



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

December 9, 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 November 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 November 2020.

Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF) has been certified for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), for four years by a third-party auditor. We are audited each year to ensure we are following the SFI standards. Our most recent audit was completed on November 20.

A typical audit is an office session in the morning reviewing records, a visit to the field and then a review of findings. The field visit was to four sites where timber was harvested, thinned or understory sprayed and one visit to an area of road maintenance.

During the review, two areas of improvement were noted, and solutions were discussed. PSSF staff has since corrected the two areas to conform with SFI standards.

Each annual audit allows PSSF staff to improve as a demonstration of sustainable forestry management.

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
November 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During November a total of 116 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1510 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of November is 91 wildfires 1411 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: ADA - Forestry crew in Johnson County assisted the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) in locating a dead elk.

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 and refurbishment to federal property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

November 2020:

- There were seven Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with fifty-five FDs (one hundred three firefighters), including four Forestry personnel and eight minority departments in attendance.
- One brush truck, one service truck and five generator sets were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$152,154.00).
- RFP received seven hundred sixty-three small items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include tool kits, tarps, spine boards, tents, welding shirts and other firefighting equipment (o.a.c. \$289,536.62).
- RFP received two service trucks, a fire truck, an ATV, container, fan, tent and a toolbox (o.a.c. \$661,229.45).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on one Forestry vehicle and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$8,415.00).
- Maumelle Fire Department (Pulaski Co.) picked up a water skid unit - \$11,000 (no loan).
- The drivers made several in-state trips along with a few out-of-state trips to include Colorado Springs, CO; Warner Robins, GA; and Red River.

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 **November**:

- Delivered one risk assessment training session to department entering program.
- Delivered masks to four districts for personnel, as well as requests from active fire departments in their districts.
- Assisted communities with paperwork and online renewal applications submissions for the November 20th deadline.
- Issued \$25,500 worth of renewal grants.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: two grant presentation, 15 Fire Chief Visits, 17 Paperwork Assists, two Literature Distributions, one Community Presentation, one District office visit and two Educational Exhibits.

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 are investigating three timber cases, three dumping cases and one fire case. They closed two timber cases and four dumping 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 AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 323,364 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 1,264 Forest Stewards owning 285,087 acres in the State.

During the month of November, seven Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 655 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 49 forest management practice plans on 2,805 acres and conducted 27 prescribed burns on 1,116 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.

In November, staff completed:

- Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) Ceremonies/Tree Plantings were held at the Arkansas School for the Blind, Oliver Springs Elementary, Earle Elementary and Mountain Home Montessori. Due to COVID - 19 restrictions, ceremonies were held via Zoom or were limited in scope, but all trees were successfully planted, and students participated in curriculum about skin cancer prevention and the benefits of planting and maintaining community trees.
- Tree City USA communities continued holding Arbor Day ceremonies and submitting their Tree City applications for the 2020 year.
- Both Urban Forestry staff and the district urban forestry representatives participated in the Arbor Day Foundation's virtual Partners in Community Forestry conference. Since the event was held virtually, the cost was significantly lower, which allowed for increased participation.
- Forestry Division partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council to offer a ReLeaf event in Jonesboro. Five volunteers donated 50 hours of time toward the event, and three Forestry Division employees helped staff the event, where approximately 250 trees were handed out to residents.
- The Urban Forestry Coordinator gave a presentation on Citizen Scientists and Project Learning Tree's Adopt-a-Tree activity to students at Living Waters Elementary in Roland and helped the students plant a willow oak on campus.

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.

Baucum Nursery: Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through November 30th, there were 497 online orders and 82 paper orders. Total sales of 1,022,500 pine and 4,494,000 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY20, there were 287 online orders and 94 paper orders. Total sales of 885,225 pine and 6,692,725 hardwood.

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

- Disked field 4 in preparation for fall planting.
- Removed irrigation pipe from fields 2,5,7,8 in preparation for spring methyl bromide application.
- Tilled beds for planting.
- Planted 22 beds of White Oak and six beds of Chinquapin Oak.
- Planted 22 beds of persimmon and one bed of wild plum.

- Planted eight beds of sugarberry, three beds of sweetgum, one bed of black cherry, ½ bed of crabapple and 40 feet of dogwood.
- Completed field inventory.
- Harvested 48 lbs. of improved nuttall oak acorns.

Tree Improvement: Tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

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

- Data collection from two tests:
 - 1,400 positions in 20-year old shortleaf pine test near Melbourne.
 - 960 positions in 3-year hardwood test near Dover.
- Bush hogged Dr. Parkes hardwood test.
- Inventoried orchard 1721 for planting new grafts.
- Delivered urban trees to Jonesboro.
- Began pruning orchard 1721.

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 November:

- Sustainable forestry initiative Implementation Committee (SIC) meeting with 2020 BMP report presented.
- Checked a new complaint in Prairie County (with a drone). A meeting with landowner and logging contractor was planned.
- Attended Illinois River Conservation Group meeting.
- Attended State Forest Sustainable Forestry Initiative audit meeting and field exams.

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 93 plots for the month of November. We are 92% complete with Inventory 2020 and plan to finish by the end of December.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 2020

.	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(384,845.57)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(384,845.57)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(799,985.63)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(799,985.63)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(1,373.33)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(82,116.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(83,489.33)
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(800.00)
** OR - Rents	(800.00)
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0.00
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00
6200003000 Other Donations	(32,849.00)
** OR - Miscellaneous	(32,849.00)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(27,328.40)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(226.00)
4048019000 RESALES	(12,534.63)
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(40,089.03)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.07)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.07)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00

Forklift; Riding Mower; 2004 Tractor
Truck

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane

Trees of AR

Fire Equipment

4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(45,415.63)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(45,415.63)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,545.36
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	11,706.75
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	775.08
** Treasury Charges	24,027.19
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	778,332.95
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	7,119.76
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	50.35
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,163.50
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	121,380.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,945.89
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	119,368.60
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,086,361.05
5020001000 Postage	975.98
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	3,725.78
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	177.69
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,144.70
5020005000 Freight	28.01
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	6,052.16
5030001000 Printing	26.08
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	167.69
** Printing & Advertising	193.77

Business Cards; Releaf Handouts

5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,443.03
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	659.78
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	82.82
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	888.70
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	15,231.53
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	1,479.15
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	31,273.20
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	6,052.33
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,166.11
** Repairing & Servicing	68,276.65
5040001000 Electricity	9,056.62
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,384.33
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,776.84
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	0.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	0.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,091.99
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	611.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	65.36
** Utilities & Rent	14,986.46
5050001000 02 Mileage	39.06
5050003100 02 - Meals	375.89
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,030.12
5050004100 09 - Meals	64.08
5050004200 09 - Lodging	110.16
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	7.50
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	387.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	173.00

5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	2,186.81
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	5,332.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	0.00
** Professional Services & Fees	5,332.00
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	10,696.46
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0.00
5080013000 Security Services	0.00
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	915.07
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	22.00
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(5,590.73)
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0.00
** Other Expenses & Services	6,042.80
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0.00
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	1,800.00
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00
5090004000 Tires	2,851.38
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	1,404.03
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	365.01
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,557.72
5090006000 Office Supplies	2,179.06

Forest Legacy; Stewardship

National Association of State Foresters

5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0.00
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	503.98
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	10,204.11
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	12,570.16
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0.00
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	4,450.10
5090019000 Food Purchases	872.94
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	741.54
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,467.02
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	39,392.98
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	13,253.01
5090026000 DP Supps	631.87
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	792.54
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	747.41
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	197.09
5090027000 Software/Licenses	9,410.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	811.62
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	7,828.45
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	(10.36)
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	(10.36)
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0.00
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	114,011.30
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	30,960.00
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	359.57
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	31,319.57
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	3,960.00

SPB; Mitigation

AR Timber Producers Assoc; AFA

Seedling Sale Refunds

** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	3,960.00
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	32,849.00
** Capital Outlay	32,849.00
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	142,724.54
** Depreciation/Amortization	142,724.54
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	930,000.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(661,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(4,153.50)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	86,012.73
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	350,859.23
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	72.05
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	86.54
** Prior Year Adjustment	158.59
*** BALANCE	0.00

Same items donated from line 17