EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Best Management Practices (BMP) monitoring program evaluated the level of implementation with voluntary forestry BMPs. A total of 156 sites on which silvicultural activities occurred were evaluated. These sites were monitored between May 7, 2003 and July 1, 2005 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 sites monitored was 91.7%. In general, implementation was highest on sites under public ownership. These national and state forestland sites had an overall implementation of 98.3%, while industry sites had a 95.7% implementation rating. Corporate lands (commercial landowners that do not have wood processing facilities) scored 96.0% overall while family forest owners scored 88.9%.

Implementation with BMPs was statistically significantly 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 landowner was a member of a forest organization
- the timber was delivered to a Sustainable Forestry Initiative[SM] (SFI[SM]) mill
- the landowner lived in a non-metropolitan area
- the landowner was not absentee

Implementation was generally lowest on sites when:

- owned by family forest owners
- the logger had not attended the BMP workshop
- BMPs were not included in the timber sale contract

Major deficiencies noted during the evaluations were:

- failure to restore and stabilize stream crossings on temporary roads
- failure to remove logging debris from streams

Major improvements from previous rounds were:

- a decrease in the number of significant risks to water quality
- a higher overall BMP implementation on permanent and temporary roads
- an increase in BMP implementation on family forest lands

In previous rounds (1, 2, and 3) of monitoring, tracts were graded for implementation using a "Pass or Fail" method. In Round 4, a new system was developed that uses percentages to denote implementation. This method was continued in Rounds 5 and 6.