

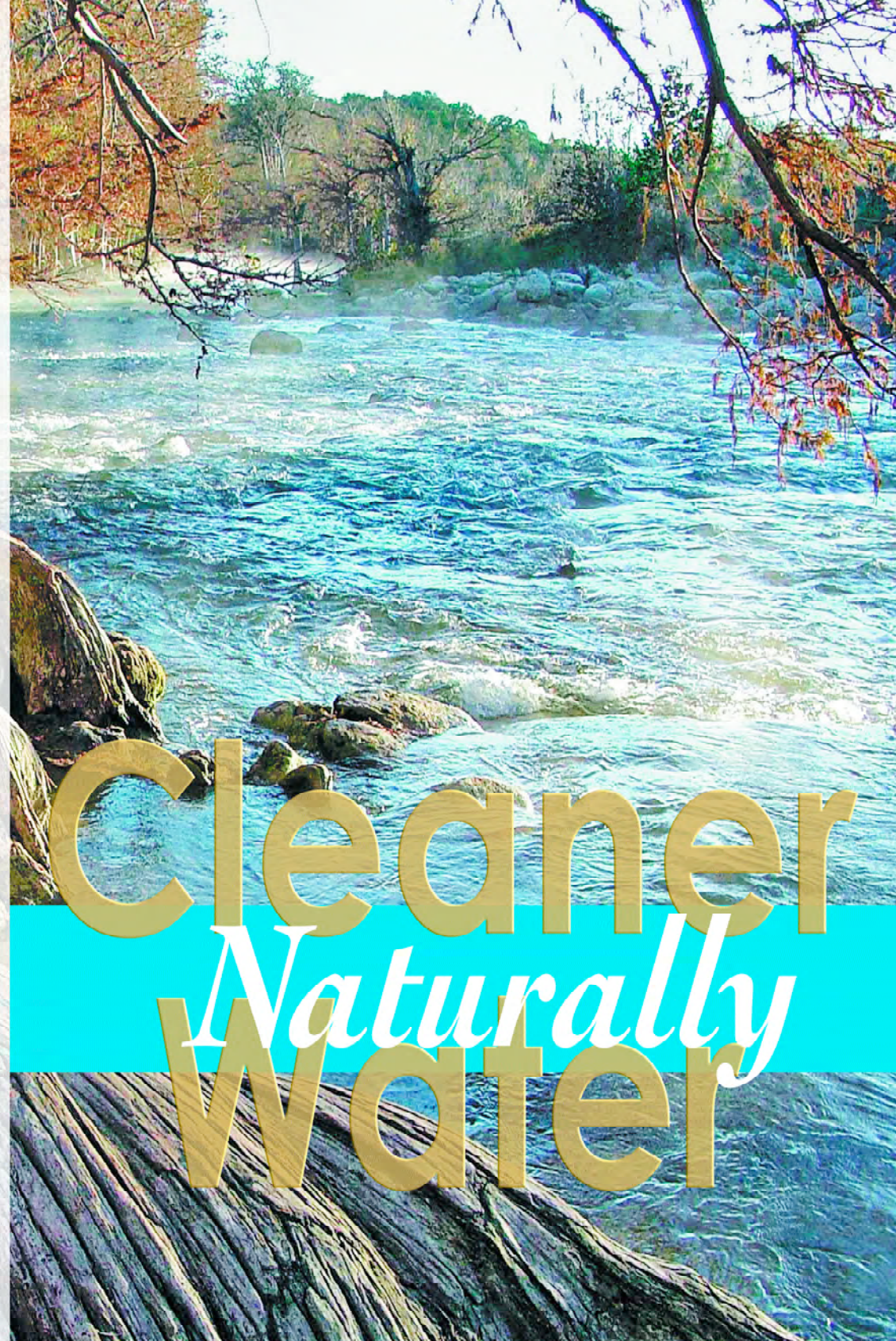
Hiring Forestry Professionals

If you want some additional income, if the wooded habitat is no longer ideal for wildlife, or if the forestscape looks more like an overgrown jungle, it might be time to contact a professional forester. Consulting foresters can make a significant difference in the appearance of your forest, so it is important to choose a proven professional. When interviewing consulting foresters, try to match their operations and methods with your personal goals and forest stand needs. Ask to see examples of their work, if they implement best management practices, and how they will care for vegetation that is not removed. For more information about choosing a consulting forester, contact the nearest Texas Forest Service office.

To begin managing your forestland with BMPs for cleaner water and more wildlife, call your local Texas Forest Service office, or visit <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu> for more information.

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Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency in cooperation with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Forest Service.





Best Management Practices *Produce* Best Benefits

As an East Texas forestland owner, you are part of an unofficial club that takes pride in its investment, and works hard to maintain its integrity. Forest landowners like you enjoy benefits of land ownership including wood, wildlife and water.

Whether you take a hands-on approach, or watch it from a distance, it is important to actively manage your forest in order to produce clean water.

To help you enhance your forest resources, Texas forestry leaders have developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the streams and creeks of East Texas. These practices are voluntary and nine out of 10 forest landowners use BMPs. Shouldn't you? When you use BMPs, you are a good land steward and help prevent prohibitive government regulations.



Clean the Water, Enhance the Wildlife

Forests produce the cleanest water of any agricultural land use, and it is everyone's responsibility to keep our water clean. Using BMPs is as easy as leaving a strip of trees along streams and creeks, and installing appropriate draining devices in roads to prevent and reduce erosion.

By leaving a strip of trees along creeks and creating a streamside management zone, BMPs enhance wildlife habitat.

Properly managed streamsid es serve as travel corridors for multiple wildlife species, and maintain steady water temperatures that fish and other aquatic species need to thrive. BMP trained loggers incorporate these and other water-protecting practices into their harvesting routine, leaving you little to worry about.

Not just a drop in the bucket

Did you know that losing a layer of soil as thin as a dime is the equivalent of losing 5 tons of soil per acre?

Even if you own only 30 acres of land, your actions can affect the surrounding environment. The streams that drain your forestland are part of a larger water system that flows to a major river, lake or ocean. Imagine how many tons of dirt would erode from the forest floor if no one used BMPs!

Installing road drainage devices, such as culverts, is one BMP that prevents erosion and protects water quality. These devices intercept and divert runoff on roads, protecting the road and ditch from erosion.

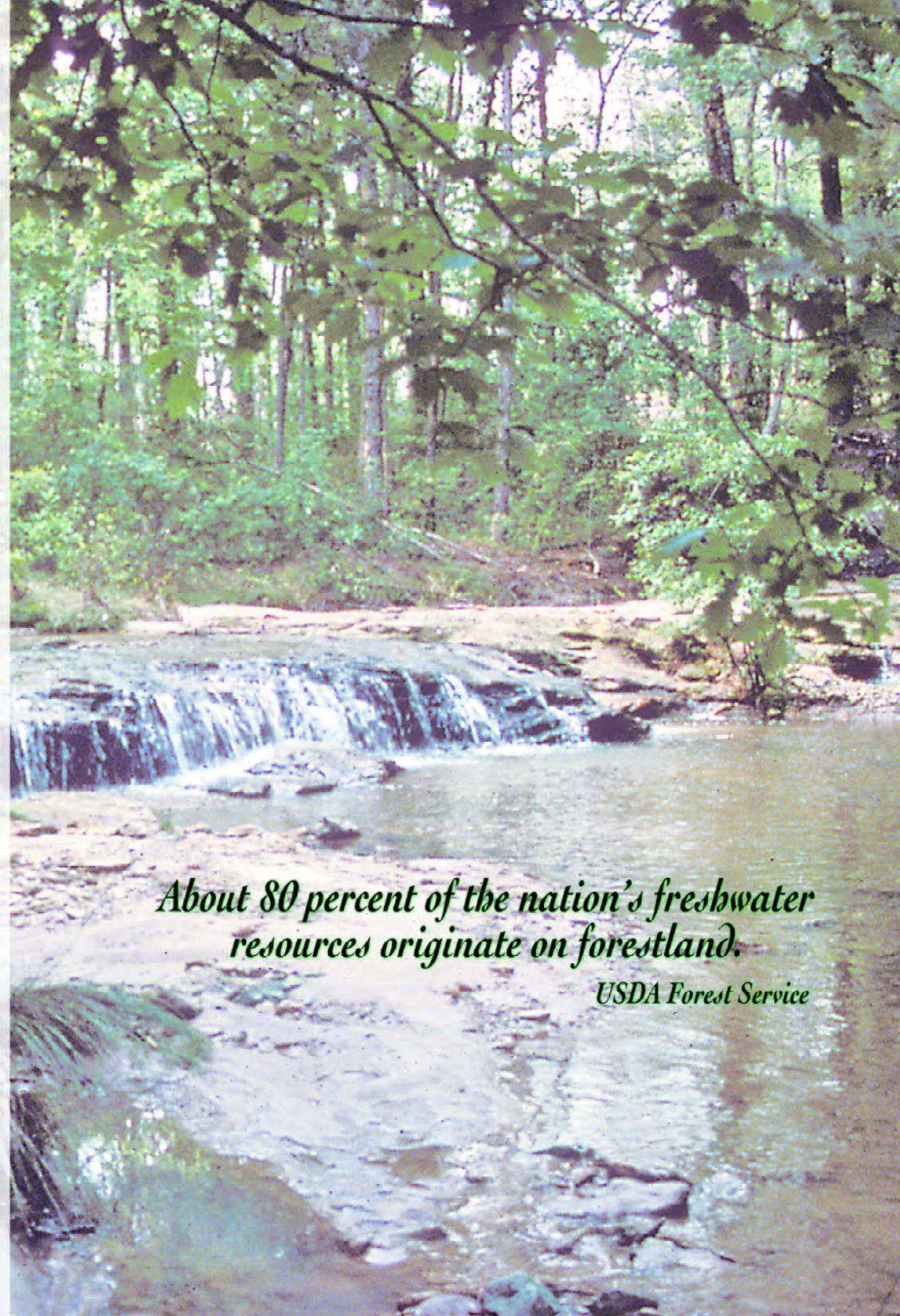


Good land stewards need more than good intentions

Any land disturbance, no matter how necessary, disrupts the forest system and may cause pollutants, such as sediment, nutrients, organic materials and chemicals, to enter streams.

The Texas BMPs are designed to help land-owners, foresters, loggers and others protect water quality during forestry activities. You can prevent, or at least greatly reduce, the pollutants from mixing with stream water when you, your consulting forester or logger uses BMPs. Texas forestry BMPs have been developed for all forestry activities, including planning; road construction and maintenance; harvesting; mechanical site preparation and planting; prescribed fire; and chemical treatments.

For more information, call your local Texas Forest Service office, or visit our Web site at <http://texasforestsERVICE.tamu.edu> for professional referral lists and details on best management practices.



About 80 percent of the nation's freshwater resources originate on forestland.

USDA Forest Service