



Sam Rayburn

BMP Informer

Serving Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties

Updating FOREST LANDOWNERS on Forestry and Water Quality Issues

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE Best Management Practices Project P.O. Box 310 Lufkin, TX 75902 sharrington@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://texasforestservicetamu.edu/pdf/forest/water/bmp_handbook2000b.pdf

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?

Timber Sale Contract Basics Shane Harrington - Texas Forest Service

Today there are many reasons why a landowner chooses to harvest his or her timber. A landowner may choose to harvest timber in order to increase forest productivity, forest health concerns, salvage storm damaged timber, or there may be financial considerations as to why they harvest.

Timber sale contracts play an important role when conducting any timber sale. These contracts provide a set of guidelines for the sale to operate under but most importantly a timber sale contract protects the interests of both the buyer and seller. When having a timber sale contract prepared there are few basic points that should be included in the contract.

- Name, address, and signature of all parties involved in the timber sale
- Legal description of the property along with maps showing property boundaries and harvest area
- Date of execution (length of time given to the buyer to harvest the timber, typically in the south 18 months is adequate)
- Payment schedule (will this be a lump sum or pay as cut timber sale)
- Penalty to buyer if unmarked trees are harvested
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs should always be included in timber sale contracts because it may be necessary to spell out specific practices such as where and how to cross streams, where to place roads and skid trails, and when work should be halted due to wet weather.

Before conducting any timber sale you should always consult with a professional forester who can assist you with your sale. A professional forester as well as most attorneys can also write you a timber sale contract. Once you have a timber sale contract written make sure you review it and understand everything that is outlined in the contract. Keep in mind that these are only a few of the points that should be included in a timber sale contract and thus why it is very important that you seek assistance from a professional forester. If you would like more information on timber sale contracts please contact me at (936) 639-8180 or contact your local Texas Forest Service office.

Want to See Examples of BMPs at Work?

You can take a “Virtual Tour” of the Jones State Forest and Kirby State Forest BMP Demonstration sites on the TFS website. Color photographs depict many BMPs with explanations about application as well as installation techniques.

Go to <http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu> and click on **Forest Management**, then Water Quality, then look under Forest Tours.

Who Can Answer My BMP Questions?

Your local forester can answer most of your questions pertaining to BMPs but if you do not have a forester the Texas Forest Service can help. The Texas Forest Service has a staff that is dedicated to working with BMPs and landowners.

Assistance with your BMP needs can be obtained by contacting one of the BMP Foresters.

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Improving My Land

Streamside Management Zones

A great way to improve and protect your forestland is by creating a Streamside Management Zone, or SMZ. An SMZ is a protective buffer of vegetation along a stream or creek. As a general rule of thumb a 50-foot buffer of trees on both sides of the stream is usually sufficient for protecting water quality.



Streamside Management Zones are easily visible in this photo.

SMZs help improve your land by:

- Reducing the amount of sediment or dirt that may get into a stream
- Providing shade to maintain a consistent water temperature for the fish and the insects that they eat
- Stabilizing stream banks and protecting them from erosion
- Providing habitat and travel corridors for wildlife.

Don't forget that you can harvest (thin) in an SMZ and still be within the voluntary guidelines. Just leave 50% of the shade for a distance of 50 feet from the bank on both sides.

Ask your logging contractor or other forestry professional about SMZs. Your land will benefit in many ways and you can show your commitment to being a good “Land Steward.”

BMP Training Workshop Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary Hughes Simpson – Texas Forest Service

The Texas Forest Service and Texas Forestry Association are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the logger Best Management Practices (BMP) training workshop. The first training session was held in Lufkin on July 6, 1995. Since that date, the Texas Forest Service has trained almost 3,000 people in 110 BMP workshops held throughout East Texas.

“It is truly amazing that this program has been in place this long. If you asked me when we started, I thought we would have trained everyone after 3 or 4 years,” said Burl Carraway, co developer of the workshop.

In the beginning, proactive loggers were quick to attend. After that initial flush of attendees, getting participants for the workshop was more of a challenge. “I remember having to drum up support through advertising, visiting with industry personnel and even putting flyers in logger’s paychecks,” said Carraway.

After several years of hard work, the effort finally paid off. Forest industry began recognizing the importance of these workshops in protecting water quality when harvesting timber. With the adoption of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the industry incorporated this training program into their mandatory requirements. Member mills decided to no longer accept wood from loggers who did not have this training. They even required their own employees to attend these workshops.

Forestry BMPs are determined to be an effective and practical means of preventing and reducing the amount of water pollution generated by forest management. They are only recommended guidelines established by the Texas Forest Service for landowners, foresters, and loggers to use when harvesting timber.

Over the past 15 years, water quality BMPs have kept 95,961 tons of soil per year on the East Texas forest floor, enough soil to cover a football field, end zone to end zone, 33 feet deep. The practices also kept 11,831 tons of dirt per year out of lakes and reservoirs.

These one day workshops consist of an indoor morning session of discussions, videos, and a slide presentation. After lunch, the class visits a recently harvested tract and discusses on-the-ground applications of BMP. The importance of protecting water quality is stressed to the attendees, as well as what might happen if forestry regulations were in effect.

This workshop, along with classes on Silviculture/Wildlife/Wetlands, Safety, Business Management, and Logging Aesthetics are part of the Texas Forestry Association’s Professional Logger Program. This Pro-Logger certification is designed to increase environmental awareness and sustainable forestry practices, and help adhere to OSHA safety requirements.

For more information on protecting water quality through Best Management Practices, please contact the Texas Forest Service at the Lufkin Office (936) 639-8180. To register for a BMP workshop or any of the others required for *Pro Logger certification*, please contact the Texas Forestry Association (936) 632-8733.

Distribution of the *Sam Rayburn BMP Informer* is provided free of charge to forest landowners of Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties. Funding has been provided through cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Forest Service (TFS). **If you would like for your name to be removed from our mailing list please contact Shane Harrington at (936) 639-8180 or sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu.**

The Texas Forest Service is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to Excellence Through Diversity.

Looking for a Good Logging Contractor?

The Texas Forest Service maintains a list of all logging contractors who have attended the TFS/TFA Forestry Best Management Practices Workshop. This list is available at any TFS district office.

You can also access a list of BMP-trained loggers on the Texas Forestry Association's website at <http://www.texasforestry.org>. Click on *Logger Training Records*. TFA's list also shows the other courses completed by the loggers, 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.



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