



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.2

May 7, 2020

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 April 2020

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

Per Section 33 of Act 544 of the 2019 General 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 April 2020.

April was a month of several storms that downed trees and caused power outages in Arkansas. Ten of the Forestry Division's work centers were hit hard by downed trees and power outages.

Arkansas State Parks also received major damage to two of their state parks, Cane Creek and Delta Heritage Trail. Chainsaw crews and dozer operators from the Forestry Division assisted Arkansas State Parks personnel with clean-up efforts in these two parks. Delta Heritage Trail clean-up was completed in four days. Clean up efforts continue on Cane Creek State Park which was hit harder than Delta Heritage. Crews will complete clean up soon.

Forestry Division crews were also called out to assist with storm clean up on DeQueen Lake in Sevier County. Clean up was completed that same day.

The Forestry Division is honored to assist when sister agencies and communities ask for help.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
April 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During April a total of 15 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 249 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of April is 106 wildfires with 1,765 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: Forestry Division crews from Drew, Ashley and Lincoln Counties assisted in storm damage clean up on the Delta Heritage Trail State Park in the Rohwer/Watson area and crews from Forrest City assisted in storm damage clean up on the same State Park in the Lake View area. Crews from Drew, Ashley, Jefferson, Cleveland and Lincoln Counties assisted in storm damage clean up on the Cane Creek State Park. Crews from Howard, Little River, Sevier and Polk Counties assisted in storm damage clean up on DeQueen Lake in Sevier 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 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

April 2020:

- The following equipment was issued this month: one generator (valued at \$38,418.00), one brush truck (valued at \$134,047.00) and one tanker (valued at \$166,223.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on four forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$6,885.00) and one fire department vehicle (labor savings of \$1,020.00).
- Provided one contract-sale item: Knobel FD (Clay County D-1) – Pump/ Engine - \$3,200.
- Finalized Cooperative Agreement (CA), Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with United States Forest Service (USFS) in Atlanta. We now have the go ahead to disperse to the fire departments. Created a PowerPoint to discuss with districts changes and updates to CA and SOP. Completed CA and SOP training with districts I, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
- Submitted updates for website to include updated forms and more details about what RFP offers.

- Completed narrative for 2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant, budget, and award breakdown per district.
- Created Fire Show vendor registration letter and registration form, marketing has approved. Waiting to send out.
- Remaining Federal Excess Property Program/Fire Fighter Program (FEPP/FFP) inventory worksheets mailed to USFS-Atlanta. Participated in a conference call for FEPP/FFP programs with USFS.
- Drivers completed seven FEPP removals from Fire Departments.

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 one of the top states with 103 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in April:

- Public Information Specialist assisted with the editing of the forestry website, including updating all Firewise information available to the public and fire departments.
- Finalized 2020 Mitigation Grant application.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: 29 Fire Chief visits, three landowner assists, three literature distributions, two fire department meetings attended, two newspaper articles distributed and three trainings attended.

Law Enforcement: The department 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. The Department Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened four dumping, two fire, one State Forest Regulation and five timber cases. They closed one Division property, one fire, one forestry equipment and three timber 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 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 (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 385,471 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 1,268 Forest Stewards owning 285,598 acres in the State.

During the month of April, ten Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 1,567 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 the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Division personnel prepared 121 forest management practice plans on 9,515 acres and conducted three prescribed burns on 282 acres.

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

Staff achieved the following in April:

- Through donations of leftover grafting stock from the Bluff City Nursery and some bare root giveaway seedlings that Garland County crews had planted and grown, Urban Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason was able to take 10 potted trees to Walker Elementary School in Springdale, where a group of students known as the Tree Team had been working on a project throughout the year to increase canopy cover on their campus and to map all facilities and greenspaces using GIS technology. The school also wants to work toward Tree Campus K-12 recognition for the 20-21 school year.
- Field staff have been working on Champion Tree verifications; measurements can be taken while maintaining social distancing. Several new Champion trees have been confirmed, and crews are steadily completing reverifications (due every 5 years) on current Champion trees.
- Star City requested replacement trees for some lost to storm damage, and Urban Forestry was able to fill that need without cost by utilizing trees grown by Garland County staff.
- Harold Fisher assisted the Faulkner County Cooperative Extension Service with planting six trees for a project in Greenbrier to study irrigation through the summer months.
- Forestry Division's Urban and Community Forestry Program and Arkansas Urban Forestry Council jointly sponsored an online social media campaign promoting National Arbor Day (Friday, April 24th). A "Show Us Your #selfietree" contest statewide is being promoted through standard media outlets and social media with weekly winners receiving their choice of up to 10 saplings or a 4'-5' tall potted tree to plant in their yard, with photos to be posted in a secondary campaign showcasing the trees being planted.

- Pottsville High School was assisted by the Pope County crew in planting a tree purchased for their Arbor Day Celebration. Although no students were present at the planting due to school closures, the project's lead student was present in her vehicle to observe, and another parent was present to take photos for a later celebration to be held after schools reopen in the fall.

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 the Forestry Division employs 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.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through April 30, there were 662 orders. Total sales of 744,475 pine and 6,179,580 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 892 orders with total sales of 1,232,850 pine and 5,650,124 hardwood.

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

- Shipped the following:
 - 15,500 pine
 - 111,980 hardwood
- Installed irrigation pipe in field 4.
- Applied pre-emergence herbicide in fields 2, 5 and 8.
- Cleaned drainage ditches.

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 April, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Sprayed herbicides on water lines in 1721 orchard.
- Finished grafting pine.
- Finished filling over 600 pots for pine rootstock for 2021.
- Finished grafting hardwood.
- Finished planting grafted trees in orchards 1720 & 1721.
- Started planting grafts in orchard 1719.

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 April 2020:

- Received complaint from Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Saline County.
- Received request from landowner on tract donation and checked tract with State Forest crew.
- Sent BMP training materials to an instructor for class.
- Processed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on logging complaint.
- Inspected logging site in Hot Spring County.
- Attended video meeting on Forest to Drinking Water Group.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): 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's natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 94 plots for the month of April. The 2020 Survey is now 24% complete.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(273,601.29)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(273,601.29)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(118,504.64)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(118,504.64)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(111,826.80)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(211,016.09)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(322,842.89)	
4042001000 FINES	0.00	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	0.00	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	(100,000.00)	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	(100,000.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,100.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,100.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(10,229.18)	Turnkey Tanker (Rural Fire)
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	

4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	(62,000.00)
** OR - Miscellaneous	(72,229.18)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(7,281.00)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(157.25)
4048019000 RESALES	(18,040.12)
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(25,478.37)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.20)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.20)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(1,759,311.49)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(1,759,311.49)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	8,208.04
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	13,976.97
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	739.50
** Treasury Charges	22,924.51
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	785,017.37
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	11,031.14
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,740.96
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,073.59
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,977.13
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,224.94
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	1,375.95

2005 TRACTOR, JOHN DEERE, FRONT LOADER

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane

Trees of AR

Fire Equipment

5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	20,356.44
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	808.00
** Salary Expense	1,117,465.52
5020001000 Postage	736.51
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,071.52
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	8,791.67
5020004000 Network Services Exp	6,090.49
5020005000 Freight	472.84
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	28,163.03
5030001000 Printing	0.00
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	57.49
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	57.49
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	8,585.25
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	299.77
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	2,495.21
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	5,366.33
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	469.51
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	12,082.62
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	8,544.69
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0.00
5030016500 02 Netwk EquipRepSvc	0.00
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00

Coded wrong, will be changed to vehicle maintenance

5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	90.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,167.74
** Repairing & Servicing	39,101.12
5040001000 Electricity	12,551.41
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,774.12
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,985.25
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	16,279.26
5040006000 Lease Private Land	2,090.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,382.39
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	123.77
** Utilities & Rent	36,297.52
5050001000 02 Mileage	245.28
5050003100 02 - Meals	0.00
5050003200 02 - Lodging	0.00
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0.00
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	225.00
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	25.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00

5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	548.20
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	162,270.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	2,926.99
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,033.60
** Professional Services & Fees	168,230.59
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	0.00
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,333.26
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	0.00
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	66.00
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0.00
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	1,889.01
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	1,611.00
5080034000 Audio/Visual Prod	28.33
** Other Expenses & Services	4,927.60
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0.00
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	64.99
5090004000 Tires	2,600.86
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	14,323.72
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	4,369.04
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	2,717.20
5090006000 Office Supplies	2,871.50
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	(2.95)
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	0.00

Henrys Aerial Ser.; Stewardship/Forest Legacy/Mitigation

Contract Services for AR Forest & Drinking Water Collab.

Coded wrong, will be changed

5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	1,342.58
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	8,228.40
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	1,035.64
5090019000 Food Purchases	171.63
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	1,047.18
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	390.46
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	16,768.75
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	2,681.67
5090026000 DP Supps	4,187.60
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	373.15
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	573.98
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	119.03
5090027000 Software/Licenses	602.25
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	219.12
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	16,354.53
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	8,310.90
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	8,310.90
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	97,662.13
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	10,000.00
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	0.00
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	10,000.00
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00
5110014000 04 - Other Refunds	0.00
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	18.45
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	18.45

Central Heat & Air, Breath Analyzer, Laptop, Surface Pro

Southern Pine Beetle

6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	61,397.08
** Capital Outlay	61,397.08
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	136,988.65
** Depreciation/Amortization	136,988.65
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout- warr04	0.00
5130030400 Intra fedxout- warr04	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(548,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(23.25)
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	75,000.00
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061006820 Tran Out to CompUnit	0.00
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(473,023.25)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
6990004000 Prior Year Adjust	100,000.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	100,000.00
*** BALANCE	0.00

DODGE RAM 4X4 1/2 TON PICKUP TRUCK; Donated Tractor,
WBS element corrections

Funds Transferred to AG - Paying Fund