

Timber Tellings

Funding Available for Longleaf Pine Restoration

Texas A&M Forest Service

COLLEGE STATION, TX — Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team have announced available funding for private landowners interested in restoring and enhancing longleaf pine ecosystems on their property. Grants have been made available by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and International Paper (NYSE: IP) through the Forestland Stewards Initiative. Funding was granted to help conserve and restore this iconic and important American landscape.

Longleaf pine ecosystems are a natural part of East Texas, and once spanned over 92 million acres across the American south. By the early 2000s, that number had fallen to 3.2 million acres. Thanks to longleaf pine restoration programs, that number has begun to rise again – today it’s up to 4.7 million acres – but it is still just 5% of their original volume.

Beyond their ties to Texas heritage, longleaf pine ecosystems also provide a critical habitat for the most diverse plant and wildlife ecosystems on the continent. More than 40 plant species have been identified within a single square meter of longleaf pine forests, with up to 140 different species per quarter-acre, all inside of a prairie-style understory that houses few shrubs or woody plants. This environment is ideal for game species – such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey and quail – as well as more endangered species, like the pocket gopher, Louisiana pine snake, Bachman’s sparrow and the red-cockaded woodpecker.

“The contributions made by IP and NFWF through the Forestland Stewards Initiative will go a long way to restoring one of the most critical and diverse forest ecosystems within the state of Texas,” said Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head at Texas A&M Forest Service.

Populations of longleaf pine began dwindling in the 20th century, when timber harvesting was at its peak in East Texas. Longleaf pine was harvested for its high quality fiber, huge diameter and tall, straight boles, which in turn produced high quality lumber. Texas A&M Forest Service, along with the Forestland Stewards Initiative and the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team, hope these qualities also produce an economic incentive for landowners to plant and sustainably harvest longleaf pine.

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Market Report- Nov/Dec 2020

Product	Statewide Ave. Price		Previous Ave. Price		Price/ Ton Difference	
	Weight	Volume	Weight	Volume		
Pine- Sawlogs	\$23.50/Ton	\$188.03/MBF	\$23.39/Ton	\$187.12/MBF	0%	↑
Pine-Pulpwood	\$7.38/Ton	\$19.93/Cord	\$6.95/Ton	\$18.76/Cord	6%	↑
Pine-Chip-n-saw	\$14.26/Ton	\$38.50/Cord	\$13.99/Ton	\$37.77/Cord	2%	↑
Mixed Hardwood- Sawlogs	\$30.57/Ton	\$275.16/MBF	\$30.53/Ton	\$274.78/MBF	0%	↑
Hardwood- Pulpwood	\$7.62/Ton	\$21.33/Cord	\$8.28/Ton	\$23.18/Cord	-8%	↓

Texas Timber Price Trends is a bimonthly publication reporting average prices paid for standing timber in Texas. This report is intended only as a guide to general price levels. It should not be used to judge the fair market value of a specific timber sale, which may vary considerably due to many factors. It is recommended that you use the services of a professional consulting forester in managing any timber sale. Important factors affecting timber prices include the type, quality and volume of timber for sale, accessibility, distance to mills/markets, weather conditions, economy/market conditions, who is handling the sale or is buying the timber, and contract requirements by the landowner. The complete Texas Timber Price Trends can be viewed at <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/timberpricetrends>.

Texas A&M Forest Service Launches Forest Stewardship Dashboard

Texas A&M Forest Service

How valuable is it to actively manage your forestland? Landowners can now explore the added financial and environmental benefits of land management through the Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Stewardship Dashboard.

The new website highlights both the values and stories of the state agency's Forest Stewardship Program. The program helps landowners achieve their property goals, increase their profits, sustain environmental functions and improve the overall health of their land by providing professional assistance tailored to individual needs.

"The new dashboard demonstrates the value that managed forests have versus non-managed forests," said Shane Harrington, Texas A&M Forest Service Program Leader. "This can vary, but includes increased growth — meaning more timber and direct profit, and higher quality water and air, creating healthier lives for Texans."

One way the dashboard showcases this added value is through data. For example, when landowners steward their land, forests can produce up to 53 more tons of wood per acre during their lifetime.

"The values section of the dashboard estimates economic values related to increased timber production, carbon sequestration, water management and wildlife habitat," said Harrington.

Along with values, the dashboard also features video and testimonial stories of Texas landowners who have seen financial and environmental benefits from land stewardship.

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Managed Lands Deer Program Enrollment is Now Open for 2021-22 Season

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Enrollment in the Managed Lands Deer Program (MLDP) is now open for the 2021-22 hunting season. Open enrollment for the MLDP Conservation Option runs from April 5 through June 15 this year while the Harvest Option opens May 1 and runs through Sept. 1. New this year, fees are being charged for each enrollment option. Enrollments and fee payments can all be made through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Land Management Assistance [online system](#). Payments can be made by credit card only.

Enrollment fees for each MLDP option are as follows:

Conservation Option:

- Standalone Property: \$300 for the first management unit, \$30 for each additional management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$300
- Wildlife Management Cooperative member: \$30 per management unit

Harvest Option:

- Standalone Property: \$30 per management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$30

The Land Management Assistance online system will require landowners hoping to enroll to create an account and draw a property boundary. An email address is required for the landowner and any designated agents the landowner may assign to the account.

MLDP is a program intended to foster and support sound management and stewardship of native wildlife and wildlife habitats on private lands in Texas. Deer harvest is an important aspect of habitat management and conservation. Landowners enrolled in either the MLDP Harvest Option or Conservation Option can take advantage of extended season lengths and property-specific customized harvest opportunities.

The Harvest Option is an automated, 'do-it-yourself' option for MLDP participation that provides landowners with a deer harvest recommendation, tag issuance and general guidance about wildlife and wildlife habitat management. Participation in the Harvest Option does not require habitat management practices, deer population data or the participant to work directly with a TPWD wildlife biologist.

The Conservation Option offers program participants the opportunity to work with a TPWD biologist to receive customized, ranch-specific habitat and deer harvest recommendations and MLDP tag issuance for white-tailed deer and/or mule deer. This option does require the reporting of certain types of deer data as well as completion of specific habitat management practices each year to participate and remain in the program.

Once enrolled, program participants must meet MLDP requirements for the full year of enrollment. Learn more about [MLDP](#) on the TPWD website.

Websites of Interest

<https://TexasForestInfo.tamu.edu>

Check out these FREE landowner tools that can assist you in making land management decisions on your property.

<https://www.TexasForestry.org>

Lobbying on various forestry and environmental issues that directly affect you, publishing and sponsoring educational events are just a few of many things that Texas Forestry Association does. Find out more about what Texas Forestry Association does for you and why you should be involved!

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu>

Find a plethora of forest management resources and many people that can assist you in your forest management goals.

<https://tpwd.texas.gov>

Find out more information on wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and much more!

<https://nrcs.usda.gov>

Find out more information on natural resource conservation and federal programs in your area.

MyLandManagementConnector.com

Find and connect with service providers in your area to get assistance with land management practices on your property

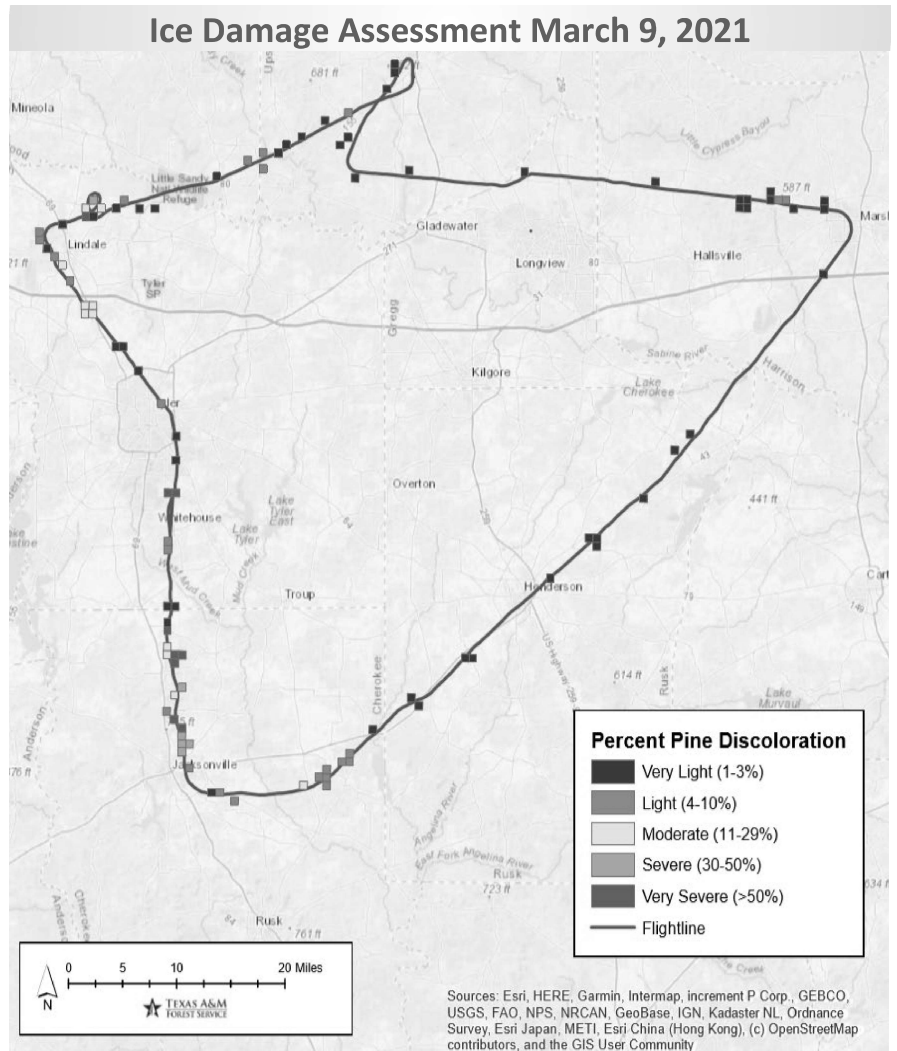
Texas A&M Forest Service Performs Winter Storm Damage Assessment

Texas A&M Forest Service

Ice accumulation, like that of Winter Storm Uri, is an infrequent but potentially injurious disturbance to forests in East Texas. Event severity, tree tolerance to ice accumulation, event duration, individual tree properties, and post-event trauma all impact a tree's ability to survive ice accumulation. To assess damages by Winter Storm Uri to the forest resources in East Texas, the Texas A&M Forest Service performed two aerial surveys.

The first aerial survey of 509,084 acres evaluated tree breakage. While all age classes of pine were observed, special attention was paid to areas of higher risk for damage such as younger, denser plantations. Aerial observation noted no significant damage to the timber resource.

Shortly after the storm, landowners and land managers started to notice a color change in the needles of some trees. A second flight was performed surveying 527,500 acres, this time for tree discoloration. The amount of discoloration varied from location to location. More discoloration was seen in the Western portion of the flight path than the Eastern.



Varying discoloration is not unusual because trees differ when it comes to freeze tolerance based on tree type, location within the stand, stand age and height, and overall tree and forest health. Tree foliage showing signs of freeze damage were likely impaired from the formation of ice crystals inside the leaf cells causing the cell's walls to rupture. Native trees are adapted to this and responded by shutting off (abscising) leaves (needles) that were no longer functioning causing a discoloration of leaves. "The most common sign of freeze damage on trees is the turning of needles and leaves from a dark green to a strange reddish-gray color," said Eric Taylor, Texas A&M Forest Service Silviculturist. "Other than the strange color, the crowns of these trees seem to be fully intact and show minimal breakage from ice loads."

"This is another example of how it pays to proactively manage forests," said Taylor. "There will likely be some losses, but if the tree was relatively healthy before the freeze, it should have enough available, stored carbohydrates (food) to set new buds and form new leaves (needles) this spring."

Texas A&M Forest Service foresters are asking landowners not to panic. Landowners should just now be seeing signs of new growth on their freeze damaged trees. However, continue to monitor your forest for disease and insect activity. Work with a Professional Forester or Certified Arborist if you have specific trees or areas of concern.

Funding Available for Longleaf Pine Restoration, Continued

“The forest sector contributes \$41 billion to the Texas economy annually,” said Simpson. “This project will add to that contribution, while providing critical habitat to endangered plant and animal species in Texas, clean drinking water and carbon storage.”

Available funding can assist landowners with the cost of site-preparation and tree planting, as well as longleaf maintenance practices like prescribed burning and other activities that promote forest stand improvement.

Landowners interested in planting or restoring longleaf pine on their property can apply for financial assistance with [THIS FORM](#). Texas A&M Forest Service is also accepting applications from landowners looking to enhance already established stands of longleaf pine.



Photo Credit: Texas A&M Forest Service

For more information about longleaf pine initiatives and how to apply for financial assistance, visit: <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/longleaf>

The deadline for applications is April 15th, 2021. All applications should be emailed to TexasLongleafTeam@gmail.com. Hard copies can be mailed to the following address:

Texas A&M Forest Service
Forest Systems Department
200 Technology Way #1281
College Station, TX 77845

Contacts:

Hughes Simpson, Forest Systems Department Head, Texas A&M Forest Service,
hsimpson@tfs.tamu.edu, (979) 458-6658

Jenny Sanders, Texas Longleaf Implementation Team Coordinator, TexasLongleafTeam@gmail.com, 936-225-2175

Texas A&M Forest Service Communications Office, newsmedia@tfs.tamu.edu, 979-458-6606

Texas A&M Forest Service Launches Forest Stewardship Dashboard, Continued

“The dashboard stories highlight the important initiatives across the state that are working to enhance natural resources,” said Harrington.

Working together, Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas landowners can move toward a brighter future with thriving forestlands, healthy economic rewards and sustained environmental benefits.

Visit the new Forest Stewardship Dashboard and explore the benefits that stewarded land provides
<https://texasforestinfo.tamu.edu/stewardship/values>.

To learn more about the Forest Stewardship Program and gain assistance on writing a stewardship plan for your land, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/stewardship/>.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 16, 2021 12:00pm-1:00pm Growing Opportunities Webinar: Texas Forestry Association will host a FREE webinar for forest landowners. Wayne Pfluger, Consulting Forester/Texas Chapter ACF will discuss the elements of a management plan, and Michael Easley, Tree Farm Chair and Susan Stutts, TFA, will present the 2021 Tree Farm Certification Standards. Registration is required. To register for this event, visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1505105&group=>

Friday, April 30, 2021 – Application for Timber Productive Appraisal: If your property is being taxed at Market Value, an application to have it appraised at the Timber Productive value rather than Market Value must be submitted to your County Appraisal District before May 1. Timber Productive Value is usually significantly lower than Market Value and will reduce your property taxes. Contact your County Appraisal District for the application forms that must be submitted.

Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:00 am- Texas Pro-Logger Training Location: Kellyville Community Center, 130 Park Rd, Jefferson, TX 75657-The Texas Logging Council will host a 6.0 hour continuing education training for Texas Pro Loggers. To find out more information or to register for this event visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1506283>

Friday, May 21, 2021- Texas Women in the Woods Virtual Workshop: This half-day event will cover topics such as forest health, fire use/management, and soil and water conservation. Event registration information will be posted on the Texas A&M Forest Service Events page in the coming weeks.

Friday, June 25, 2021 7:30 am- Texas Pro-Logger Training Location: Texas Forestry Association 1903 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin, TX 75901-The Texas Logging Council will host a 6.0 hour continuing education training for Texas Pro Loggers. To find out more information or to register for this event visit <https://member.texasforestry.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1506290>

Ongoing- If you have had a recent timber harvest and would be interested in getting feedback on how well your newly harvested site reflects Best Management Practices please call the Best Management Practices Forester, Sarah Bailey, at 936-208-6219. Best Management Practices are guidelines put in place to prevent erosion and decreased water quality during and post timber harvest.

Carbon Markets

Texas Forestry Association continues to monitor the increasingly popular carbon market and will have more education and information soon. With the new emphasis on the issue of climate change, carbon trading companies are appearing rapidly. TFA's best advice is to explore more than one option and to verify through your attorney or trusted advisor. Contract lengths vary in length, there are restrictions on forest management and land use, and levels of payment. Do not rush into any agreements before you do your diligence.

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NETFLA WEB SITE

www.netxforest.org

Northeast Texas Forest Landowners Association Newsletter, Qtr. II, 2021

Membership Meetings Are Being Postponed Due to the COVID-19 Virus

The health and well-being of every member is our first priority. Meetings will be rescheduled when conditions permit. As more and more of us are being vaccinated, we may be able to have a meeting in the Fall. We are still planning to have Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement present the next Program. The primary topic addressed will be "Timber Theft". The goal of the program will be to inform landowners of new regulations for selling timber in Texas, examples of how timber is being harvested without the landowner receiving full compensation, and best practices for minimizing the risk of theft.

The date and location for the next meeting will be communicated in future Newsletters. Please do what you can to protect your health.

Future Programs: (After Virus Restrictions)

The Board is considering several program topics for future meetings including: pine seedling genetics, a tour of the Hixon lumber mill in Gilmer, feral hogs, and an update of the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir. Please contact an Officer or your County Director if you have an issue that you would like addressed at a meeting.

NETFLA Contact and Membership Dues Information

Thank you for your NETFLA membership in past years. We hope that Newsletters, Programs and Quarterly Meetings have provided you with useful information that has helped you manage your timber property. We encourage you to continue your membership. Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year.

According to our records your 2021 Membership renewal status is as follows:

RENEWED _____ **NOT YET RENEWED** _____

Please contact us if our records are in error. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2021, please mail your check to: **NETFLA, P.O. Box 343, Daingerfield, TX 75638-0343.**

Contact: Judy Weiss (903) 645-3782, or e-mail gjweiss@windstream.net

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