



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

August 9, 2019

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for July 2019

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

Per Section 42 of Act 841 of the 2017 Regular Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for July 2019.

July brought many changes to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Forestry Division. Along with the way we refer to ourselves, two important positions became vacant through retirements. Both Assistant State Forester positions, Management and Protection, were filled with younger, experienced staff.

We look forward to new leadership with new eyes and vision for the future of Forest Management and Forest Protection.

We at the Forestry Division continue to build new teams with the vision and modern ideas to protect Arkansas's forests and advise our landowners.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture/Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



**Arkansas Department of Agriculture/Forestry Division
July 2019 Activity and Fiscal Report**

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During July a total of fifteen wildfires were suppressed for a total of fifty-one acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of July is 123.9 wildfires 1,581.2 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: A Forestry Division crew in Carroll County assisted in searching for a three-year-old child. The child was found safe. A crew in Clark County assisted in a search and rescue for kids on the Caddo River. The kids were found safe.

Storm Damage Assistance: A Forestry Division crew assisted with rescues during flooding in the Delight area of Pike County.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency service equipment from the federal government, and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 1,000 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FDs and repairs Forestry Division equipment.

July 2019

- Seven wildland fire training classes were conducted with sixty-three FDs represented (146-firefighters), eight minority departments, and four Forestry Division personnel in attendance.
- RFP received one two-wheel drive Freightliner (valued at \$162,968.00).
- There were six Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles issued to FDs; six Freightliners (valued at \$995,875.00).
- RFP received 141 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$21,583.59) for redistribution to FDs this month, including spill kits, scissors, spine boards, and stretchers.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on three Forestry Division vehicles and equipment as well as six DOD vehicles to be placed with FDs.
- RFP provided four interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund.

○ New DeRoche FD	\$6,693.75	Digital Radios	D-5 Hot Spring Co.
○ Cato FD	\$15,000.00	Polytank, paint, install	D-7 Faulkner Co.
○ Anthonyville FD	\$11,867.13	2,500 gal. tank, paint, repairs	D-1 Crittenden Co.
○ Lamar FD	\$15,000.00	'95 Freightliner Pumper	D-6 Johnson Co.

- 2019 Rural Fire Show (October 5): Twenty-two vendors have pre-registered. Postcards have been mailed out to FDs about the show, as well as information about deadlines for Firewise renewals. A few door prizes have been secured.
- Nine counties have turned in and cleared Fire Fighter Program (FFP)/Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) inventory. All districts have received inventory.

Firewise: Firewise staff and district personnel work with fire departments and civic organizations to make communities safer from the threat of wildfire through mitigation projects and community education initiatives. Arkansas is proud to have eighty-two active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **July**:

- Attended one County Fire Association meeting to discuss program with ten Fire Chiefs.
- Assisted one community with renewal paperwork.
- Delivered educational materials for a community's projects.
- Met with fire department interested in re-entering program; answering all questions and concerns.
- Delivered Risk Assessment training to one community.

Law Enforcement: Arkansas Department of Agriculture has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but primarily focuses on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry equipment theft and vandalism. The Department aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. Department investigators and district law enforcement officers opened two dumping, eight timber theft, and one property damage cases. They closed four dumping, ten fire, twenty-two timber, one property damage, and one division assist cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The Forestry Division works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forests. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is an opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or Forestry Division foresters, private consulting or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 415,171 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. Landowners that implement practices under their

FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,263 Forest Stewards owning 283,369 acres in the State.

For July, ten FSP plans were prepared on 2,607 acres. In addition, Forestry Division personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Division foresters prepared eighty-six forest management practice plans on 6,680 acres. Forestry Division personnel conducted ten prescribed burns on 299 acres.

Urban Forestry Assistance: Urban Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers, and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory, and management.

Urban & Community Forestry- July 2019

- Examined flood damage to trees in a public park in Pine Bluff and offered advice on damage recovery to Parks Dept. personnel.
- Inspected a completed sub-award project in Jefferson County.
- Wrote an article for the Arkansas Municipal League City & Town magazine on growing fruit trees in communities.
- Began reviewing the 2019 Urban & Community Forestry grant applications. Grant recipients will be notified in September.
- Planned an International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment training to be held in Little Rock in September. Forestry Division and municipal staff from several communities will be trained to provide hazard tree assessments.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists Forestry Division personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. The Forestry Division offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- The Forest Health Specialist attended the Southern Forest Insect Work Conference to discuss regional forest health issues and share information about the white oak infested with jumping oak gall in the Ozarks. This gall-forming insect does not directly kill trees, but it has been more abundant recently, which has caused some concern.
- Two aerial surveys were conducted to assess storm damage and to detect pine bark beetles in the lower Ouachita areas.
- The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program continues to offer monetary incentives to landowners who thin overly dense pine forests. Landowners can apply for the program through local Forestry Division offices.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method we employ to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The Forestry Division's Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

Reforestation Manager, Dave Bowling, Nursery Manager, James Shelton, and Reforestation Foreman, Randy O'Neal, attended the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative (SFNMC) annual contact meeting. This year the meeting was held in Bossier City, LA. There were 40 forestry professionals in attendance for presentations and research reports on nursery management. The field trip this year was to Weyerhaeuser Nursery in Magnolia AR. The tour included review of soil fumigant trials by both SFNMC staff and Weyerhaeuser Research staff.

Reforestation Manager, Dave Bowling, and Nursery Manager, James Shelton, met with Drew Green and Steve Burgess from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at Baucum Nursery to assess the seedlings we are growing for them.

Nursery Manager, James Shelton, took the entire nursery staff on a field trip to Arbor Gen Nursery and the Forestry Division Tree Improvement Complex at Bluff City. Reforestation Manager, Dave Bowling, gave a short presentation to the nursery staff on the history and purpose of tree improvement and led a brief tour of the Tree Improvement Complex.

Baucum Nursery: The Forestry Division's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Seedling sales began on July 1 with pre-order payment period. There were seventy-four customers who placed pre-orders and fifty-two of them completed processing their pre-order by paying for their seedlings during the pre-order payment period, July 1 through July 15. Total collected from online pre-orders was \$58,194.83

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16.

Year to date through July 31, there were ninety online orders and sixty-eight paper orders. Total sales of 372,050 pine and 6,737,311 hardwood.

Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 149 online orders and forty-four paper orders. Total sales of 382,200 pine and 6,072,056 hardwood

During the month of July, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following:

- Pre-inventory of all species.
- Cleaned out the cooler.
- Removed all debris from Improved Cherrybark orchard after cutting.
- Began spreading mulch in field seven.
- Sprayed herbicide on fence row next to highway.

- Sprayed herbicide around all stored equipment and the tractor shed.

Tree Improvement: The Forestry Division's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

During the month of July, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Built more racks for hardwood rootstock.
- Potted 600 seedlings in two gallon pots for hardwood rootstock.
- Fertilized and sprayed herbicide around pine and hardwood rootstock.
- Released 2019 top grafts by pruning limbs below the graft to allow top graft to grow.
- Fertilized transplanted grafts in orchards 1718, 1719, 1720 and 1721.
- Pruned lower limbs in orchards 1717 and 1720.
- Replaced tags in orchard 1708-B for pollen collection in spring.
- Began installing fence for protection from hogs at Dr. Parkes test site.

Best Management Practices (BMP): The Forestry Division provides BMP training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

BMP achieved the following in July 2019:

- Assisted landowner with information for bottomland logging.
- Assisted PotlatchDeltic with 2018 survey data interpretation.
- Assisted D-2 with BMP newsletter.
- Attended AFA Forest Practice meeting and presented report.

Forest Inventory and Analysis: The Forestry Division in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station is responsible for collecting scientific data from permanently established plots located all over the state. The plots, each representing 5,937 acres, are strategically located on a three-mile by three-mile grid. The inventory plots have been generating data since they were established in the 1950's. Natural resource managers use the data to make management decisions and follow Arkansas' natural resource trends through time.

FIA staff completed 132 plots for the month of July. We are now 51% complete with the 2019 survey.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 2019

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(377,605.87)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(377,605.87)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(125,612.17)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(125,612.17)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(63,569.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(63,569.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,000.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,000.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(49,320.88)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Miscellaneous	(49,320.88)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(2,300.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(308.25)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(14,801.76)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(17,410.01)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.29)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.29)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(110.00)	Regional Healthcare- Refund
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(283.75)	Capital Credit
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(393.75)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,328.17	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,837.73	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	472.19	
** Treasury Charges	14,638.09	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	798,990.23	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	25,128.06	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	3,442.37	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	59,469.19	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,860.40	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	118,022.18	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	12,317.66	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	1,025.00	
** Salary Expense	1,141,115.09	
5020001000 Postage	1,324.61	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	5,030.35	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,380.61	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,484.13	
5020005000 Freight	192.76	
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	17,412.46	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	1,558.49	National Pen Comp. (Backpacks, Pen & Stylus, etc...
5030004000 Film Processing	625.40	Session w/ Dennis Spear
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	130.80	

** Printing & Advertising		2,314.69	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	6,006.03	
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	152.61	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	29.96	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	914.95	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	9,126.65	
5030011100	02 Farm Equip/Repair	268.75	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	12,993.03	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	13,750.72	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,237.42	
** Repairing & Servicing		44,480.12	
5040001000	Electricity	11,933.69	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,532.85	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	1,310.53	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	13,726.10	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	290.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	3,130.16	
5040010000	Rent IndMarine Equip	1,547.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	1,075.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	(642.97)	
** Utilities & Rent		33,902.36	
5050001000	02 Mileage	304.92	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,981.23	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	7,258.10	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	36.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	340.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	4,200.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	306.60	
** Travel & Subsistence		14,426.85	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	5,078.00	Stewardship
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	454.39	
** Professional Services & Fees		5,532.39	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	101,672.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	33,443.12	
5070007000	Other Insurance	8,503.98	Cyber Insurance
** Insurance & Bonds		143,619.10	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	25.00	AR Urban Forestry Council
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,206.42	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	42.89	
5080020500	02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	132.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,522.39	
5080031000	02 Empl Screen Cost	635.25	
** Other Expenses & Services		6,563.95	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	1,316.01	
5090004000	Tires	1,564.56	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	16,894.90	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	4,543.07	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	1,260.09	

5090006000	Office Supplies	1,833.59
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,998.78
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	21.79
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	3,430.40
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,744.62
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	728.77
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	2,129.11
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	44.68
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	104,996.59
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	6,799.65
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	6,799.65
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	156,106.26
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	26,142.48
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	26,142.48
5110015000	NBR Ref Taxes Claims	112.22
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	112.22
5900003000	Capital Outlay	25,870.65
**	Capital Outlay	25,870.65
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	133,451.19
**	Depreciation/Amortization	133,451.19
5130030300	Inter fedxout-warr04	5,356.85
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(836,000.00)
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(14.25)
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	(24,233.00)
**	Transfers In/Out	(854,890.40)
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(3,714.26)
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(150.73)
**	Prior Year Adjustment	(3,864.99)
***	BALANCE	0.00

RFP Loans for Tanker, Skid Units and other like equipment
Twin Step Ladder; 6 HP ProBooks; Surface Pro 6

4x4 1/2 ton truck