EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program evaluated the level of implementation of voluntary forestry BMPs in East Texas. A total of 150 randomly selected sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were monitored between June 28, 2010, and September 9, 2011, 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 94.1%. In general, implementation was highest on sites under public ownership. These national forestland sites had an overall implementation of 98.3%, while industrial sites had a 97.7% implementation rating. Corporate lands (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 96.7% overall, while family forest owners scored 88.0%.

Implementation with BMPs was statistically higher when:

- the landowner was familiar with BMPs
- the logging contractor had attended formal BMP training
- a forester was involved in the sale or activity
- BMPs were included in the timber sale contract
- the property had certification in the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS®)
- the timber was delivered to a Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) mill
- the landowner had a forest management plan

Implementation was generally lowest on sites when:

- owned by family forest owners
- a forester was not involved in the sale or activity
- BMPs were not included in the timber sale contract
- the landowner did not have a forest management plan
- the logger had not attended the BMP workshop

Major deficiencies noted during the evaluations included:

- failure to remove and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads
- inadequate SMZ width along intermittent and perennial streams

Major improvements from previous rounds included:

- overall BMP implementation across all ownerships
- overall BMP implementation on temporary roads and skid trails
- overall BMP implementation on stream crossings