



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

January 9, 2014

The Honorable Bill Sample  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable John C. Edwards  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for December 2013

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Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 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 December 2013.

The December 5-7, 2013 ice storm that hit Arkansas kept Arkansas Forestry Commission chain saw and dozer crews busy clearing roads. AFC worked with the county judges in Polk, Scott, Logan and Sebastian counties. Several rural roads in these counties were completely blocked with downed trees requiring dozers to clear the roads. AFC crews cleared 72 miles of roads in the 4 counties. Some of the damage to forested areas in west central Arkansas was extreme.

I am proud of the AFC response during times of natural disasters or other emergencies.

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



## **ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

### **December 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During December, a total of 12 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 67 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of December is 77 wildfires for 1,175 acres burned.

For calendar year 2013 AFC suppressed 787 fires for 11,261 acres as compared to the 3 year average of 2010-2012 of 2,268 fires for 37,138 acres. AFC has been keeping wildfire records since 1935. CY 2013 had the lowest occurrence of wildfires on record and was second lowest for number of acres burned.

**Storm Damage Assistance:** AFC District 2 crews from Howard, Polk, Scott, Sevier, and Yell Counties assisted with clearing roads from ice storm damage around Hatfield, Mena, and Waldron areas. In District 6, crews from Logan and Sebastian Counties assisted with clearing roads from ice storm damage around Booneville, Paris, and Hartford areas. AFC crews cleared 72 miles of road in the ice storm affected areas.

**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 December, 29 rural fire departments (74 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Five 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. 2,176 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items were issued to rural fire departments such as flashlights, safety glasses, gloves, emergency revolving lights, and boots. RFP provided two rural fire departments interest free loans through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$26,064.77 (\$12,500.00 for Lakeway, Marion County, and \$13,564.77 for Southeast Lincoln, Lincoln County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on five 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 119 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In December, Firewise staff assisted 55 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, assisted with three Community Wildfire Protection Plans, conducted three initial presentations about the Firewise program, and one risk assessment training. Firewise staff provided educational materials for three Christmas parades which were distributed to approximately 6,000 in attendance. Firewise staff attended the Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Board meeting.

Firewise staff visited 16 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 16 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with three county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Staff collaborated with the US Park Service on Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Wildland Urban Interface education efforts.

Firewise staff assisted with three media releases, responded to 10 media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and updated the Firewise website and Facebook site.

**Law Enforcement:** AFC has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but focuses primarily on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and equipment theft and vandalism. AFC aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In December, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 1 fire related and 3 timber theft cases.

AFC Law Enforcement officers patrolled Poison Springs State Forest on predetermined days during deer season. Law Enforcement officers participated with “Shop with a Cop” program in Clinton and Mountain View.

## **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 and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use 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 4,493 landowners owning 825,188 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,266 Forest Stewards owning 276,821 acres.

For December, 10 FSP plans were prepared on 1,235 acres. In addition, AFC 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. AFC foresters prepared 18 rural forestry forest management plans on 1,545 acres. In addition, AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 4 tracts for 258 acres and constructed 34,765 feet of fire lane.

**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. Through the federal grant program landowners can qualify for incentives that pay \$50 per acre for pre-commercial or first commercial thinning in pine stands. Loggers qualify for an incentive of \$1,000 per tract to harvest timber on tracts 10-20 acres in size. This logger incentive helps cover the cost of moving equipment, logging and haul cost for small tracts.

In December, private landowners were reimbursed for 15 SPB Prevention Program projects covering 563 acres and 6 logger incentives were paid.

Though the EAB continues to be detected in new locations (Colorado), at this time, there are no known infestations of EAB in the Arkansas.

**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.

An analysis of old growth forest parcels on Kessler Mountain was funded through a grant that was awarded to the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA). A master's degree candidate in the geosciences department cataloged old-growth trees in two rugged areas on a wooded hillside in southwest Fayetteville. Two permanent study plots were installed at a post oak segment and chinkapin oak escarpment to describe the tree species composition, structure, and age of each forest site. One of the oldest looking post oaks was cored and dated with an inner ring year of 1724. However pith was not reached on this tree and the core was taken at breast height so the estimated age of this tree is over 300 years old. A chinkapin oak cross section was taken with a chainsaw near where it lay across a bike trail. The cross section was ring counted to 216 years.

This study seeks to back up preservation efforts with scientific research. The main goals are to: 1) document the existence of old growth forest on Mt. Kessler, 2) locate the areas of intact remnant old growth and 3) study the species makeup of the forests as an in depth baseline study for Mt. Kessler that can be used for future studies.

**Baucum Nursery:** AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Quality control is important factor in packaging seedlings at Baucum Nursery. We are working with the lifting contractor to improve the grading of seedlings. Baucum Nursery began harvesting seedlings the last week of December and instituted the use of ¼ inch dowel rods cut at 16 inch length, as a guide for the contract hand lifting crew members. If the hardwood seedlings they lift are less than 16 inches from root collar to top of the tree or less than ¼ inch in diameter, then those seedlings are not packaged. In addition, Baucum Nursery has a quality control inspection line in the packing house that randomly checks the seedlings. If Baucum Nursery inspectors find seedlings that do not meet specifications, the lifting contractor does not get paid for lifting those seedlings. The next objective we identified was growing a more consistent size hardwood seedling. To accomplish this objective our Baucum Nursery staff converted our 5 row hardwood planter to a 4 row planter which will give all seedlings 20% more space to grow which should produce less culls and overall larger trees. Many species were fall planted with the newly modified hardwood planter.

AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of December resulted in 1,830,100 pine, 1,699,225 oaks and 809,100 other hardwoods.

**Tree Improvement:** AFC's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One of AFC's objectives in tree improvement is establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. AFC Baucum Nursery makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which is the result of the tree improvement program. During the month of December, grafts were transplanted to the newest loblolly pine and shortleaf pine seed orchards. These orchards provide pine seed for planting at Baucum Nursery.

The Reforestation Manager conducted a Tree Improvement and Nursery training session at Monticello for AFC personnel; 29 people attended the meeting.

**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.

The BMP coordinator provided two technical logger training sessions for foresters, loggers and contractors. The first training session was conducted at Pine Bluff with approximately 48 participants. The second training session held in El Dorado in coordination with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association had approximately 37 participants.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC and provided training information on logger training at the Arkansas Timber Producers Association quarterly meeting.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC at the Farm Bureau Annual State Meeting in Little Rock.

**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 December, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 80 plots.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. During December, the districts reported participating in 6 fairs or exhibits, 11 news articles, and 12 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

December 31, 2013

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(268,597.92)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(268,597.92)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(369,011.95)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(369,011.95)	
4034001000 Rents	(500.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(500.00)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(31,090.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(31,090.00)	
4042001000 Fines	0.00	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(20,170.58)	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(5,076.15)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(25,246.73)	
4048019000 Resales	(64,834.61)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(64,834.61)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(25.48)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(25.48)	Interests
4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	1,000.00	Misc. Reimbursement
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	1,000.00	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(675,784.02)	



4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(675,784.02)</b>	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	8,057.94	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	6,171.52	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,422.94	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>15,652.40</b>	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	807,606.01	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	2,907.22	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.00	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,825.81	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,438.01	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	120,389.57	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	118.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,110,544.62</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	80.00	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	15,957.91	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	16,715.61	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	9,238.56	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	<b>41,992.08</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	52.91	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	75.68	Camden News Publishing Company
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>128.59</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	5,414.45	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	149.26	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	0.00	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	8,360.64	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	5,390.12	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>19,314.47</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	9,730.31	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	(170.03)	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,869.84	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	6,839.70	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,930.00	

5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,563.74	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	3,859.80	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>		<b>27,623.36</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	326.51	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,032.94	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,740.53	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	34.88	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	160.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	445.44	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
5050027000	09 Ag Sponsored Conf	767.36	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>5,507.66</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	56,448.16	
5060002000	Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees CI10	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	13,823.75	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>70,271.91</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	20,507.00	Aircraft Insurance
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>		<b>20,507.00</b>	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	260.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD SER	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	770.21	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	10,172.40	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	0.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	25,498.00	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>		<b>36,766.61</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	0.00	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	22,535.61	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	14,221.95	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	0.00	



5090006000	Office Supplies	0.00	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	(600.00)	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	21.75	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	73.10	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	791.75	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	55.57	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	55,994.47	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	3,388.00	
5090026000	DP Supps	1,343.73	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	185.30	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	4,343.47	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	4,343.47	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>		106,698.17	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	152,241.69	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>		152,241.69	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	2,530.00	
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>		2,530.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
<b>** Refunds</b>		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	0.00	
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>		0.00	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	141,008.87	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>		141,008.87	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	95.95	
<b>** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets</b>		95.95	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100	INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(762,276.86)	General Revenue Distribution
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007300	Surety Prem. Tr. Out	539.05	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>		(761,737.81)	
6990001000	Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(1,000.00)	
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>		(1,000.00)	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>		0.00	