

B.I.G Partner Spotlight

*“Seeing the
~~forest~~ water
for the trees”*

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.

Texas A&M Forest Service | Water Resources Program

Stewarding Texas' forests by fostering partnerships and delivering technical assistance related to the forest-water relationship.

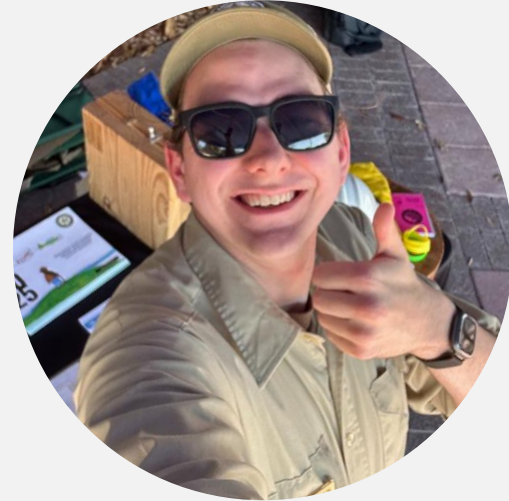
Current program areas:

- **Silviculture and timber harvest BMPs**
- **Fireline BMPs**
- **Education and outreach**
- **Watershed planning**
- **Grants for water resources related forestry practices**
- **Restoration and recovery**



Water Resources Program

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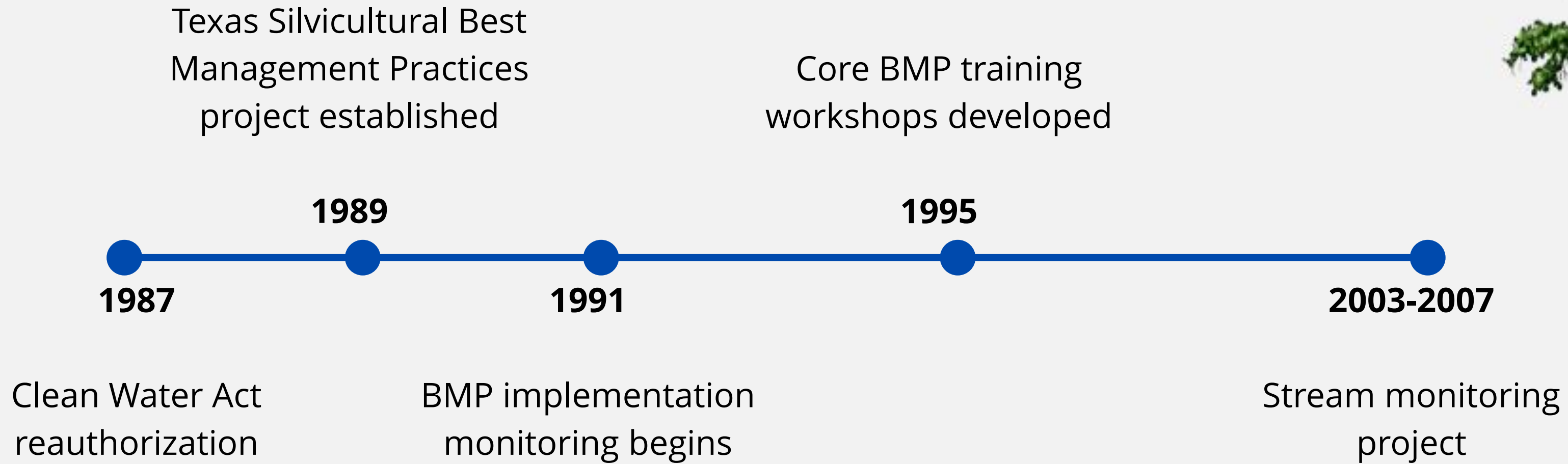
Jeff McFall
Staff Forester
San Antonio



Sam Hill
Woodland Ecologist
Houston

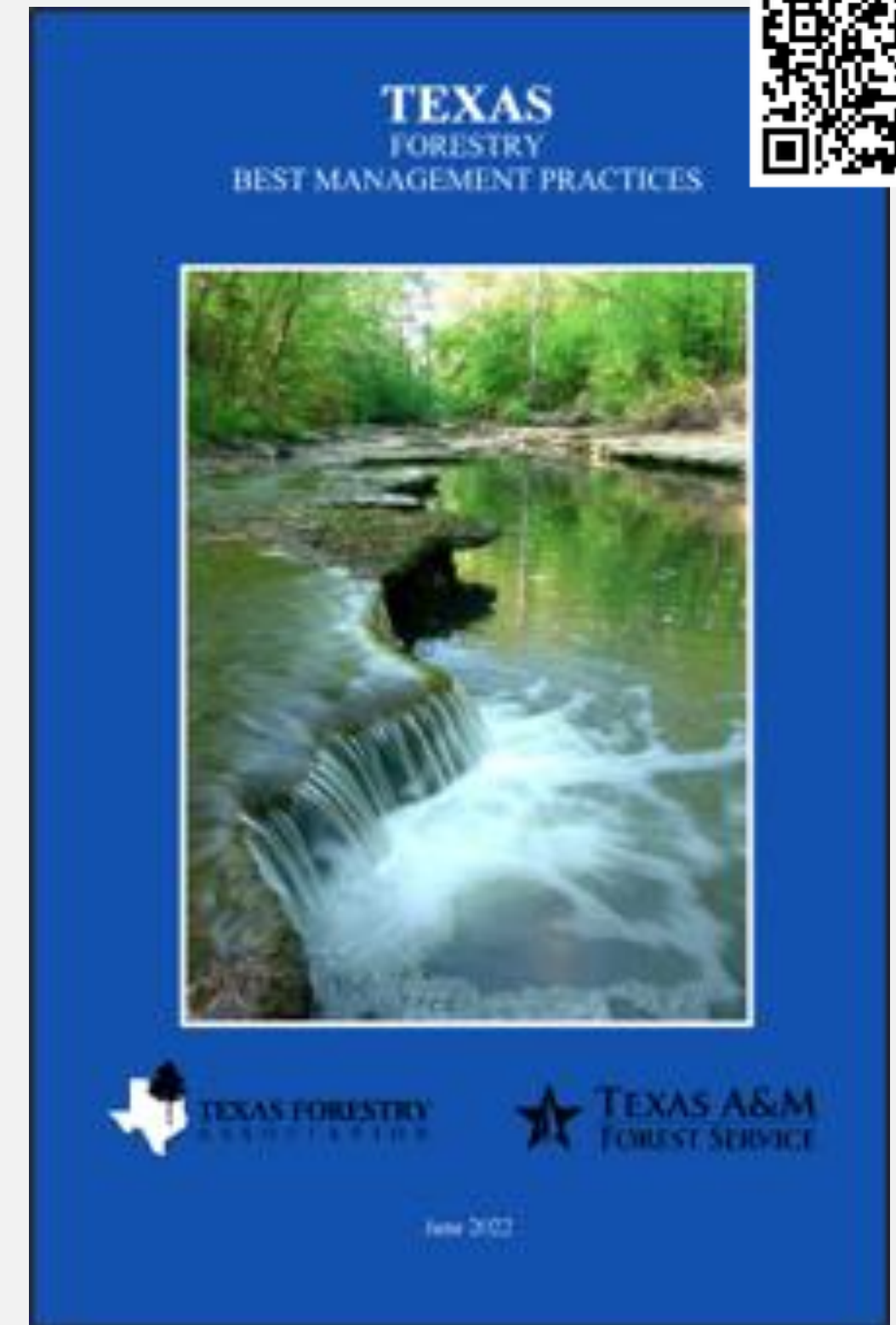


Early Program History



Timber Harvest BMPs

- **Non-regulatory approach**
- **Conservation practices that protect soil and water resources**
 - Construction of permanent roads, temporary roads/skid trails
 - Stream crossings
 - Streamside Management Zones (SMZs)
 - Site preparation
 - Landings
 - Wetlands



The *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices* handbook, AKA “the blue book”.



BMP Implementation Monitoring

- The *Texas Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Project* is funded by a CWA Section 319(h) grant from the EPA through the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB).
- **Implementation - Are BMPs being used?**
 - Measures the effectiveness of educational efforts
 - Includes a risk assessment
- **Effectiveness - Do BMPs work?**
 - Provides quantifiable data on impact
- 12 rounds of monitoring conducted between 1991-2025

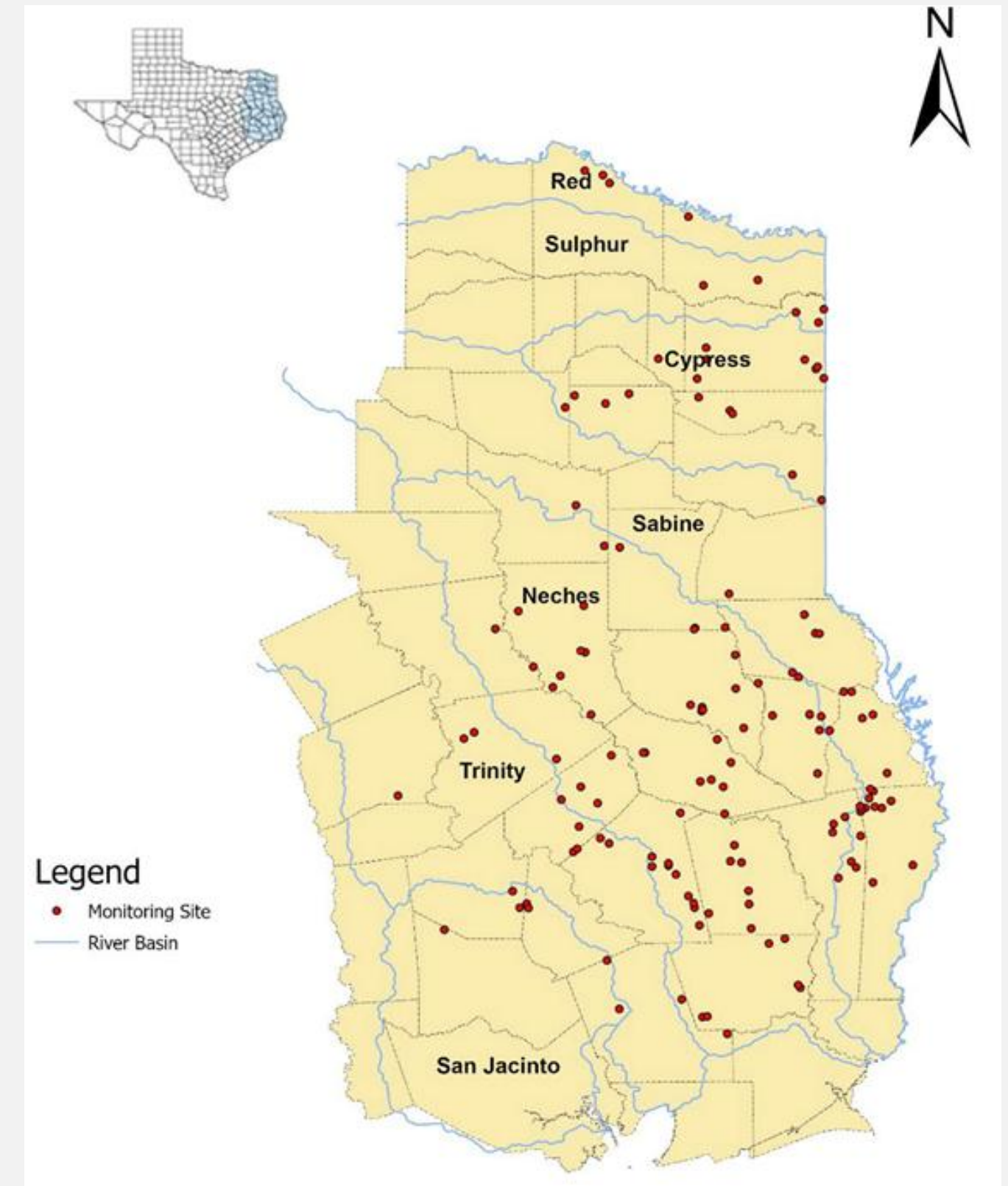


BMP Monitoring | Round 12

- 22/142 monitoring sites within Galveston Bay Lower Watershed
 - HGAC program counties: Liberty (4), Montgomery (1), Walker (2)
- BMP implementation was significantly higher when
 - A **forester** was involved,
 - The landowner was **familiar with BMPs**,
 - BMPs were **included in the contract**, and
 - A **management plan** was in place for the property.



Voluntary Implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices in East Texas; Results from Round 12 (2025).



142 silvicultural operation sites sampled over a three year period (2025).



BMP Education and Assistance

- Continuing Education Courses
 - Online BMP Refresher Training
 - Workshops; Forest Roads, Stream Crossings, SMZs
- Temporary Bridge Program
- BMP Demonstration Areas
- BMP Factsheets
- Forest Stewardship Briefings



Donna Work, Texas A&M Forest Service Biologist, leads a BMP field tour with a group of loggers.

Texas Partnership for Forests and Water

- Statewide collaboration to **increase communication and cooperation across the forest, water, corporate, and conservation sectors.**
 - 45 partnering state and federal agencies, water utilities, corporations, local government, landowners, and conservation organizations
 - Partnership meetings every other month
 - Forests & Water Forum every 2-3 years



If you are interested in receiving the TPFW Newsletter or joining the partnership, please contact TPFW@tfs.tamu.edu



TEXAS PARTNERSHIP FOR
FORESTS & WATER



Forest/Water Education & Outreach

- Landowner workshops
 - Riparian and Stream Restoration (Texas Water Resources Institute)
 - Forest landowner associations
 - Site visits and consultations
- BMP demonstration areas, factsheets, forest/water one-pagers
- Field days, fairs, and trade events
- SFA, TAMU Forestry Labs
- Newsletters, media, exhibits
- Civic group presentations

Cassidy Ince, Texas A&M Forest Service, shows off a surface runoff model at the Houston Water Works Festival (2022).



Forest Policy and Coordination



- **Forestry coordination**

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative™ Implementation Committee
- Four State BMP meeting
- Texas Forestry Association, Southern Group of State Foresters committees

- **Watershed planning**

- Watershed Protection Plans
- Regional Water Planning Groups

- **Local representation**

- Bacteria Implementation Group (HGAC)
- Water and Sediment Quality work group (GBEP)
- Houston Environmental Educators network (GBEP)
- Houston World Cup Sustainability subcommittee
- Houston Area Urban Forestry Council



WPP Implementation Grant

- Fifteen **\$50,000 grants** over five years for **projects that implement tree and forestry components of approved WPPs.**

| West Fork San Jacinto & Lake Creek Watersheds | Cypress Creek Watershed | Spring Creek Watershed |
|--|---|--|
|  Houston-Galveston Area Council |  | <p data-bbox="2292 968 2728 1001">T E X A S</p>  |
| <p data-bbox="669 1240 959 1273">Awarded 2024</p> | <p data-bbox="1519 1240 1809 1273">Awarded 2026</p> | <p data-bbox="2369 1240 2658 1273">Awarded 2026</p> |
| <p data-bbox="436 1371 1192 1405">Tree plantings in City of Conroe parks.</p> | <p data-bbox="1292 1346 2035 1427">Tree planting for forested stormwater detention basin.</p> | <p data-bbox="2109 1324 2918 1452">Riparian restoration; invasive species removal, native tree planting, community education events, water quality testing</p> |



Texas A&M Forest Service | Urban & Community Forestry Program

Building local capacity to help communities develop sustainable programs that provide Texans with healthy trees and forests.

- **Urban Forestry for Local Government**
 - Tree Ordinances, Inventorying, & Training
- **TreeCity USA / Tree Campus**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Big Tree Registry / Legacy Tree Program**
- **Community Wood Utilization**
- **Urban & Community Forestry Grants**
- **Texas Arbor Day**



Green Up Greens Bayou planting project 2026 utilizing Texas A&M Forest Service Urban Forestry Grant funds.



Contact Info

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