

# East Texas Forest Recovery

The Lone Star State has been ravaged during the past year by massive wildfires and an unprecedented, unrelenting drought. Rooted in the commercial timber industry, East Texas was hit particularly hard.

## DROUGHT

Roughly 200,000 acres in East Texas were reforested during the last two planting seasons. But because of the drought, more than half that land — an estimated 116,000 acres — will need some level of reforestation.

***The estimated cost to restore those forestlands? More than \$57 million.***

## WILDFIRES

Massive wildfires also took a devastating toll on the region.

More than 2,400 wildfires scorched over 150,000 acres of forested land in East Texas during the 2011 fire season, and 75 percent of that charred land will need to be reforested as a result.

***The estimated cost to restore those forestlands? More than \$80 million.***

Damages aren't limited to reforestation costs. The unyielding wildfires created a ripple effect across the region.

More than 175 million cubic feet of East Texas timber — enough to build a 6-foot, wooden fence stretching 1.5 times around the equator — was destroyed during the fire season. Had that wood made it to the mill, it would've fetched \$208 million.

***That volume of timber could have produced \$1.6 billion worth of forest products — such as homes, furniture and paper. It would have resulted in a \$3.4 billion total economic impact in East Texas.***

For more information about the devastating effects of drought and wildfire on Texas forests, contact Forester & Farm Bill Coordinator Shane Harrington at [sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:sharrington@tfs.tamu.edu) or 254-742-9874.

**\$208 MILLION**

The delivered value of timber destroyed by wildfire in 2011.

TEXAS  
FOREST SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System

