



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

April 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 March 2014

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89th 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 March 2014.

On Saturday, March 22, the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial was dedicated. One of the statues depicted in the memorial is a wildland firefighter. AFC County Ranger Jeremy Jones from Forrest City was the model for the wildland firefighter. AFC has 5 firefighters that have died in the line of duty listed on the memorial wall.

The 2014 spring fire season has seen a variety of weather with winds and low humidity in the mix. For the entire year of 2013 AFC held the loss of acres burned to 11,261 acres. For January – March 2014 wildfires have burned 12,278 acres.

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

March 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During March, a total of 240 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 4,641 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of March is 323 wildfires for 6,717 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Operation: An AFC crew from Newton County assisted in a search and rescue operation for a person who had been camping on the Buffalo National River.

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 March, fifty- five rural fire departments (155 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Ten Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$1,594,108.00) were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 7,587 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$422,215.56) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as spill kits, tripod lighting, canteens/covers and drain pans.

RFP provided three interest free loans via the RFP Revolving Loan Fund:

- Culpepper VFD for \$12,500 to purchase a 1991 E-One Hurricane Pumper; 2 year loan – Van Buren County
- Saffell VFD for \$15,000 to purchase 1989 International S1900 Pumper; 3 year loan – Lawrence County
- Scott Fire Protection District for \$10,780 to purchase a skid unit; 2 year loan – Pulaski County

The RFP shop completed maintenance on eight 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 131 active Firewise communities in 2013. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In March, Firewise staff assisted two communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, assisted two communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and conducted four initial presentations about the Firewise program at Gum Springs, Doodridge, Perla and Hamburg VFDs. Firewise staff conducted three risk assessment trainings at Standard Umsted, Humphrey, and Locust Bayou VFDs and taught one wildland fire class.

Firewise staff visited 16 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 22 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with two county Office

of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for three Firewise events and to all the Arkansas State Parks.

Firewise staff assisted with three media releases, responded to five media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and the Firewise plan, and updated Facebook site. Firewise staff attended and worked at the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial dedication. Staff attended Fire Boat School planning meeting and Red Card Committee meeting.

Firewise staff completed a Spanish language brochure and updated the Firewise basic brochure and conference displays.

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 March, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 3 dumping, 30 fire related and 5 timber theft cases.

AFC Investigators assisted the Independence County Sheriff's office in a wildfire investigation which resulted in felony charges for reckless burning. Two warrants were obtained for felony timber theft in Searcy County and one warrant in Marion County for a misdemeanor timber theft.

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 4,541 landowners owning 836,614 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,276 Forest Stewards owning 277,459 acres.

For March, 26 FSP plans were prepared on 6,011 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 43 rural forestry management plans on 3,146 acres. In addition, AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 64 tracts for 4,951 acres and constructed 155,029 feet of fire lane.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In March, 56 tracts totaling 2,495 acres were planted in trees by nonindustrial private forest landowners.

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 third Monday in March is designated as Arkansas' Arbor Day and it provides a great opportunity for AFC personnel to reach out to schools and communities across the state although Arbor Day can be celebrated anytime of the year. It also gives Arkansas's Tree City USA communities the opportunity to promote the benefits of trees and involve citizens in various tree projects. Projects vary but two good examples for involving the community are from the Maumelle Tree Board and the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC). Maumelle held an Arbor Day celebration with a theme of "Trick or Treat for Trees" at Lake Willastein. Nearly 100 people attended. Cub Scouts planted trees and elementary students participated in a poster contest. An arborist presented to over 200 students leading up to the celebration and donated an apple tree to the school. AUFC held their Arkansas ReLeaf program in conjunction with Arbor Day in the City of Redfield. Mayor Lawhon read the Mayoral Proclamation and a tree was planted in F.P. Baugh Park. Hot dogs were served by Tree Board members and fifty shade trees were given to the residents of Redfield. Cypress trees will be replaced along the river in the following week to help replace trees killed by beavers.

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

Lifting and planting season for bare root forest tree seedlings is coming to a close. The AFC nursery staff began planting hardwood species that were not planted in the fall and have placed the pine seed in stratification to prepare for planting in April.

AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of March resulted in 2,573,850 pine, 2,778,300 oaks and 1,203,175 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 March, the Reforestation Manager and Reforestation Foreman attended the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program Cooperative (WGFTIP) Executive Committee meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana. This is an annual meeting where the executive committee members receive a report of WGFTIP accomplishments for the past year and develop future plans.

All grafts needed to plant in loblolly, shortleaf and hardwood orchards were completed and have begun growing in the greenhouse. Control cross pollination work began this month by isolating female flowers from other pollen. This is done by tying pollination bags on the orchard trees. As the enclosed female flowers become receptive, the desired pollen will be injected into the bag to pollinate the female. The cones and seed from this cross will be planted in progeny tests to determine which crosses produce the best offspring.

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.

For March, the BMP Coordinator conducted one courtesy exam with 6 participants. Participants consisted of AFC personnel, industry foresters, and private non-industrial forest landowners. During the meeting the BMP Coordinator addressed on-site BMP recommendations as in relation to BMP guidelines.

The BMP coordinator resolved one logger complaint in Franklin County. The complaint involved water quality impairment problems with Streamside Management Zone and stream crossing.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC and provided reports at the AFA Forest Practices Committee meeting, and the Sustainable Forestry Committee meeting.

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 March, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 64 plots.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) facilitated attention toward Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations across Arkansas through social and local media initiatives. With frequent social media posts and wide circulation of tree planting sites and Smokey Bear Celebrations, Arkansas's Arbor and Earth Day efforts were well emphasized throughout the state.

PIC worked with the Arkansas Forestry Association and University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to highlight tours of the Nipper Tree Farm. The Nippers received recognition as "Tree Farm Family of the Year" in 2013 and have worked to host several tours and programs throughout March for which to showcase good Tree Farm practices, among other forestry practices on their land in Columbia County.

PIC coordinated an in-depth, live interview with KTHV 11 at the Rural Fire Protection Program Headquarters in Greenbrier. Interview highlights included the invaluable relationship between the AFC RFP Program and statewide volunteer fire departments.

PIC met with the Arkansas Famous and Historic Tree Committee. A new timeline has been established for revamping that program. Website edits are the first and most important step. The first "new inductees" will take place in late May.

PIC is completing and creating a full update of the Arkansas Champion Trees website page at www.forestry.arkansas.gov to coincide with renewed attention for the program thanks to the recent AETN documentary about the program. Many new trees have been submitted for consideration as State Champions.

Preliminary steps are being taken to publish the 2014, color-edition of the "Trees of Arkansas" book.

AFC districts reported participating in 3 radio/television interviews, 22 news articles, 38 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 18 community tree/Arbor Day planting events, and 2 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

March 31, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(251,731.11)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(251,731.11)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(11,299.98)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(11,299.98)	
4034001000 Rents	(300.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(300.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(206,168.97)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(31,615.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(237,783.97)	
4042001000 Fines	(362.50)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(362.50)	
4047002000 Other Sales	(32,460.00)	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(62,434.82)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(141,664.00)	Donated Freightliner Truck
** OR - Miscellaneous	(236,558.82)	
4048019000 Resales	(76,690.35)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(76,690.35)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.11)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.11)	Interests
4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(73.57)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(73.57)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(392,670.15)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(392,670.15)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	7,551.93	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	4,157.52	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,170.94	
** Treasury Charges	12,880.39	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	801,105.71	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	8,857.23	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	585.11	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,443.10	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,546.04	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	119,333.03	
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	2,856.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,111,986.22	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	783.84	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	21,598.29	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,841.72	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,705.75	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	170.00	
5020005000 Freight	14.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	34,113.60	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	1,042.16	Handbooks
5030001200 Legal/Medical Copying	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	401.36	Camden News Publishing Company
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	1,443.52	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	(67.47)	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	1,021.64	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,704.41	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	6,518.05	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	22,325.95	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	17,527.42	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	30.77	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	49,060.77	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	14,370.87	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,324.72	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	7,300.81	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	3,805.00	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,892.16	
5040009000 Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	3,049.00	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent	32,742.56	General Operation & Federal Programs
5050001000 02 Mileage	826.95	
5050003100 02 - Meals	726.79	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,778.86	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	0.00	

5050009000	02 Ground Transport	67.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	108.99	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,785.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,770.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	551.88	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
5050027000	09 Ag Sponsored Conf	767.36	
** Travel & Subsistence		9,382.83	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	112,455.00	Western Pilot
5060002000	Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees Cl10	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	1,161.75	
** Professional Services & Fees		113,616.75	General Operation & Federal Programs
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	452.35	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	617.58	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	4,421.98	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	0.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	93,380.88	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
** Other Expenses & Services		98,894.79	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	(6,664.53)	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	295.00	
5090004000	Tires	2,041.02	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	43,415.01	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	28,619.71	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	8,199.36	
5090006000	Office Supplies	2,993.80	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats.	1,019.93	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	6,091.98	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	593.05	
5090019000	Food Purchases	340.27	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	16.32	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,480.69	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	43,579.34	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	198.26	
5090026000	DP Supps	1,156.30	

5090027000 Software/Licenses	5,154.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	855.36	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	944.05	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	944.05	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	141,272.97	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	6,558.00	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	(1,650.00)	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	4,908.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	0.00	
6080001000 REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	69.75	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	69.75	Acquisition of Land and Donated Transports
5900003000 Capital Outlay	269,621.14	
** Capital Outlay	269,621.14	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	142,481.50	
** Depreciation/Amortization	142,481.50	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(679,004.27)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850 FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(75.00)	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061004200 InterAgy FedRev XOut	1,650.00	
6061004299 NBR Fed Rev XFR Out	0.00	
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061006850 FA Transfers Out	0.00	
6061007300 Surety Prem. Tr. Out	0.00	
6061007500 WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(677,429.27)	
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
*** BALANCE	0.00	