



IN|TOUCH

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News, Ideas and Growing
Knowledge from Temple-Inland
Forest Products Corporation



Pictured at The Nature Conservancy's Timber Lake Tract are Wood Supply Group Procurement Team Leader John J. Derkits, Jr. (right), and Procurement Forester Alan Sherwin. The two worked closely with TNC in conducting a selective harvest on the tract to return the site to a natural longleaf pine forest. The image at left shows stand conditions after the selective harvest which include desirable landscape features like scattered longleaf pine and a rich herbaceous understory. The ecosystem needs plenty of sunlight and frequent fire to flourish. One of the most diverse habitats in North America, the longleaf pine ecosystem today inhabits only about four percent of its historical range throughout Texas and the Southeast.

Conservation community chooses Temple to oversee sensitive projects

Proving that taking care of the health of the forest can be synonymous with taking care of business, Temple-Inland Forest was recently tapped to oversee three forest conservation related timber sales.

The company was chosen by the Texas Forest Service (TFS) to manage an environmentally sensitive thinning harvest for a forest conservation project at E.O. Siecke State Forest in Jasper County, Texas near Kirbyville.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), another important conservation ally of Temple's, has chosen the company for two projects aimed at restoring natural longleaf pine forests at its Timber Lake tract in Hardin County, Texas; and at the North Turkey Creek Trail unit of The Big Thicket National Preserve, also in Hardin County. TNC's project at the Preserve

is being planned in coordination with the U. S. National Park Service.

Wood Supply Group Procurement Team Leader John J. Derkits, Jr., said, "Organizations like TFS and TNC have come to trust Temple to help execute their conservation and restoration projects. These groups recognize the company's commitment in meeting landowner objectives for conservation projects aimed at improving the environment and maintaining aesthetics while making proper use of the wood for valuable products."

According to Philip Gates, regeneration forester for the Texas Forest Service, the E. O. Siecke State Forest is a multiple-use forest that is managed for timber production, research, and wildlife. The predominant species include loblolly, shortleaf, and slash pine.

Gates said, "This prescribed thinning and select harvest will improve the timber stand by reducing the density of the forest and by taking out less desirable trees to release greater growth potential for the stand."

He added, "Temple has always been a good steward of their own lands and has the level of knowledge necessary to properly manage harvests in sensitive streamside management zones to maintain forest health."

The original contract with Temple dated July 2, 2002 covered 281 acres. But seven days later a severe storm damaged more than 40 acres in the stand. Another 40 acres in an adjacent tract were also damaged. Temple quickly began a salvage harvest on July 25 to prevent deterioration of the merchantable timber. Approximately 82 truckloads were harvested, supplying enough lumber to build 40 new homes. A thinning harvest on the remaining 241 acres will be completed in 2003.

Another 360 loads were produced from 240 acres between March and May 2002 at the Timber Lake Tract. The timber harvested provided enough lumber to build more than 160 homes.

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TNC's West Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion Manager Rick Jacob said, "The Timber Lake tract was a heavily stocked area that desperately needed thinning. Select harvests create openings in the canopy that help bring sunlight to the forest floor and promote greater biodiversity in the longleaf pine ecosystem."

Temple's sensitive treatment of the tract led TNC to pick the company for its pilot project with the National Park Service at the Turkey Creek unit. The purpose of this 56-acre project is to return the stand to its natural structure as a longleaf pine and little bluestem ecosystem.



This picture shows the undesirable conditions of the North Turkey Creek unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve before a thinning harvest scheduled for 2003 returns the tract to its natural structure as a longleaf pine little bluestem ecosystem. The site is currently composed of about 80 percent slash pine and 20 percent native longleaf, shortleaf and loblolly pine. Yaupon is the dominating understory plant and is shading out other native herbaceous vegetation.

Jacob said, "We needed the same environmental sensitivity and level of care that Temple gave to our Timber Lake tract for the North Turkey Creek unit. With our long history of working with the company and its reputation for being on the forefront in forestry and conservation, Temple was the obvious choice."

Revenues from the two projects will help further TNC's conservation efforts. "We are turning it around and putting it right back into the work we are doing," Jacob said.

Six Sigma project brings record achievements at Diboll Fiber Products

Customers of Temple consistently rate the company as excellent in reliability, dependability and quality. Now, successful Six Sigma projects like the one recently completed at Diboll Fiber Products Operation are helping raise the company's performance to even higher levels.

A recent Six Sigma / T.E.A.M. collaboration between the Press, Maintenance and CPI Departments of Diboll Fiber Products focused on improving reliability has enabled the plant to achieve two months of production and downtime records. In September, the Press Department reached a new production record by producing 31,388,884 mfb of hardboard, an increase of 738,000 mfb over previous levels. In October, the Fiber Products Operation reached a production record of 24,581,261 mfb of finished siding product. The project also resulted in two new downtime records. The downtime percentage for the Press Department in September was 1.9 percent followed by an October rate of just 1.2 percent.

"This accomplishment is due in large measure to the successes of the operation's mat unstacker team," said CPI Manager, Mike Gipson. The team used Six Sigma statistical and T.E.A.M. problem solving tools to design and install a rack and pinion system in mid-September that has stabilized the alignment and improved the reliability of the entire mat unstacker process. The mat unstacker picks up a single pieces of hardboard mat and feeds it to the preheater, more than 7,200 times each day.



Team members that contributed to the success of the Six Sigma Press Department project the Diboll Fiber Products Operation include (left to right), Front Row: Felix Tamez, press lead operator; Mike Gipson, CPI manager; Chuck Carter, millwright; Cecil Hance, millwright; Ernesto Aguilar, press operator; David Howell, press superintendent; Middle Row: Joe Perkins, millwright; Hector Rodriguez, buggy repairman; Back Row: Arturo Morado, millwright; Jerry Bounds, lead millwright; Eric Watson, millwright; Curtis Windsor, lubricator; Richard Collmorgen, production manager; and Roland Brock, millwright. Team members not pictured are Bobby Ryan, press supervisor; Mike Fletcher, maintenance supervisor; Norman Poteet, I.E. technician; and Michael Miles, press lead operator.

"Besides adding directly to the bottom line, accomplishments like these reconrds are adding to the reliability of the process helping Temple become even more dependable in providing accurate production projections to customers."

--Mike Gipson, CPI Manager

The project has also reduced the variation of the number of press loads per day by more than 40 percent, when compared to the benchmark established before the retrofit. Gipson said, "This has meant an increase of five and one-

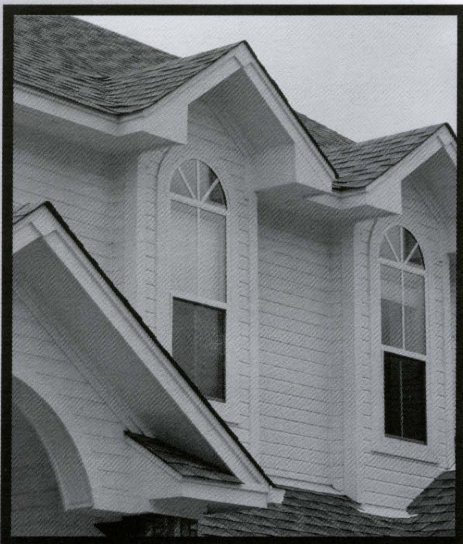


half percent more product being produced on a daily basis comparison.”

“Besides adding directly to the bottom line, accomplishments like this are adding to the reliability of the process helping Temple become even more dependable in providing accurate production projections to

customers,” Gipson added.

Contributing to the success of the project in reducing downtime were the efforts of the plant’s Humidifier Buggy Team. The group has implemented a series of refinements to the humidifier buggies. In the last step in the Press Department, buggies convey batches of 75 boards at a time to the two humidifiers. The process adds 5.5 percent moisture content to the board to increase stability.



Temple’s package of Trimcraft® cornice system products, produced at Diboll Fiber Products Operation, offer builders the best in value, beauty and consistency.

Fiber Products Production Manager Richard Collmorgen, said, “We are extremely proud of the efforts and accomplishments of these two teams. Their ingenuity, depth of knowledge and dedication are the best demonstration of how Temple maintains its competitive position in hardboard siding markets.”

The Fiber Products plant produces engineered wood products using pine chips and other reclaimed sawmill byproducts in a wet formed dry press process to produce exterior hardboard panel and lap siding and the company’s TrimCraft® cornice system product line. Kiln-dried softboard products including sheathing, roofing and SoundChoice™, a panel product used for reducing noise in commercial and residential applications, are also produced at the plant.

Hunters advised on impact of West Nile virus

Concern about West Nile virus has some hunters wondering about the health of wild game.

Temple Wildlife Team Leader Don Dietz said, “No hunter likes to be hampered by pesky mosquitoes under any circumstance. With the threat of this virus, hunters should continue to protect themselves from biting insects like they always have. Bug tamer suits, mosquito proof clothing, and insect repellent will all help keep the outdoors experience more enjoyable — with or without the threat of West Nile virus.”

CDC reports they do not know the full extent to which West Nile virus is present in wild game. There have been no confirmed cases within deer populations reported by the Center for Animal Health Monitoring of the U. S. Geological Survey.

According to Wildlife Biologist Bryan Richards, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, there should be no impact on hunters as far as consumption of venison is concerned. “Any mammal is a potential carrier of West Nile virus, but white-tailed deer will most likely be asymptomatic,” he said.

Spread through mosquito bites, West Nile virus has infected 3,231 people and killed 176 in the U. S. in 2002 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Most susceptible are the very young and the very old. It has also infected more than 110 species of birds, including the bald eagle. Horses are also susceptible.

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--Don Dietz, Temple Wildlife Team Leader

In Canada, birds with West Nile virus have been reported in the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario. Cooler fall temperatures and early freezes are working to diminish mosquito populations and halt the incidence of the disease, at least until warmer weather returns in spring.

Addressing hunters’ concerns, CDC’s Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases advise hunters to follow the usual precautions when handling wild animals. If they anticipate being exposed to mosquitoes,

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they should apply insect repellents to clothing and skin, according to label instructions. Hunters should wear gloves when handling and cleaning animals to prevent blood exposure to bare hands and meat should be cooked thoroughly.

For information on regional risks, hunters should check with their local department of wildlife and naturalist resources, state epidemiologist at the state health department, or the US Geological Survey (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI, 608-270-2400.



Shop the company Store online

Available online just in time for the hunting season are these Temple camouflage shirts and caps. Other corporate branded apparel for every season and for every member of the family, and gear like duffel and garment bags, padfolios, totes, umbrellas and golf balls, are also offered for sale. Find the link to Temple's shopping mall under TIFPC Quick Links on the front page of the company's Intranet.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Promotions

Temple

Corporate:

Darren S. Holm, database administrator – inter., Distributed Technology

Diboll Particleboard/Laminating:

Todd B. Belschner, maintenance supervisor; Robert W. Johnson, maintenance planner; Barry D. Malone, maintenance supervisor

Mt. Jewett MDF:

Gerald P. Brown, shipping supervisor

New Hires

Temple

Del-Tin Fiber LLC:

Michael D. Risinger, plant engineer

Diboll Lumber/Fingerjointing: Daniel M. Roth, safety manager

Standard Gypsum LLC

McQueeney: Eric J. Chatfield, CPI manager

West Memphis: Frank E. Thomas, CPI engineer

Temple Inland Forest:

Alan G. Procell, GIS specialist, Integrated Technology; Chad W. Roach, woodyard operator, Northern Chip Mill

Retirees

Temple

Corporate: Melvin H. Durham, special projects manager, Corporate Maintenance

Diboll Fiberboard: Helen J. Temple, storeroom A

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