

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 129 randomly selected sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were monitored between October 6, 2020, and November 20, 2022, 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 91.5%. In general, implementation was highest on sites under corporate and public ownership. The corporate lands (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 94.6%, while National Forest and General Land Office (GLO) sites had an overall implementation of 93.8%. Family forest owners scored 87.6%. No industrial forestland was monitored.

Implementation with BMPs was statistically higher when:

- a forester was involved in the sale or activity
- the landowner was already familiar with BMPs
- BMPs were included in the timber sale contract
- the timber was delivered to an SFI® mill

Implementation was lowest on sites when:

- a forester was not involved in the sale or activity
- the timber was not being delivered to an SFI® mill
- BMPs were not included in the timber sale contract
- the landowner was not familiar with BMPs

Deficiencies noted during the evaluations included:

- stabilizing stream crossings on permanent and temporary roads
- streams free of sediment
- removing temporary crossings
- thinning within allowable specifications in SMZs
- landing locations free of oil, trash
- mandatory road BMPs being followed in wetlands

Improvements from previous rounds included increases in:

- permanent roads well drained with appropriate structures
- temporary roads stabilized
- rutting within allowable specifications on temporary roads
- controlling erosion on firebreaks during site pre activities