowest on sites when:

- owned by family forest owners
- a forester was not involved in the sale or activity
- BMPs were not included in the timber sale contract
- the logger had not attended the BMP workshop

Major deficiencies noted during the evaluations were:

- failure to remove and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads
- inadequate SMZ width along intermittent and perennial streams

Major improvements from previous rounds were:

- a decrease in the number of significant risks to water quality
- avoiding or minimizing the number of temporary stream crossings
- higher overall BMP implementation on site preparation and wetlands