



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

October 8, 2012

The Honorable Mary Anne Salmon  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable Tommy Lee Baker  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for September 2012

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Dear Senator Salmon and Representative Baker:

Per Act 252 of the 2012 Fiscal Session, Section 50, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for September 2012.

Wildfire problems have slowed due to the wet and cool weather.

I am especially proud of the AFC rangers that were involved in leading efforts during a successful search and rescue for a missing Onia boy.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Richard A. Weiss  
Secretary of Agriculture Butch Calhoun  
Ms. Marty Garrity



## **ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

### **September 2012 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During September 2012, a total of 70 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 618 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of September is 170 fires for 2,164 acres burned.

**Other Emergency Response:** AFC personnel organized the search and rescue operations at Onia in Stone County for a missing 3 year old boy. AFC contributed maps, developed a grid system of the search area and coordinated the efforts of over 300 searchers. The boy was found by searchers approximately 30 hours after going missing.

**Rural Fire Protection:** Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists rural volunteer fire departments with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans and administers federal grants to assist approximately 1,000 volunteer rural fire departments. RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

Thirty-Seven (37) rural fire departments were provided wildland fire training. Seven (7) fire trucks were delivered to rural fire departments. One (1) fire department received a loan to purchase equipment. Thirteen (13) Department of Defense trucks were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire department for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on 18 AFC vehicles and dozers.

**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 leads the nation in recognized Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise staff assisted 29 communities/fire departments with education and renewal efforts, prepared four media releases, made one radio appearance, and answered numerous media calls for fire and prevention information. A Firewise presentation conducted during a Jefferson County Mutual Aid Association meeting had 10 volunteer fire departments in attendance.

Other Firewise activities include providing an information booth at the Trash Bash event in Hot Springs which had over 100 attendees, assisting the Garland County Department of Emergency Management, Arkansas Red Cross and Garland County Firewise communities to staff a booth at the Garland County

Fair, presenting Firewise at the Sapa Extrusions Factory Safety Day in Magnolia, conducting Risk Assessment training in Paron, and attending two continuing education events.

**Law Enforcement:** Forestry Commission has the authority to enforce the State's laws pertaining to unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and equipment theft and vandalism. Forestry Commission aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In September, AFC Investigators and law enforcement officers worked 8 unlawful dumping, 7 fire related, and 4 timber theft cases.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs:** Forestry Commission works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forest. 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 or for timber production to get a comprehensive forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or AFC foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 4,484 landowners owning 823,587 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,267 Forest Stewards owning 277,219 acres.

For September, 27 FSP plans were prepared on 10,729 acres. Forest Stewards recertify every 5 years. Twenty-one (21) Forest Stewards owning 10,729 were recertified.

In addition, Forestry Commission 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 AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Commission foresters prepared 68 rural forestry forest management plans on 6,261 acres. In addition, Forestry Commission personnel conducted prescribed burns on 5 tracts for 124 acres and constructed 49,889 feet of fire lane.

**Urban forestry assistance:** Urban Forestry Program staff provides assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organization, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management. In September, AFC awarded a grant to the city of Fayetteville for its Urban Forestry Tree Canopy Assessment through the U. S. Forest Service Competitive Grant Program. This project is one in a series being developed for a landscape scale Urban Tree Canopy project that encompasses cities in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The project will "allow communities to have tree canopy assessments done for their urban forests and provide them with the tools needed to develop canopy goals and strategies to improve green infrastructure."

**Baucum Nursery:** Forestry Commission's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. This year's Baucum Nursery inventory consists of 4,855,000

loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings and 6,793,000 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Baucum Nursery seedling sales to date are 897,400 pine and 1,192,500 hardwood seedlings.

**Best Management Practices:** Forestry Commission provides BMP training to loggers, landowners and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints. During September, the BMP coordinator provided one logger training session, made a presentation at the Little Red River Clean-up in Clinton, conducted two courtesy exams and responded to two logger complaints, participated on the Arkansas Timber Producers Association planning committee for the SW Forest Products Expo, and participated in the ANRC State Non-point Source annual meeting. The BMP Coordinator is currently working with Central Arkansas Water on a BMP fire break/roads project in which the BMP Coordinator developed a work plan and schedule and will provide onsite supervision for the project. AFC was awarded a grant through the U.S. Forest Service Competitive Grant Program partnering with Texas and Oklahoma. This grant will provide funds for Arkansas to design and implement a BMP demonstration area on the Poison Springs State Forest. In addition, the BMP coordinator will utilize the grant to purchase portable skidder bridges to be used by loggers, produce BMP training materials which will include a BMP DVD, and help offset the cost for the upcoming Four State (AR, LA, OK, and TX) BMP Conference.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis:** Forestry Commission 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.

For September, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 63 plots, completed 6 utilization/felled tree studies and completed Phase 3 of forest health plots.

### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. With the loss of Conservation Education staff, the State Forester and other staff conducted radio and television and civic organization presentations that are not included in the district reporting. During September 2012, the districts reported 9 news articles and 79 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>September 30, 2012</b>		
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(296,966.99)	
<b>** SR (3.0) - Taxes</b>	<b>(296,966.99)</b>	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(37,825.54)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
<b>** SR (1.5) - Taxes</b>	<b>(37,825.54)</b>	
4034001000 RENTS	(400.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
<b>** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	0.00	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(46,192.00)	
<b>** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce</b>	<b>(46,192.00)</b>	
4042001000 FINES	(100.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
<b>** OR - Fines and Penalties</b>	<b>(100.00)</b>	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	127.50	Loans for equipment to rural fire depts.
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(6,029.30)	Book sales and refunds
<b>** OR - Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(5,901.80)</b>	
4048019000 RESALES	(62,285.40)	Sales of firefighting equipment to rural fire depts.
<b>** OR - Sales of Goods and Services</b>	<b>(62,285.40)</b>	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(33.23)	Refund of credit on account
<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(33.23)</b>	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(64,533.31)	Federal reimbursement for urban and community forestry expenses
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(64,533.31)</b>	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	8,909.01	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	1,267.61	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,017.66	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>11,194.28</b>	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	745,836.06	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	7,781.19	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	53,519.08	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,810.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,116.09	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	106,415.94	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	181.50	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,026,659.86</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000 Postage	1,476.79	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,136.20	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	5,768.96	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,566.62	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	2,162.64	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	<b>26,222.53</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000 Printing	412.01	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	7,479.00	

<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>		<b>7,891.01</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	5,236.64	
5030005100	Pest Control Cl 02	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	22,477.31	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	38,748.06	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	18,841.21	
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	26,339.92	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	17.25	
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>		<b>111,660.39</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000	Electricity	11,646.45	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,942.04	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	498.25	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	4,891.45	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	991.33	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	240.14	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	1,026.96	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>		<b>21,236.62</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	1,282.18	
5050003000	02 Meals & Lodging	(440.88)	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,007.30	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,013.18	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	355.90	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	18.40	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,690.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	790.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	598.42	
5050025000	02 - Gas Purchases	63.86	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>8,378.36</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	91,381.75	Single engine air tanks & Stewardship plans
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	1,690.75	DOT & pre-employment drug tests
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>93,072.50</b>	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	210.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080013000	Security Services	552.42	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	665.09	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	8,736.39	Nursery temporary labor
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	198.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs

5120011000 Loans to Individuals	86,201.88	Rural fire dept. equipment
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>96,563.78</b>	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	15.00	
5090004000 Tires	3,503.48	
5090005000 Fuel Purchases	133,642.64	
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,510.78	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	1,177.18	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	78.07	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	172.48	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	9,715.27	
5090017000 Animal Purch NonCap	0.00	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	10.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	846.83	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	535.98	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	2,206.32	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	2,213.79	
5090026000 DP Supps	885.39	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0.00	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>160,513.21</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	72,694.31	
5100005000 02 Assist Grants Aid	13,925.64	
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	2,000.00	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>88,619.95</b>	Grants for Southern Pine Beetle Prevention, National Fire Plan and Urban & Community Forestry Sales tax rebate General revenue allocation from DFA
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	(12,363.78)	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(724,231.39)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(7.50)	Marketing & Redistribution proceeds from equip. sales
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	16,000.00	
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007500 WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	886.36	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(719,716.31)</b>	
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	(48.57)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>	<b>(48.57)</b>	Related to un-cashed warrants that expired