

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program evaluated the level of implementation of non-regulatory forestry BMPs in East Texas. A total of 150 randomly selected sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were monitored between March 8, 2017, and December 6, 2018, 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 monitored sites was 93.8%. In general, implementation was highest on sites under public ownership. These National Forest and General Land Office (GLO) sites had an overall implementation of 99.0%. Corporate lands (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 95.3% overall, while family forest owners scored 91.1%. No industrial forestland were monitored this round.

Implementation with BMPs was statistically higher when:

- a forester was involved in the sale or activity
- the logging contractor had attended formal BMP training
- the landowner was already familiar with BMPs
- BMPs were included in the timber sale contract
- the timber was delivered to an SFI® mill
- the landowner had a forest management plan

Implementation was generally lowest on sites when:

- the logger had not attended the BMP workshop
- BMPs were not included in the timber sale contract
- there was no written forest management plan
- a forester was not involved in the sale or activity

Deficiencies noted during the evaluations included:

- adequately draining and stabilizing permanent roads
- stabilizing stream crossings on permanent and temporary roads
- controlling erosion on firebreaks
- removing temporary crossings

Improvements from previous rounds included increases in:

- minimizing soil movement during site preparation operations
- adequately draining temporary roads with appropriate structures