



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

May 9, 2013

The Honorable Paul Bookout  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable John Charles Edwards  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for April 2013

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Dear Senator Bookout and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 2013 General Session, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for April 2013.

AFC has three law enforcement investigators that are assisted by 12 district law enforcement officers. The AFC enforces the state's laws pertaining to unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, woods arson, and forestry equipment theft and vandalism. In FY 2012 the AFC worked 51 dumping cases, 138 fires cases, 81 timber thefts, and four equipment vandalism cases. In FY 2012, law enforcement efforts recovered \$449,236 in restitution to landowners.

AFC has earned great support by the forestry community. At the recent Arkansas Forestry Association Board of Directors meeting, AFC law enforcement officers were provided with three camera equipment units to help combat unlawful dumping, timber theft and equipment vandalism.

I am very proud of the service our law enforcement officers provide to Arkansas's forestry community. See the section on Law Enforcement in the enclosed April report.

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**

### **April 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During April, a total of 88 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,252 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of April is 156 fires for 2,860 acres burned.

**Disaster Assistance:** AFC crews assisted in clearing roads and checked on families affected by the April tornado and wind events that occurred in Van Buren, Ashley, Lincoln and Stone Counties.

**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. The RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

In April, one hundred sixteen rural fire departments (274 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Eleven Department of Defense (DOD) trucks were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. Three fire trucks and 1,523 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items were issued to rural fire departments. Twelve generators were picked up to fill requests by fire departments. RFP provided three rural fire departments loans through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$34,818.78. (Collins-Cominto – Drew County, Blevins – Hempstead County, Delight – Pike County)

The RFP shop completed maintenance on twelve 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 with 115 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In April, Firewise staff assisted two communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted three initial presentations about the Firewise program to fire departments and taught one 8-hour Wildland Firefighting class.

Firewise staff visited five AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 15 fire chiefs to educate them on Firewise.

Firewise staff attended the Fire Fighters Memorial Board Committee meeting, the Fire Boat School Committee meeting, and assisted with two Red Card training meetings. Staff assisted with Lake Catherine

State Park Safety Day, Hot Springs Village Firewise Day, and made three school Firewise presentations which were reported to the newspaper.

Firewise staff prepared two media releases and responded to three media calls about fire prevention, and updated the Firewise Website and Facebook Page.

**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 April, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 1 logging equipment theft, 8 unlawful dumping, 18 fire related, and 3 timber theft cases.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs:** The AFC 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 a non-industrial private forest landowner interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry, aesthetics, and/or timber production to have a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan prepared. Private consultants or AFC foresters working in conjunction with private consultants or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals collaboratively develop the multi-resource management plan for the landowner.

Arkansas has 4,583 landowners owning 844,625 acres enrolled in the FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,230 Forest Stewards owning 278,246 acres. For April, 18 FSP plans were prepared on 1,872 acres. Two landowners that enrolled 320 acres in the FSP were certified as a Forest Stewards.

In addition to the FSP, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners 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. AFC foresters prepared 35 rural forestry program forest management plans on 2,306 acres. In addition, AFC personnel assisted or conducted prescribed burns on 27 tracts for 1,587 acres and constructed 46,350 feet of fire lanes.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In April, 74 tracts totaling 3,466 acres were planted in trees. There were 309 tracts totaling 14,413 acres that were planted by private landowners during this year's planting season (December 2012 – April 2013).

**Forest Health:** AFC offers cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work in pine stands as part of a comprehensive federal Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Program. This program is well-received by landowners. For April, 6 projects on 372 acres were completed.

In response to the state of Mississippi SPB outbreak of 2012, 6 SPB pheromone traps were placed in March and collected in April in Desha and Chicot Counties in southeast Arkansas. No suspect beetles were caught in the month the traps were in place. The 9 traps placed in Clark, Nevada and Columbia Counties caught no suspect beetles in the month they were in place. This indicates no to low SPB activity for the summer, however since there was no prediction of the Mississippi outbreak of 2012, survey flights are planned to closely monitor the situation.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar populations have shown up in all areas of the state. This early spring pest hatches at the same time black cherry begins to leaf out. Actual monetary damage is very minor, but they attract considerable attention from homeowners.

**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.

The City of West Memphis urban tree canopy assessment has been completed. Major findings from the report include:

- Within the core city boundary West Memphis has 18% urban tree canopy cover based on 2010 imagery.
- The canopy provides \$4.3 million dollars in annual benefits by conserving energy, reducing carbon dioxide levels, improving air quality, and mitigating storm water runoff.
- The current urban forest removes nearly 175,800 pounds of air pollutants from the air annually.
- 90,485 tons of carbon is stored with an annual carbon sequestration rate of 2,983 tons of carbon dioxide.
- Trees intercept 53,150 cubic feet of runoff every year, a benefit valued at \$1.8 million dollars. This is based on the reduced peak flows which in turn reduce the amount of runoff that must be managed by the construction of retainment facilities.

Mapping and quantifying the Urban Tree Canopy will allow West Memphis to establish baseline conditions, set goals for improving the ecosystem services provided and create plans for planting new trees and protecting existing trees.

**Baucum Nursery:** AFC's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. This year's Baucum Nursery inventory consists of 3,771,500 loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings and 6,071,775 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Seedling sales are almost complete for this year's planting season. We are in a transition between our last sales report and our final sales report which we will be able to provide in next month's report. Activity at the nursery at this time has shifted to planting for next year. See the planned seedling production for Baucum Nursery in the Tree Improvement section.

**Tree Improvement:** AFC's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. For the 2014 seedling crop AFC planted over 300 pounds of pine seed to produce our target crop of 4.1 million pine seedlings. All of the pine seed are produced by

AFC at our Tree Improvement Seed Orchard in Bluff City. AFC breeds and tests for orchard selections that will provide the very highest genetic quality in both loblolly pine and shortleaf pine. We have the only tree improvement program in the western gulf region for shortleaf and have the only advanced generation shortleaf pine seed orchard. AFC produces loblolly pine and shortleaf at Baucum Nursery but have also contracted with International Forest Company for the past 2 years to grow containerized shortleaf pine from our seed. We will continue that program for 2014 and will add containerized 3 star loblolly pine (highest genetic gain families) from our seed.

AFC's target crop for oaks for the 2014 season is over 3.8 million seedlings. AFC purchased 66,239 pounds of acorns to produce that crop. In addition to oak seed that we purchase, AFC has the only improved cherrybark oak and improved nuttall oak seed orchards in the country. The very long range goal is to become self-sustaining (AFC oak seed orchards that produce the seed for Baucum Nursery) with our major hardwood species like we are with the pine.

Other hardwood species seedling target is 1.455 million and we planted 9,492 pounds of seed.

The overall target numbers for seedling production for Baucum Nursery are 4.1 million pine and 5.35 million hardwood for a total crop of 9.455 million seedlings.

**Best Management Practices:** AFC provides BMP training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

During April, the BMP coordinator conducted one courtesy exam and made a presentation at the Society of American Foresters SW Chapter meeting in Hope. BMP Coordinator participated at a multi-agency working group meeting designed to provide a project to address water quality on unpaved roads.

BMP coordinator finished a final draft of the BMP program's 5 year strategic plan. Input for the BMP strategic plan included stakeholder agencies and organizations.

BMP coordinator is providing onsite supervision for the Central Arkansas Water, BMP fire break/roads project. BMP Coordinator continues to work on the USDA Forest Service Complete grant that will provide funds for AFC to design and implement a BMP demonstration area on the Poison Springs State Forest.

**Forest Inventory and Analysis:** AFC 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 April, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 65 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 media and civic organization presentations that are not included in the district reporting. During April, the districts reported 10 news articles, 138 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 31 tree planting events with communities or schools and 4 exhibits at public events.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

April 30, 2013		
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(285,610.57)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(285,610.57)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(103,262.32)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	(1,573.88)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(104,836.20)	
4034001000 RENTS	(200.00)	
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(200.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(250,375.39)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(38,314.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(288,689.39)	
4042001000 FINES	(1,015.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(1,015.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(11,250.00)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan collections
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(31,091.65)	Prescribed burns
** OR - Miscellaneous	(42,341.65)	
4048019000 RESALES	(8,440.34)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(8,440.34)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan resales
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.04)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.04)	
4050001000 NONFED GRANTS/REIMB	0.00	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(222.31)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(222.31)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(256,313.10)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(256,313.10)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	8,568.32	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	6,022.45	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,459.08	
** Treasury Charges	16,049.85	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	776,844.83	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	5,997.50	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,670.20	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,810.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,217.91	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	107,048.39	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	4,537.33	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	17,695.62	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	

5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	2,400.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,083,221.78</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000 Postage	2,792.60	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	13,151.56	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	13,834.22	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	7,830.01	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	73.43	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	<b>37,793.14</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000 Printing	1,916.81	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	567.44	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>2,484.25</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	12,065.39	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	238.70	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	984.60	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	40,521.64	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	12,804.54	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	2,050.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	4,702.03	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>73,366.90</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000 Electricity	12,382.47	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,778.82	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	4,943.83	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	7,137.99	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	390.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,683.32	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	4,524.06	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>33,840.49</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000 02 Mileage	712.45	
5050003000 02 Meals & Lodging	0.00	
5050003100 02 - Meals	762.44	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	2,075.39	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	40.00	
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	371.20	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,190.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	2,072.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>7,223.48</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	273,577.67	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	7,636.25	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>281,213.92</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080009000 Janitorial Service	531.65	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	190.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,580.81	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	13,125.20	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	88.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	33,855.54	Payment for Equipment Rural Fire Revolving Loan
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>49,371.20</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5090004000 Tires	4,524.88	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	47,373.41	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	23,196.92	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	2,944.06	



5090006000	Office Supplies	5,557.00	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	4,421.72	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	172.81	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	7,236.21	
5090019000	Food Purchases	248.46	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,481.55	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	46,474.01	Baucum nursery
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	6,613.41	Baucum nursery
5090026000	DP Supps	8,021.97	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	1,435.88	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	1,890.16	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	1,890.16	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>		<b>163,482.61</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	3,234.00	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>		<b>3,234.00</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	20.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	346.61	
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>		<b>366.61</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5900003000	Capital Outlay	24,589.32	
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>		<b>24,589.32</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	137,730.33	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>		<b>137,730.33</b>	
6060002000	Intra-Agy Xfers In	(5,809.51)	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	(117,000.00)	
6060003100	INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(955,000.00)	
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	(21,747.00)	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	5,809.51	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	1,195.74	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>		<b>(1,092,551.26)</b>	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>		<b>0.00</b>	