



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

December 8, 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 November 2014

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89th General Assembly, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for November 2014.

For more than 50 years science students in Arkansas's schools have learned about trees and how to identify them using the Arkansas Forestry Commission published *Trees of Arkansas*. There have been several editions of the book since 1960 and this year's edition of the book is in color for the first time. Over 8,000 books have been sold or circulated to satellite AFC offices or partner agencies since October.

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

November 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During November, a total of 88 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 849 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of November is 88 wildfires for 1,727 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC crews assisted in five search and rescue operations. An AFC Newton County crew assisted in a search and rescue operation for a fallen hiker around the Buffalo National River. AFC Perry County personnel assisted in a search and rescue operation for a lost hunter in the area around the Lake Winona Road in Saline County. AFC personnel helped search for a lost hunter in the Poteau Mountain Wilderness Area in Sebastian County. An AFC Logan County crew assisted in a search southwest of Blue Mountain for an elderly lady. An AFC Washington County crew assisted in searching for a person lost in the Fayetteville area.

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 November, 43 rural fire departments (112 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were seven Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$589,752.00) picked up from military posts. 170 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$44,900.77) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as electric floodlights, parking lights, engine flywheels and spotlights.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven 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 139 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In November, Firewise staff assisted 40 communities/fire departments with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted East Camden with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conducted six initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented four risk assessment trainings.

Firewise staff visited 13 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 15 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 four Firewise events and assisted with the Garland County Health Clinic flu shot day, providing Firewise literature for all 1,500 attendees.

Firewise staff assisted with 30 media releases and updated the Firewise Facebook site and website www.arkansasfirewise.com. Firewise staff assisted Lake Charles State Park with risk assessments of structures and taught a Wildland Fire Fighting class.

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 November, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 5 dumping, 6 fire related and 1 timber theft cases.

AFC law enforcement officers patrolled Poison Springs State Forest camp sites during modern gun deer season.

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 4,680 landowners owning 862,615 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,308 Forest Stewards owning 282,145 acres.

For November, 12 FSP plans were prepared on 2,942 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 31 rural forestry management plans on 2,084 acres. AFC personnel constructed 88,307 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 12 prescribed burns on 693 acres.

Forest Health: Emerald ash borer was not reported in any new counties in November. The emergency quarantine established by the State Plant Board will expire in December and a public meeting is scheduled for December 18 to review the proposed permanent quarantine regulations.

A single gypsy moth was identified in a pheromone trap from Nevada County. As this discovery is still recent, further detection and control measures are forthcoming, but risk of establishment in Nevada County is low. The insect, an invasive species introduced in Maine from China in 1869, has spread by natural and human-influenced dispersal across the entire eastern United States. It poses a serious threat to Arkansas's hardwood forests. Control of a major outbreak in northern Arkansas during the 1990s was a success.

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.

AFC partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council to hold a workshop, at the Butler Center in Little Rock, on how and why to utilize trees to improve the environment for energy conservation. Workshop participants learned about research regarding the benefits of trees in the urban environment as

well as where the research originated. Presenters described how increasing the tree canopy over streets, parking lots and plazas not only beautifies these public areas, but also how they help to conserve energy by mitigating the heat island effect of these expansive built spaces. Additional partners included: Tree Streets, EDG Landscape Architects and Engineers, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension, US Green Building Council and the USDA Forest Service. The Council added ten new members to their organization.

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 November are 770,100 pine; 1,124,925 oak and 716,850 other hardwood.

Field inventory in the nursery beds is almost complete and will be reported next month. The following species have been planted this fall for the FY16 crop: Chinquapin oak, white oak, cow oak, black walnut, water hickory, sawtooth oak, half of the persimmon, and part of the Nuttall oak and overcup oak. Baucum Nursery is growing 1.2 million hardwood seedlings in FY16 for a Louisiana nursery. As a part of that contract we have fall planted all of the persimmon, overcup oak, and Nuttall oak.

Reforestation Manager attended the Advisory Committee meeting for the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative at Auburn University. This meeting is designed to review the research accomplishments of the previous year and to develop the plan for the next year as well as review all financial reports of the coop.

Reforestation Manager worked with writer and editor for an article about AFC seedling production for the Arkansas Grown annual publication.

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.

The loblolly pine cone harvest is complete and yielded 1,320.75 bushels. 65% of which will be sold to outside buyers. The shortleaf pine cone harvest is not complete and will be reported next month.

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 responded to three timber harvesting complaints. No problems at the harvest sites were identified.

The BMP Coordinator provided one technical logger training session in Mena for loggers and contractors. The training was attended by 23 participants.

The BMP Coordinator conducted BMP technical training, for twenty USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationist, and ten Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) Land Biologist at the AGFC Mayflower training center. The training consisted of a half day indoor session and a half day in the field with a proficiency test given.

The BMP coordinator began work on writing an Environmental Protection Agency 319h grant. The grant, if awarded, will allow the AFC to provide specific BMP technical and non-technical training and conduct a state wide BMP implementation survey which uses satellite imagery to locate harvest sites for potential tracts to survey.

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 November, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 78 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC):

- Presented *Trees of Arkansas* book to Governor Beebe and publicized photo between the Governor, Dr. Eric Sundell, and State Forester Joe Fox.
 - Helped coordinate the distribution of books to State Park Visitor Centers, and Arkansas Game & Fish Commission facilities across the state (as well as the State Capitol Gift Shop).
- Attended and publicized S.T.O.P. (Shade Trees on Playgrounds) program in Floral, near Batesville and provided follow-up release to local media.
- Served as guest speaker at the Little Rock Air Force Base Arbor Day event in Jacksonville; presented Tree City USA flags and supplies; spoke about the importance of forests and urban trees.
- Attended wildland fire class presentation at the Arkansas Fire Academy, toured facility, and visited with staff.
- Planned the Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee Winter Meeting – to be hosted in Arkansas in January, 2015.
- Created presentation for the Heavy Equipment Operator Course including live interviews, photos, and talking points.
- Began complete update of the Arkansas Champion Trees list (1/3 of trees are left to be updated by the end of the year).

AFC districts reported participating in 12 news articles, 22 presentations to school and civic groups, 4 community tree plantings, and 3 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(312,909.42)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(312,909.42)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(707,689.83)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(707,689.83)	
4034001000 Rents	(400.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(400.00)	
4037001000 Miscellaneous Income	(93.50)	
** SR (1.5) - Miscellaneous	(93.50)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(285.83)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(162,346.99)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(162,632.82)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	0.00	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	0.00	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	(200.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(21,953.08)	Trees of AR, Prescribe Burn, Fire Lane, and Etc...
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(22,153.08)	
4048019000 Resales	(63,499.11)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(63,499.11)	Firefighting Equipment for Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.11)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.11)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4050003999 NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4057003000 Utility Reimbur	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	0.00	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	9,387.28	
4090020000 1.5% SPL Rev Fees	11,238.44	
4090030000 Additional SR Fees	1,375.05	
** Treasury Charges	22,000.77	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	807,034.54	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,210.02	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	117.85	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,709.26	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,346.68	

5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,714.28	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
** Salary Expense	1,109,612.63	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	3,000.00	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,436.25	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,463.39	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,432.26	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	542.33	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	26,874.23	
5030001000 Printing	1,501.48	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	11.23	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	1,512.71	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	6,092.99	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,409.74	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	170.00	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	918.34	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	4,352.94	Aircraft Maintenance
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	14,944.01	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	6,176.31	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,664.04	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,643.39	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	625.00	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,880.30	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	300.00	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent	12,379.04	
5050001000 02 Mileage	10.08	
5050002000 09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100 02 - Meals	799.77	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	3,816.01	
5050004100 09 - Meals	31.82	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	71.15	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	321.20	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	816.23	
5050011000 02 Prkng Fees Travel	152.48	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	386.70	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	649.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	70.00	
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	

5050024000 NBR Travel/Sub Cl 09	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence	7,124.44	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	2,714.00	
5060001400 02 WC Admin Fee Exp	1,292.88	
5060016000 NBR Prosvs & Fees	0.00	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	4,468.25	
** Professional Services & Fees	8,475.13	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
5070010000 NBR - Ins. & Bonds	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	180.48	
5080011000 02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	541.02	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	5,031.95	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	27,094.35	Loans to Rural Fire Departments
** Other Expenses & Services	33,362.40	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	639.06	
5090004000 Tires	0.00	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purchase	28,893.05	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	18,280.46	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	864.50	
5090006000 Office Supplies	67.53	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	1,056.68	
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	(500.38)	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	650.00	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	0.00	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	106,336.69	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	0.00	
5090026000 DP Supps	775.99	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	4,512.60	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	5,368.20	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	5,368.20	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	172,312.58	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	16,138.83	
5100005000 02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	16,138.83	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	900.00	

5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	900.00
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	22,196.14
** Capital Outlay	22,196.14
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	133,454.12
** Depreciation/Amortization	133,454.12
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(300,000.00)
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(746,094.12)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
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	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(1,046,094.12)
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

ATV's & UTV's Purchased