



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

October 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 September 2014

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 September 2014.

Since 1998, the AFC partnering with other private, state and federal natural resource organizations has conducted an annual Arkansas Prescribed Fire School. The mission of the school is to promote understanding and safe and effective use of prescribed fire as a natural resource management tool.

The 44 students attending this September's school represented Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas National Guard, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, forest industry and private consultants. During the school's 17 years over 600 students have attended.

Rain patterns in September helped reduce the wild fire danger and occurrence. Even with low fire occurrence AFC personnel have been busy as seen with all the activities outlined in the attached September report.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A blue ink signature of Joe S. Fox, written in a cursive style, is placed over the printed name.

Joe S. Fox

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



## **ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

### **September 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During September, a total of 45 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 260 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of September is 144 wildfires for 2,252 acres burned.

**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 September, 38 rural fire departments (78 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were 12 Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$1,379,342.84) picked up from military posts. 713 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$45,936.06) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as spill kits, search lights, smoke alarms, and flood lights.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on six 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 September, Firewise staff assisted 65 communities/fire departments with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted two communities with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conducted 11 initial presentations about the Firewise program, and conducted five risk assessment trainings.

Firewise staff visited 19 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 30 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with four county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for 25 Firewise events and attended the Arkansas Rural Volunteer Firefighter Association meeting. Firewise staff attended the Perry, Craighead, Drew, Van Buren counties fairs and Lafe Firewise day.

Firewise staff assisted with eight media releases and updated Facebook site and [www.arkansasfirewise.com](http://www.arkansasfirewise.com). Firewise staff completed the Firewise conference display and distributed displays to the districts. Staff attended two online workshops on topics: Ready, Set, Go! and how to target minority communities.

Firewise staff assisted with AFC air attack, the Arkansas Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial and taught one wildland class at the Camden fire academy.

Firewise completed printing of a Spanish language Firewise and a basic Firewise tri-fold brochures. Staff provided Girl Scouts/youth group Firewise merit badges.

**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 forestry equipment theft and vandalism. AFC aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In September, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 5 dumping, 1 equipment theft/vandalism related, 2 fire related and 7 timber theft cases.

Law Enforcement officers performed annual County Ranger law enforcement and firearms training for all AFC districts. Two Law Enforcement officers attended the Southeast Arson Task Force Training in Georgia.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs:** 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 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 4,659 landowners owning 856,474 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,310 Forest Stewards owning 282,590 acres.

For September, 30 FSP plans were prepared on 3,519 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 93 rural forestry management plans on 5,294 acres. AFC personnel constructed 124,878 feet of fire lane.

**Forest Health:** Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been positively identified in Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hot Spring, Nevada, and Ouachita Counties.

The Arkansas State Plant Board implemented an emergency quarantine and will be scheduling public meetings to review the proposed quarantine regulations. AFC is assisting State Plant Board with preparing media releases.

**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.

As part of a US Forest Service (USFS) regional storm preparedness and response grant Arkansas and Oklahoma state forestry agencies partnered on a Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course for nineteen individuals representing the two agencies. The training was conducted August 18 -21 in Ft. Smith. The National Cemetery gave permission to assess their trees for the outdoor field exercises.

The goal was to help attendees develop a consistent approach and process in determining the risks and threats trees have from various impacts. Attendees received instructions on the latest techniques for

identifying risks, consequences and failure potentials for trees in any given situation regardless if a storm event has weakened them or not.

The Arkansas Urban Forestry Strike Team, having taken a training course through the USFS to become Strike Team Specialists and most recently trained through the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, now has a Mission Ready Package registered with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. This means when a community is hit by a natural disaster they will be made aware that their trees are eligible to be assessed by Strike Team members. The assessment can assist with determining debris amounts for FEMA but even more important they can be made aware of which trees should be saved and those that have become hazardous and should be removed. The Strike Team is made up of Certified Arborists and AFC District Arborists or AFC Urban Representatives. More information about the Strike Team is available at [www.ufst.org](http://www.ufst.org).

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

Seedling sales for FY15 began on July 15. Sales through the end of September are 446,725 pine, 324,450 oak and 385,600 other hardwood.

Baucum Nursery crew continues to provide necessary cultural practices to the pine and hardwood crops; especially top pruning, fertilization, irrigation and hand weeding. Field inventory is being conducted at this time. Nursery technicians use a 1ft x 4ft metal frame that is laid in the bed. Trees inside the frame are counted and scored as good or cull. This process is repeated as many times as necessary to reach a confidence interval of 95% accuracy for total salable seedlings for each species.

Reforestation Manager and Nursery Manager represented AFC at the 65<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Arkansas Forestry Association meeting in Hot Springs. AFC's exhibit at the three day meeting displayed seedlings available for sale and promoted all AFC functions.

**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.

In September the roof and walls were completed on the new shop at Bluff City. All that is remaining to complete the pre-engineered metal building are the end walls and doors. AFC personnel erected the new shop thus saving money on construction cost. The Bluff City crew will begin using the new shop in October.

Cone harvest began on September 30. If the first family harvested in our oldest loblolly orchard is any indication of the size of the crop, we should have a very good crop this year. The oldest loblolly trees we have in the orchard are one of our improved 3 star loblolly families which produced an average of 1.5 bushels per tree last year. This year they are averaging almost 6 bushels per tree.

**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 conducted one courtesy exam and participated in third party audit for Weyerhaeuser Company. The BMP Coordinator met with industry foresters, the third party auditor, and

contract loggers. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of Arkansas' BMP Implementation Reports, AFC's manual "BMPs for Water Quality Protection", and technical assistance to the participants.

The BMP coordinator responded to two logger complaints in AFC District 1 Drew County and AFC District 4 Nevada County. Both complaints involved water quality impairment problems with Streamside Management Zone and stream crossing.

The BMP coordinator provided one technical logger training session for Deltic Timber Company for their foresters, loggers and contractors. The training was well attended with approximately 75 participants.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC and provided reports at the Arkansas Forestry Association Forest Practices 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 September, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 77 plots.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) created an online archive of Emerald Ash Borer material for circulation and sharing by all agencies involved with communication of the newly passed ash quarantine.

- Materials included development of a press release for distribution by the Arkansas State Plant Board.
- Materials also included print items and talking points from the U.S. Forest Service and the Arkansas State Plant Board.
- A page on the AFC website was then created from all materials; the page directly addresses the quarantine, Emerald Ash Borer identification, and other helpful links and details for those affected by the quarantine and other concerned citizens.

PIC represented AFC as Public Affairs Officer and served as media coordinator for the week-long 17<sup>th</sup> annual Prescribed Fire School training event at Camp Robinson (September 22-26).

- Partner agencies represented by media efforts included: The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas Forestry Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas State Parks, Camp Robinson, private industry corporations including Green Bay Packaging, and other state/federal/private forestry and fire organizations.

AFC inducted a new Arkansas Champion Tree – the China Fir Tree of Helena (Phillips County).

- Circulated media release for that tree/captured photos of presentation.

PIC served as presenter for a Rotary Club meeting in Garland County and Ladies' Club meeting in Arkansas County.

PIC helped AFC Urban Forestry personnel host a booth at the Master Gardener's Appreciation Day event at Garvan Woodland Gardens.



PIC circulated announcement for upcoming Rural Fire Show at Greenbrier.

- This was picked up by many local newspapers, and also received television mention.

AFC districts reported participating in 11 news articles, 60 presentations to school and civic groups, and 37 festivals or event exhibits.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

September 30, 2014

	<b>Balance</b>	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(339,330.34)	
<b>** SR (3.0) – Taxes</b>	<b>(339,330.34)</b>	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(58,772.76)	
<b>** SR (1.5) – Taxes</b>	<b>(58,772.76)</b>	
4034001000 Rents	(600.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
<b>** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas</b>	<b>(600.00)</b>	
4038001000 Timber Sales	0.00	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(15,238.00)	
<b>** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce</b>	<b>(15,238.00)</b>	
4042001000 Fines	0.00	
<b>** OR - Fines and Penalties</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
4047002000 Other Sales	(4,873.56)	Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, Etc...)
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	(300.00)	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(6,051.63)	Prescribe Burn, Fire Lane, and Etc...
<b>** OR – Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(11,225.19)</b>	
4048019000 Resales	(11,942.50)	
<b>** OR - Sales of Goods and Services</b>	<b>(11,942.50)</b>	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.10)	
<b>** OR - Investment Revenue</b>	<b>(0.10)</b>	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4057003000 Utility Reimbur	0.00	
<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(70,776.25)	
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	<b>(70,776.25)</b>	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	10,179.91	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	1,468.21	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	776.54	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>12,424.66</b>	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	780,526.59	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,619.68	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.00	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,583.31	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,467.41	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,427.54	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	1,200.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,079,904.53</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	924.35	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,978.90	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	49.33	

5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,676.28	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	90.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	<b>17,830.18</b>	
5030001000 Printing	0.00	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	5.34	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>5.34</b>	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,115.18	
5030005100 Pest Control Cl 02	96.36	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	71.38	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	27,381.33	Two Way Radios
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	15,715.28	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	8,760.89	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	9,318.84	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	123.47	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>72,582.73</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	14,472.40	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	5,557.80	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,261.59	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	13,253.49	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	3,620.51	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>39,255.79</b>	
5050001000 02 Mileage	414.96	
5050002000 09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,494.88	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	2,117.24	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050011000 02 Prkng Fees Travel	15.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,645.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	890.00	
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>7,577.08</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	54,348.00	SEAT Contract
5060001400 02 WC Admin Fee Exp	0.00	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	8,656.98	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>63,004.98</b>	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	152.00	
5080011000 02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	835.72	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	8,562.89	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	169.00	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	



5120011000 Loans to Individuals	47,832.21	Loans to Rural Fire Departments
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>58,176.42</b>	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	3,521.41	
5090004000 Tires	4,397.54	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purchase	40,718.85	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	22,141.96	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	5,964.18	
5090006000 Office Supplies	4,475.14	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	21,703.30	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	72.00	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	7,478.44	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	471.46	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	90.99	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,301.87	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	10,307.65	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	3,542.99	
5090026000 DP Supps	3,261.94	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	11,407.27	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	44,052.29	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	44,052.29	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>229,961.57</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	19,477.62	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>19,477.62</b>	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
<b>** Refunds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	0.00	
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	144,007.57	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>144,007.57</b>	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	1,388.36	
<b>** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,388.36</b>	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(1,149,846.46)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER		
OUT	61,976.05	
6061008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(1,087,870.41)</b>	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	