

Press Release

For immediate release

25 April 2012

COUNTY ENLISTS AMERICAN YOUTHWORKS TO ASSIST WITH ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY EFFORTS

Citizens of Bastrop County will soon begin to see men and women, staff and volunteers, working hard together to begin the process of large-scale restoration of our beautiful Lost Pines ecosystem. American YouthWorks (AYW) Environmental Corp (E-Corp) has been contracted by Bastrop County to begin addressing erosion control work outlined in the county's Lost Pines Habitat Recovery Master Plan.

AYW is renowned for its post-disaster work on public lands. The Lost Pines Recovery Team projects, however, will take place on private lands to accomplish a broader public benefit. "Bastrop County is very fortunate to have AYW contributing to its environmental recovery efforts. They're bringing an abundance of enthusiasm and a wealth of experience that will hasten restoration of the Lost Pines on private property," said Roxanne Hernandez, Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan Administrator and Coordinator of the Lost Pines Recovery Team.

The first project that AYW will take on is seeding 190 acres identified as high-priority areas for erosion control to prevent further damage to public infrastructure and private property. AYW will begin seeding work this week within Circle D, Pine Forest and Cottletown Road with native forbs and grasses (the Lost Pines Recovery Mix) to help control erosion. These young men and women will be easily identified in their green shirts, as they coordinate and lead groups of volunteers during this project through the end of May.

This 190-acre seeding project is being funded by a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. "Only those areas identified as critical to public infrastructure, and with permission granted by property owners through completed rights-of-entry, are targeted for this phase of seeding," according to Bastrop County Commissioner Clara Beckett. Property owners with land affected by the Bastrop County Complex Fire should stay tuned for another round of mailings that will include necessary rights-of-entry forms to receive assistance in further phases of the Habitat Recovery Master Plan.

For Lost Pines Recovery Team resources, best management practices, and recovery plan: <http://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/bcdisaster/index.php/protecting-natural-resources>

To donate to Bastrop County's and Bastrop State Park's recovery efforts, please visit www.bastroprecovery.org. Monetary donations may be sent to Bastrop County Lost Pines Recovery, c/o Lost Pines Habitat Conservation, 901 Pecan Street, Bastrop, TX 78602. Donations for Bastrop State Park recovery should be sent to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Memo Line – Bastrop State Park Recovery; Attn: Cashiers, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744.

For more information, contact Roxanne Hernandez at 512-332-7284.