



**TEXAS A&M**  
**FOREST SERVICE**

# **RESTORING THE LOST PINES**

**Rebuilding a community devastated by fire.**

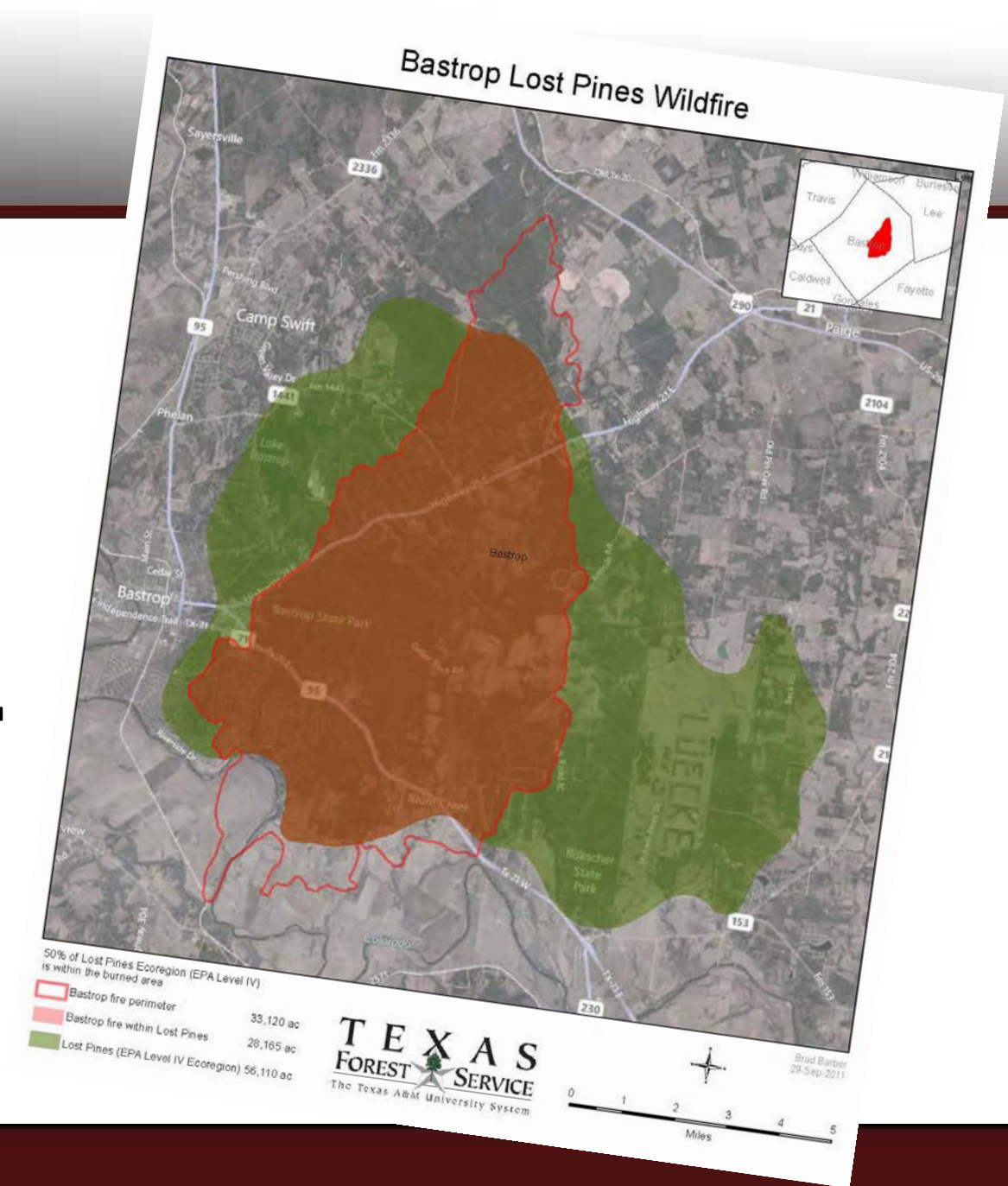
**Daniel Lewis, CF**  
Staff Forester

# Bastrop Wildfire Summary

- Wildfire burned 33,152 acres.
  - 16,628 acres moderately to heavily burned
  - 9,916 acres lightly burned
  - 4,289 acres scorched
  - 2,318 acres unburned
- 75% of damaged forestlands are privately owned.
- 50% of the Lost Pines Ecoregion was damaged or destroyed.



# Bastrop Wildfire Burn Scar



# Bastrop Recovery

- 16,667 acres will need reforestation
  - TR = 10,176
  - IP/TR = 3,570
  - IP = 2,920
- Natural Regeneration = 'Wait & See' Approach



# Bastrop Recovery

- Texas A&M Forest Service is coordinating the grow out of Bastrop seed source drought-hardy loblolly pine.
  - Year 1: 550,000
  - Year 2: 1.5 to 2 million
  - Year 3: 2 to 3 million
- Arbor Day Foundation is leading the fundraising effort to pay for the trees.





# Bastrop Recovery

- Lost Pines Recovery Team Recovery Plan approved in September 2011
  - Focus on environment – infrastructure
  - Multi-agency approach
  - Workshops
- Federal assistance programs
  - EFRP, EWP, EQIP, GLO, FEMA
- Volunteer efforts
  - Aggie Replant, HEB, American YouthWorks, Boy Scouts, TreeFolks



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# Bastrop Recovery

- Bastrop EFRP Summary
  - 99 plans submitted
  - 2,171 acres enrolled
  - Obligated \$900,000 of cost-share funds
- Common Site Prescriptions
  - No mechanical site preparation
  - Reforestation beneath standing dead trees
  - Chemical spot spray post-planting
  - Pin flags will mark every planted seedling



**EFRP Forest Stewardship Plan**  
**Farm Number-1/Tract Number-1**

**Johnny Wildfire**  
**1111 Anywhere Lane**  
**Anywhere, TX 00000**

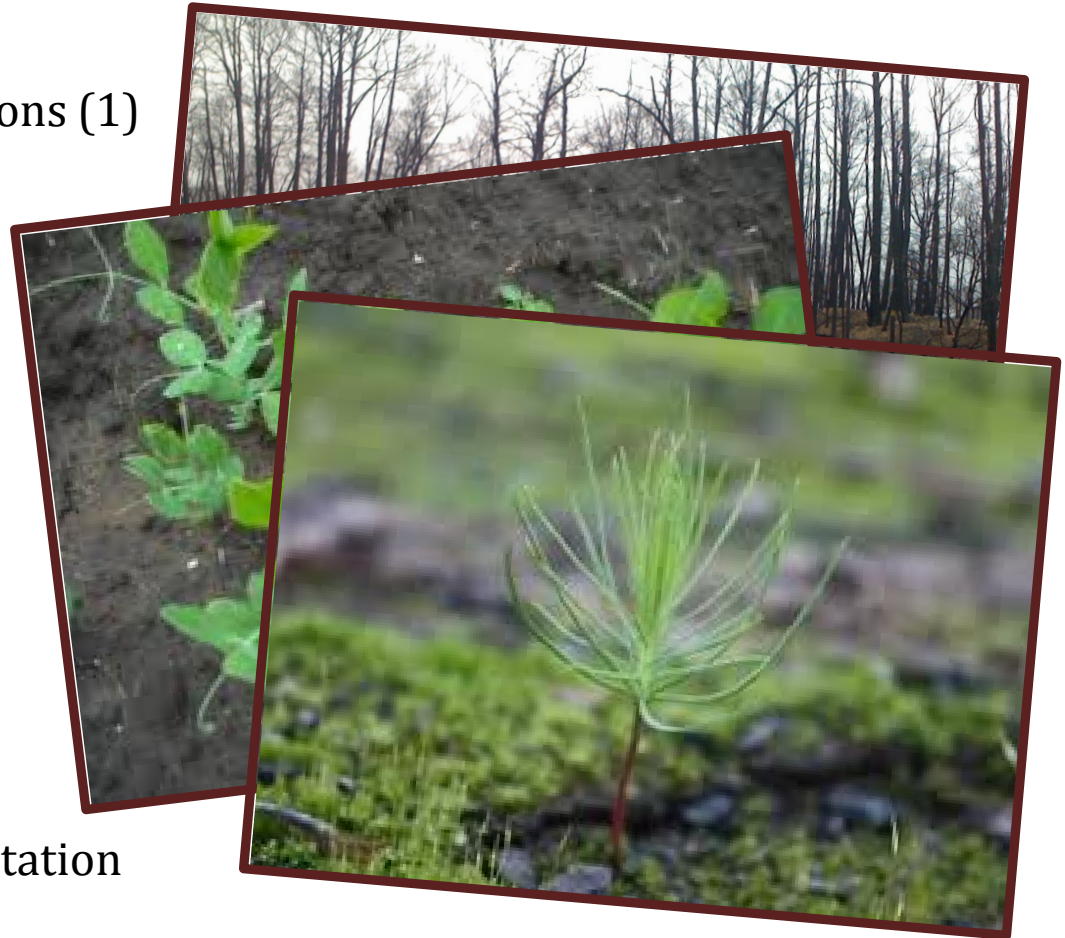
**Wednesday, March 28, 2012**

**T E X A S**  
**FOREST SERVICE**  
The Texas A&M University System

Plan written by: TFS District Forester  
Contact: TFS District Forester  
District Office  
District Phone

# Bastrop Recovery

- Common Landowner Objectives
  - Maintain current tax valuations (1)
  - Aesthetics and wildlife (2)
  - Restore ecologically functioning forests
  - Pure pine planting to pine/hardwood mix
  - Concerned about fire safety
- Common Site Conditions
  - Standing dead trees
  - Sandy-to-cobble stone soils
  - Hardwood sprouting as well as less desirable, competing herbaceous and woody vegetation





# Recovery Challenges

- Landowner
  - Property access, tract size, mindset, objectives, tax structure
- Lack of qualified vendors
- Seedling shortage
- Cost/Funding
- Endangered species
- Massive volume of standing dead trees with no market
- Liability
- Future droughts / Insect pests



# Recovery Opportunities

- Inter-agency partnerships
- Restore Houston toad habitat areas
- Provide a working model of environmental recovery for other communities and states
- Restore Historic Bastrop State Park
- Restore property values and local economy
- Preserve remaining topsoil
- Establish native grasses and forbs
- Restore native loblolly pine forest
- Mitigate damage to Alum Creek watershed
- Arrest Ongoing erosion
- Protect Colorado river from further sedimentation



# Questions?

