

# THE TEXAS WATER SOURCE

UPDATING FRANKLIN, TITUS, MORRIS, & CAMP CO. FOREST LANDOWNERS ON FORESTRY AND WATER ISSUES

## Why Have a Forest Management Plan?

If you were to ask a forester to define forest management, he or she would probably tell you something like: "Forest management is the application of appropriate technical forestry principles, practices and business techniques to the management of a forest to achieve the owner's objectives." Stated more simply, forest management is providing a forest the proper care so that it remains healthy and vigorous and provides the products and the amenities the landowner desires.

It is important to have a forestry professional involved in the planning process. This planning process includes careful identification of landowner objectives, inventory of resources, development and implementation of the management strategy to be used, and periodic re-evaluation of the strategy.

A managed forest achieves a landowner's objectives more quickly than does an unmanaged forest.

Having a written management plan, whether a single-focus timber management plan or a multi-use stewardship plan, is important for the forest landowner. It can enable you as a landowner to make educated decisions concerning the future of your forest, keep you from making costly forest management mistakes and help you if you want to qualify for cost-share and other incentive programs.

In any management plan, references should be made to Best Management Practices (BMPs) that protect water quality and help prevent soil erosion during forest management activities.

In writing a multi-use stewardship plan, other practices can be included that enhance wildlife habitat, provide recreational opportunities, improve forest aesthetics, protect historical and cultural resources, or whatever the landowner considers as an important objective.

For more information:

- <http://ohioline.osu.edu/for-fact/pdf/0034.pdf>
- [http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/NR\\_FF\\_003.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/NR_FF_003.pdf)
- [http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/florida\\_forestry\\_information/forest\\_management/plan.html](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/florida_forestry_information/forest_management/plan.html)
- <http://texasforestserv.vice.tamu.edu/BMP>

## Who Can Help With a Plan?

Management plans can be written by a Texas Forest Service or other professional forester.

We highly recommend the use of professional consultants in managing your property. A list of forestry consultants and timber buyers can be found on the TFS website at <http://texasforestserv.vice.tamu.edu/uploadedfiles/frd/referral.pdf>.

For products used in protecting soils and water quality, go to <http://texasforestserv.vice.tamu.edu/BMP> and click on "Publications."

For BMP-trained loggers, visit <http://texasforestry.org/programs/logger-pro/>.

For more detailed input on wildlife or pond management, contact your local TPWD or NRCS office.

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*Agency Spotlight***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers****For more information:**

- <http://www.usace.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/home.aspx>
- <http://www.usace.army.mil/environment/Pages/home.aspx>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approximately 34,000 dedicated Civilians and Soldiers delivering engineering services to customers in more than 90 countries worldwide.

With environmental sustainability as a guiding principle, the Corps is working diligently to strengthen our Nation's security by building and maintaining America's infrastructure and providing military facilities where our service members train, work and live.

The Corps also dredges America's waterways to support the movement of critical commodities and providing recreation opportunities at our campgrounds, lakes and marinas. By devising hurricane and storm damage reduction infrastructure, they are reducing risks from disasters.

Another function of the Corps is protecting and restoring the Nation's environment, including cleaning sites contaminated with hazardous, toxic or ra-

dioactive waste and material in an effort to sustain the environment.

The Corps manages hundreds of lakes nationwide, including Lake O' the Pines. Corps personnel focus the resources of these lakes to meet a wide variety of purposes including generating power for homes and businesses; supplying water for nearby communities; and providing recreational get-away spots for camping, fishing, boating, hiking and more; all the while striving to be good stewards of the environment in these areas.

Corps personnel work closely with nearby communities, businesses and organizations at all the lakes it manages to try to find the balance among various priorities that is appropriate for that area. They work to implement a regional watershed approach that takes into consideration the effect changes at a lake will have on nearby, related water resources such as rivers, wetlands, and coasts .

**COE's Institute for Water Resources****For more information:**

- <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/>
- <http://www.vtn.iwr.usace.army.mil/default.htm>

The multi-faceted Army COE is made up of several Centers of Expertise, one of them being the Institute for Water Resources (IWR). The IWR has its headquarters in Alexandria, VA; and has centers located in Alexandria, New Orleans and Davis, CA.

Since its beginning in 1969, the Institute for Water Resources has been supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Directorate. Civil Works' primary responsibility is to help manage and protect the nation's rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastal shoreline. These efforts are carried out through its major business programs:

- Coastal Storm Damage Reduction
- Emergency Management
- Environment

- Flood Damage Reduction
- Hydropower
- Navigation-Deep Draft
- Navigation-Inland
- Recreation
- Regulatory
- Water Supply

One of the great challenges the Corps and other government agencies face is finding the right balance among the often conflicting concerns our society has related to our water resources. The Corps seeks to achieve the best possible balance among these competing demands by focusing on regional solutions involving an array of stakeholders (i.e. other government agencies, environmental groups, businesses and private organizations).

## Bacteria Impairments on Big Cypress Creek

Big Cypress Creek and its tributaries are located in the Cypress Creek Basin in northeast Texas. Big Cypress Creek flows in an east-southeast direction into Lake Cypress Springs, next into Lake Bob Sandlin, then to Lake O' the Pines and finally to Caddo Lake before entering Louisiana.

Lake O' the Pines and the other waterbodies in its watershed are extremely important to the surrounding region. Lake O' the Pines provides drinking water for seven cities, numerous rural water districts and several steel manufacturing and electricity-generating companies. The city of Longview, with a population of 70,000, is also planning to use the lake as a drinking water source. The lake is an important resource to the timber industry and agricultural enterprises such as the poultry industry, dairies, cow/calf operations, and for irrigation. Recreation and tourism are significant sources of income for residents of the watershed. Boating and fishing for trophy bass, catfish and crappie lure large numbers of recreational users each year.

Big Cypress Creek as well as the tributaries Tankersley and Hart creeks between Lake Bob Sandlin and Lake O' the Pines are impaired for having bacteria levels that exceed state water quality standards.

**The Big Cypress Creek Modeling and Bacterial Source Tracking (BST)** project was developed to address these impairments. The goal of this project is to restore water quality to Big Cypress, Tankersley and Hart creeks by providing stakeholders and agencies with sufficient information to address local bacteria impairments through verifying current water body uses, revision of water quality standards and/or designated uses, or development of a watershed protection plan or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

In order to communicate project goals, activities, results and accomplishments to affected parties, public stakeholder meetings are being held as needed. The organizational/kick-off meeting was held on 8/25/2009. A second meeting presenting results from initial data analysis and the GIS inventory was held in Mount Pleasant on 2/4/2010. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **May 2010**.

As the contributing watershed, Big Cypress Creek has already been a large part of the focus of a TMDL project, designed to improve/restore water quality in Lake O' the Pines. The TMDL determined that low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the reservoir are due to high rates of photosynthesis and respiration in aquatic vegetation, resulting from large amounts of phosphorus. This project determined that a 56 percent reduction in total phosphorus is needed to restore water quality. An implementation plan was developed to reduce phosphorus amounts from the contributing watershed. Many of the implementation strategies designed to reduce phosphorus loadings are expected to have a positive impact on reducing bacteria loadings to Big Cypress Creek.

Through the Lake O' the Pines TMDL project, watershed stakeholders became extremely familiar with water quality rules and regulations as well as approaches to watershed planning. As such, local stakeholders have expressed interest in taking an active role in addressing the bacteria impairments.

For more information on The Big Cypress Creek Modeling and BST project contact the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) at (979) 845-1851, email TWRI at [twri@tamu.edu](mailto:twri@tamu.edu) or visit the program website at <http://bcc.tamu.edu/>.

### For more information:

- <http://bcc.tamu.edu/>
- [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqmq/305\\_303.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqmq/305_303.html)
- <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>

### *Did you know...*

Nitrogen and phosphorus act as fertilizer for aquatic plants. Excessive plant and algae growth create water quality problems.

**Updating Franklin, Titus, Morris, & Camp Co. Forest Landowners on Forestry and Water Issues**

Distribution of *The Texas Water Source* is provided free of charge to forest landowners of Franklin, Titus, Morris, and Camp Counties. Funding has been provided through cooperation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and Texas Forest Service (TFS). PLEASE ADVISE US IF YOU WISH FOR YOUR NAME TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.

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

*Texas Forest Service offices serving Franklin, Titus, Morris, & Camp Counties:*

**Brian Pope**, District Forester, Pittsburg  
(903) 856-7181  
bpope@tfs.tamu.edu

**Chris Duncan**, BMP Forester, Longview  
(903) 297-3910  
cduncan@tfs.tamu.edu

Best Management Practices Project  
P. O. Box 310  
Lufkin, TX 75902-0310

Phone: 936-639-8180

Email: dwork@tfs.tamu.edu

## Lake O' the Pines Contacts

Lake O' the Pines is in the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Their mission: to "supply water to the North East Municipal Water District and their customers and to provide flood protection to Shreveport, Louisiana and the Red River; also to offer some of the best fishing, camping and boating in Texas."

U.S.A.C.E.  
Lake O' the Pines  
2669 FM 726  
Jefferson, TX 75657

Phone: (903) 665-2336

Hours: M - F, 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Camping Reservations: 1-877-444-677 or  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Website: <http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/lakeopines/>



TDD Line: 1-866-419-4872