



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.3

June 5, 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 May 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 May 2020.

May was another month of COVID 19, social distancing and working for forest landowners. In May, the Forestry Division again assisted other agencies which were lacking personnel due to COVID-19.

Last Month and into May, the Forestry Division assisted State Parks by removing down timber from trails. On May 19th, the Division received a request for personnel to assist with maintenance at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock. Employees of the cemetery were quarantined due to COVID 19 and work was needed before the Memorial Holiday weekend.

Division crews, three to five employees, were eager to help with the work needed. Crews assisted with the cemetery from May 20th until May 29th with routine grounds keeping and cemetery duties.

It was the Forestry Division's honor to assist the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery to be ready for the Memorial Day Weekend.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY DIVISION

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During May a total of 18 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 49 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of May is 35 wildfires with 337 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: A Forestry Division crew in Baxter County assisted in a search and rescue for a woman and her adult daughter thought to have been stuck on a ledge on United States Forest Service (USFS) land in the Sylamore Ranger District. Forestry Division crews in Newton, Carroll and Franklin Counties assisted with a search and rescue for a lost hiker in the Twin Falls area in the Richland Creek Wilderness Area of the USFS Big Piney Ranger District.

Storm Damage Assistance: Forestry Division crews in Drew, Ashley, Jefferson, Cleveland and Lincoln Counties assisted in storm damage clean up on the Cane Creek State Park from April 23 to May 13, 2020.

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.

May 2020

- There were two Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with three FDs (16 firefighters), including two Forestry personnel in attendance.
- The following equipment was issued this month: one generator (valued at \$26,334.00), one brush truck (valued at \$46,442.00), one tanker (valued at \$166,223.00) and four hydraulic cutters (valued at \$22,698.24).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$21,420.00) and one fire department vehicle (labor savings of \$6,120.00).
- RFP provided two interest-free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund; one for \$10,214.18 to Center Grove FD (D5-Grant Co.) to purchase a 2,000-gallon tank and paint

on a 2009 Freightliner M916A3 to include batteries, service and parts; the second loan was for \$14,642.25 to Marmaduke FD (D1-Greene Co.) to purchase Forcible Entry Tools.

- Contract sales this month included one foam skid unit for \$11,900 sold to Petit Jean FD (D7-Conway Co.) and one pump/engine for \$3,200 sold to Enola FD (D7-Faulkner Co.)
- Ordered two additional foam skids on state contract.
- Completed Cooperative Agreement (CA) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) training with all districts. New CA's are already coming in from Fire Departments.
- Created draft Application and Guidelines for 2020 Wildland Suppression Kits. Plan to open grant application period in August.
- Processing potential General Service Administration (GSA) Sale items out to the public (pictured and wrote up 27 items). Will place online once state moves to Phase II.

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 **May**:

- All activities were conducted within Arkansas Department of Health's Directives on COVID-19.
- Firewise personnel attended a virtual meeting to assist with the evaluation of the Fire Activity Reporting (FAR) website and data collection which noted edits and additions to potentially streamline the collection of Firewise activities and hours invested by Forestry personnel throughout the state.
- Distributed email outlining Firewise informational/educational resources available virtually to be utilized by participating departments, as national program materials have been reduced/slowed from pandemic.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one exhibit/festival attended, one Firewise program presentation delivered to community members, 60 Fire Chief visits, one Firewise education day attended, six paperwork assists, two landowner assists, eight literature distributions and three fire department meetings 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 one dumping case and four timber cases. They closed one fire case, one division property case, three dumping cases and two 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.

FSP monthly accomplishments for May 2020.

Activity	Number	Acres
Landowners Assists	93	9,905
FSP Management Plans	25	3,345
Other Management Plans	93	8,451
Certifications	4	433
Recertifications	34	5,860

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. AR Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- The Forestry Division monitored infestations of **needlecast** fungus in the Ouachita Mountains loblolly pine forests and **anthracnose** fungus on sycamore in Northwest Arkansas. Both diseases caused foliage to turn brown and created an unhealthy appearance. Fortunately, infected trees are expected to recover from these diseases.
- A report was created to describe the needlecast disease found in Ouachita Mountains counties.
- We are testing several programs that make it possible to image property with **drones**. Through this process we will choose the option that is affordable and easy to use by our forestry professionals when they provide technical assistance to landowners.

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 completed the following in May:

- The Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC) and Forestry Division's joint #SelfieTree contest concluded Friday, May 22nd. The contest resulted in increased social media traffic for both Forestry Division and AUFC, and eight trees were awarded to be planted across Arkansas.
- With help from the Bluff City nursery, work began on constructing a mini nursery to use as a staging location at the Clark County work center for trees being donated to schools and communities; this will save travel time and expense for Urban Forestry staff.
- The Urban Tree Improvement Project (UTIP), a USFS-grant-funded project across multiple states, kicked off with an introductory online meeting of a few nursery coordinators and state urban forestry coordinators to discuss planning and implementation.
- Urban Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason completed moving from the Hempstead County to the Clark County work center.
- An inventory of Arkansas Community Trees available for giveaways showed 325 Arkansas Community Trees (ACT) seedlings available for giveaways. Urban Staff are planning ReLeaf events in NW Arkansas and in Jonesboro to help communities restore canopy cover lost to storm damage over the last few months.

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 Division employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The 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 May 31, which completes all seedling sales for FY20, there were 664 orders. Total sales of 744,475 pine and 6,089,200 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 892 orders. Total sales of 1,232,850 pine and 5,650,124 hardwood.

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

- Shipped 225 hardwood.
- Applied Roundup in field 5 and field 8; spot spray.
- Applied Roundup to riser lines.
- Applied Roundup to buffer zones and fence lines.
- Hand mopped Roundup for nuttgrass in field 5.
- Plowed middles.

- Weeded 2-year-old pecan.
- Planted sunflower and sudan grass in field 2 and field 8.
- Used land plane and dirt bucket for drainage in field 2 and cleaned all turn rows.

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

- Finished planting grafted trees in orchards 1718 & 1719.
- Finished potting approximately 600 hardwood rootstocks.
- Finished potting pine rootstock.
- Continued weeding pots.
- Checked progeny test sites for maintenance.
- Began to bush-hog Hope test site.
- Moved pine grafts from greenhouse to shade house.
- Inventoried pine grafts in shade house.
- Fertilized all potted rootstock and grafts.

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 May:

- Sent pictures to South Carolina BMP Department for news article.
- Received and investigated new complaints from Garland, Ouachita and Bradley Counties.
- Assisted landowner with forest management referral.
- Attended Registered Forester video training.
- Video meetings with Forestry Division Management.
- Received BMP handouts from Georgia Forestry Commission on fire line construction.

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 86 plots for the month of May. Staff are now 34% complete with the 2020 survey.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

.	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(262,454.92)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(262,454.92)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(135,186.32)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(135,186.32)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(30,421.16)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(136,136.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(166,557.16)
4042001000 FINES	0.00
** OR - Fines and Penalties	0.00
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(500.00)
** OR - Rents	(500.00)
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(10,899.29)
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00
** OR - Miscellaneous	(10,899.29)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(13,049.00)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(236.00)
4048019000 RESALES	(14,309.71)
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(27,594.71)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.10)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(20,821.40)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00

Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc....)

**Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
Trees of AR
Fire Equipment**

** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(20,821.40)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	7,873.65
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,547.26
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	347.36
** Treasury Charges	10,768.27
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	760,339.00
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	10,138.53
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	3,614.27
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,260.78
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,977.04
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	116,999.28
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,069,188.90
5020001000 Postage	592.55
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,538.39
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	25,509.89
5020004000 Network Services Exp	16,815.31
5020005000 Freight	347.65
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	50,803.79
5030001000 Printing	57.64
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	0.15
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	8,570.50
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	539.71

Business Cards

Correction from last month

5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	2,450.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	11,525.99
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	8,657.27
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	328.19
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	10,779.69
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	6,079.42
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0.00
5030016500 02 Netwk EquipRepSvc	0.00
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,212.25
** Repairing & Servicing	50,143.02
5040001000 Electricity	8,341.05
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,878.78
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,957.59
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	4,984.74
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,157.55
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	300.00
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	119.44
** Utilities & Rent	19,829.15
5050001000 02 Mileage	467.04
5050003100 02 - Meals	0.00
5050003200 02 - Lodging	(1,191.68)
5050004100 09 - Meals	57.74
5050004200 09 - Lodging	102.13
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	0.00
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	395.95

Credits for cancellations

ISA Intro to Arboriculture Training Series

5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,220.00	TSS OPM Training(3@360 each) (1@140)
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence	1,051.18	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	9,380.00	Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	4.50	
** Professional Services & Fees	9,384.50	
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	4,797.00	NASDA Dues; ISA
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	123.60	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,762.73	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	0.00	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	49.78	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	44.00	
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0.00	
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(2,273.05)	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	844.25	
5080034000 Audio/Visual Prod	(28.33)	Correction from last month
** Other Expenses & Services	5,319.98	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	4,895.15	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000 Tires	1,900.65	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	12,094.78	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	4,259.45	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	3,034.90	

5090006000 Office Supplies	1,700.50	
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0.00	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	0.00	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	480.37	
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	28.33	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	175.00	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	1,049.36	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	16,013.92	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	913.63	
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,192.68	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	512.77	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	881.59	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	4,027.25	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	768.11	
5090026000 DP Supps	3,040.48	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	712.00	
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	51.68	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	179.15	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	466.67	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	1,367.66	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	223.77	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	226.43	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	38,362.73	Freightliner and other fire equipment/tools
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	8,903.47	Trailer; Surface Laptop; Box Trailer
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	8,903.47	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	116,365.95	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	11,415.00	SPB
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	11,415.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	385.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	21,027.83	In Lieu Payment
5110014000 04 - Other Refunds	0.00	

5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	19.05
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	21,431.88
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	2,008,925.46
** Capital Outlay	2,008,925.46
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	143,623.95
** Depreciation/Amortization	143,623.95
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	(528,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	55,250.00
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	(472,750.00)
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	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** BALANCE	0.00

Land (Hot Springs Recharge area);
Tractor w/ winch