



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE

Water Resources

Forests & Water

More than half of the nation's freshwater supply originates on forestland.

Healthy and sustainable forests can help ensure a continuous supply of clean and abundant water. Not only does forestland provide the cleanest water of any land use, it also helps absorb rainfall, prevents flooding, recharges aquifers, filters stormwater runoff and maintains watershed stability and resilience.

Texas' growing population is estimated to raise water demand 22 percent by 2060. Compounding this problem is the expected increase in impervious cover, pollution and decrease in forestlands.

Forests — and the watershed benefits they provide — also are at risk from deforestation, natural disturbances and improper logging practices.



TFS Response

- In 1989, TFS established the Water Resources program to protect, conserve and enhance Texas' water resources through the sustainable use of our forestlands.
- The initial focus of this program was on the development and promotion of Best Management Practices (BMPs), the principal means of protecting water resources during forest operations.
- Over the years, the program has trained more than 3,000 loggers in BMPs. This has resulted in a 20 percent increase in the implementation of these practices and a substantial decrease in the amount of erosion and sedimentation.
- The program also works closely with communities to help them recognize the importance of forestlands to their water resources.

Economic Impact

- The implementation of forestry BMPs in Texas has prevented an estimated 12,000 tons of sediment from reaching our waterways annually, resulting in \$48.4 million in water infrastructure cost avoidance.
- Forest products manufacturers participate in forest certification programs that require the use of BMPs. Education, training and outreach delivered by TFS enable these companies to meet certification objectives, helping them contribute to the \$16.4 billion direct impact the industry has on the local economy.
- Forest products manufacturers require loggers to attend TFS BMP training in order to deliver wood to their facilities. Since 1995, TFS has trained over 3,000 loggers in BMPs, helping them inject an annual \$471 million into the Texas economy.