



# Lake Livingston

# BMP Informer

Serving Grimes, Houston, Leon, Madison, Polk,  
San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker Counties

## Updating FOREST LANDOWNERS on Forestry and Water Quality Issues

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE Best Management Practices Project P.O. Box 310 Lufkin, Texas 75902 [hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu)

### BMP Guidelines and Vendor Information

Want to know what the recommended guidelines are for implementing BMPs? Want to know where you can get the products used for certain water control structures and stream crossings? Need to do some repairs on already-existing BMPs in place on your property?

Go to the Texas Forest Service website to find technical assistance on installing BMPs:

[http://txforestservicetamu.edu/forest\\_management/best\\_management\\_practices/index.html](http://txforestservicetamu.edu/forest_management/best_management_practices/index.html)

At this site, you can view and print the BMP Handbook and the Products and Vendor List.

*Did you know . . .*

**Removing some of the shade alongside your woods roads will allow them to dry out more quickly after a rain and help keep them in great shape?**

### Remember Your Forest After the Storm

Much of East Texas has experienced heavy rains and high winds in the last few months. If your forested property was in an area hit by these winter and springtime storms, you may want to visit your property and check for damage, not only to your timber, but to roadways and other features of your property.

- √ Check your boundary lines for damage to fencing or boundary marking signs.
- √ As you survey your property, look for signs of damaged timber. [Note: if you do have snapped off, lightning-struck, or otherwise damaged timber, be on the look out for bark beetle infestation later in the year.]
- √ Check roads for:
  - fallen trees
  - washouts
  - damage to water control structures such as water bars, wing ditches, bar ditches, and culverts
- √ Make observations at several points along any creeks that may cross your property. Look for areas where unusual amounts of sediment are entering the stream and try to locate their sources. Also look for blockage in stream flow by downed trees, trash washed in from other areas, or collapsed banks.

Repair may be necessary to some to your water control devices, roads, and stream crossings.

For advice on salvaging storm-damaged timber, contact your local Texas Forest Service office.

Remember to follow BMPs in whatever repair, restoration, and recovery operations you may implement.

## Timber Thieves Don't Use BMPs!

Some landowners have had timber cut and removed from their property without their permission.

If you suspect timber theft on your property or notice suspicious activity in your area, call the Timber Theft Hotline at 1-800-364-3470.

Help prevent timber theft –

- Clearly mark property boundaries, preferably with fencing.
- Gate all roads into the property.
- Ask your neighbors to report suspicious activity. Let them know when and where you are planning to have your timber cut.
- When having timber harvested, check the sale area where harvest is in progress to ensure unmarked trees are not cut.
- Know the value of your timber. Before making a timber sale, clearly mark and measure all trees to be included in the sale.
- Join a forest landowner association to improve your knowledge of forestry issues.
- Insist on a sale contract that includes Best Management Practices.

## Improving My Land

### Woods Road Maintenance

What could have prevented the washout that is depicted below?

Something as simple as maintaining the road ditches would have kept the water off of this road. The ditches were allowed to fill in with sediment causing the water to backup on the road.



**A washout like this can result from failing to maintain the road ditch and wing ditches.**

Preventative maintenance on your roads will help protect water quality and keep your access open all year. Be sure to check all of your water control structures, especially ditches and culverts on access roads to make sure that water can flow freely. Culverts can become clogged with debris and road ditches can fill in with sediment with time.

The long slow winter rains are coming to an end and will soon be replaced with the shorter duration and higher intensity spring and summer thunderstorms. Now is a good time to check your road systems. Preventative maintenance saves time and money when compared to reconstructing roads.

## BMP Virtual Tour on TFS Website

A “Virtual Tour” of the BMP demonstration areas on the John Henry Kirby State Forest in Tyler County and the W. Goodrich Jones State Forest in Montgomery County can be found on the Texas Forest Service Home Page. Just go to: [http://txforestsERVICE.tamu.edu/forest\\_management/best\\_management\\_practices/forest\\_tours/index.html](http://txforestsERVICE.tamu.edu/forest_management/best_management_practices/forest_tours/index.html) and click on either Jones or Kirby.

The Forest Tours page provides you with state-of-the-art examples of applying Best Management Practices. You will see photographs of open-top box culverts, low water crossings and culverts of different size, shape and composition. Products like geoweb and geogrid as well as examples of forest wetland determinations are also on-line.

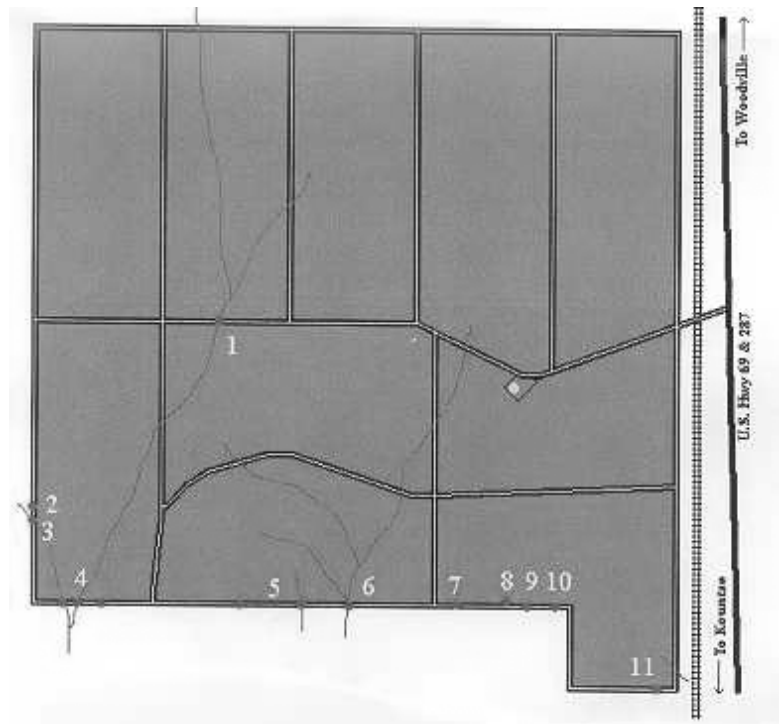
All BMP demonstrations have photographs and a description of how the installations work to protect water quality. Detailed instructions for actually implementing the BMPs are also available.

In addition to the Virtual Tour, the TFS Home Page is a great place to keep updated on:

- BMP literature
- Training and workshops
- BMP Product and Vendor Guide
- BMP compliance
- Silviculture/Wetlands Regulatory Glossary
- Special events
- The Kid’s Korner
- Past issues of the Lake Livingston BMP Informer.

Just go to “Forest Management”, then click on Best Management Practices.

After taking the virtual tour, drop us an e-mail and let us know how you liked it.



- |          |                               |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| Stop #1  | Rock Low Water Crossing       |
| Stop #2  | Cypress Open Top Box Culvert  |
| Stop #3  | Creosote Timber Bridge        |
| Stop #4  | Culverts                      |
| Stop #5  | Treated Open Top Box Culverts |
| Stop #6  | Geoweb Low Water Crossings    |
| Stop #7  | Geogrid Underlay              |
| Stop #8  | Wetland Designation           |
| Stop #9  | Geogrid Underlay              |
| Stop #10 | Cross Road Drainage           |
| Stop #11 | Constructed New Road          |

## Looking for a Good Logging Contractor?



including those with Pro Logger certification. By clicking on *Programs*, you can learn about the Pro Logger Accreditation Program, the Texas Logging Council and other TFA programs.

Distribution of the *Lake Livingston BMP Informer* is provided free of charge to forest landowners of Grimes, Houston, Leon, Madison, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker Counties. Funding has been provided through cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Forest Service (TFS). PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU WISH YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

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**TDD Line: 1-866-419-4872**