



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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C.6

Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Larry Teague
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Lane Jean
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for March 2020

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Section 33 of Act 544 of the 2019 General Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for March 2020.

With the onset of the COVID 19 issues, fire detection and suppression are being maintained at the normal high level at the Forestry Division. With the exceptions of school programs or group meetings to discuss fire prevention and safety or forest health issues, the Division is business as usual.

Crews are currently working remotely (forests are remote) to complete tasks such as seedling plantings, planting checks, fire line construction, forest management plans, landowner assistance calls and as always fire suppression. All crews are practicing social distancing with crew members and landowners.

The division is taking advantage of technologies such as video conferencing and conference calls to ensure communications with staff and partners are continuing daily.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION



Joe S Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
March 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During March a total of 145 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 5,098 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of March is 235.82 wildfires with 5,376.27 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: Forestry Division crew from Van Buren County assisted with trees blocking road on Cheyenne and Cascade Road. Forestry Division crews from Forrest City, Jonesboro, Stuttgart, and Lawrence Counties assisted in tornado damage in the City of Jonesboro.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency service equipment from the federal government and thru state contract, and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance to property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

March 2020

- Four Wildland Fire Suppression training classes were conducted with forty FDs represented (123 firefighters), including seven Forestry personnel and eight minority departments in attendance.
- RFP received the following through the Fire Fighter Program/Federal Excess Equipment Program (FFP/FEPP): two service trucks (valued at \$63,977.00).
- The following equipment was issued this month: one generator (valued at \$53,500.00) and one brush truck (valued at \$167,746.00).
- Received 525 items from DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) (valued at \$100,107.23) for redistribution to FDs this month to include ruck sacks and defibrillators.

- The RFP shop completed maintenance on one Forestry vehicle, one Forestry generator and three fire department vehicles (labor savings of \$13,685.00).
- VFA Grant - Distributed wildfire kits to fire departments in D7 on 3/9/20 and delivered to D5 on 3/19/20. All other distributions have been temporarily halted.
- Health & Safety Plan – Held final scheduled training for compound. Will have a make-up day once returned to normal work schedules. Started having Monday morning safety talks with RFP staff.
- All seventy-five counties have turned in and cleared FFP/FEPP inventory. All forms have been mailed to USFS.
- Attended Fire Protection Services board meeting on 3/11/20 at ADEM.
- Lake Hamilton FD (Garland Co.) picked up a foam skid unit - \$11,000.00 (no loan).
- Rural Fire Show – marketing has created flyers, postcards, and an advertisement for Social Media for the event. Show is scheduled for Saturday October 3, 2020 from 9am -2pm at the Conway Expo Center.

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 is one of the top states with 103 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in March:

- Conducted one risk assessment training session for an interested fire department.
- Personnel attended trainings for topics including: Vehicle Logs, Forklift Operation, Weather, Ladder Safety, Situational Awareness, Fall/Slip Hazards, Load Lifting, and Insect/Snake Bite Treatment.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: two Exhibits/Festival Booths, two County and District Office Visits, twenty Fire Chief Visits, four Firewise Project Assists, four Landowner Assists, four Literature Distributions, three Meetings Attended, two Media Release Assists and four Wildfire Prevention Presentations to Schools.

Law Enforcement: The department has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but primarily focuses on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry

equipment theft and vandalism. The Department aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. The Department Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened six fire related, three timber theft and three dumping cases. They closed seven dumping cases and one timber case.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The Forestry Division 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 Division foresters, private consulting or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 383,668 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP). Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,268 Forest Stewards owning 286,479 acres in the State.

During the month of March, nine Stewardship management plans were prepared for 897 acres. In addition, Forestry Division 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 the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Division personnel prepared 161 Forest management practice plans on 17,552 acres and conducted 30 prescribed burns on 4,681 acres.

Urban & Community Forestry Assistance: Urban & Community Forestry Program staff provide assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

- A Tree City USA Growth Award presentation was made to Cotter and Tree City USA recognition materials were delivered or mailed to multiple cities. All 2019 Tree City USA applications and reapplications are now complete for the 2019 program year. Arkansas had a total of one Tree Line USA Utility, 40 Tree City USA communities and four Tree Campus USA campuses. Work is underway with at least three public school campuses to help them achieve the new Tree Campus K-12 designation for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Krissy Thomason, Urban Forestry Coordinator, and Chandler Barton, Division Forester and Forest Health Coordinator, assisted a local cemetery board in Hope, Arkansas, with pruning advice and tree health assessment of the cemetery's trees.

- Harold Fisher, Partnership Coordinator, and Randy O’Neal, of the Bluff City Nursery, planted the Arkansas Community Trees to ready them for distribution to communities.
- Krissy Thomason, Urban Forestry Coordinator, updated the Champion Tree nomination form and sent out a list of Champion trees needing verification as possible work field staff could perform to help the Urban program while maintaining social distancing.
- The following were declared as new Champion trees: blackjack oak in Benton County and eastern redcedar in Dallas County, both on private properties. A black oak was measured on Corps land near Lake DeGray and is being evaluated as a possible Co-Champion.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists Division personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AR Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- Southern pine beetle traps were set in southern Arkansas. Zero SPB were captured and SPB infestation risk remains very low.
- Testing new techniques that use satellite imagery to detect forest disturbances. Using Google Earth Engine catalog of satellite imagery.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division’s tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method the Forestry Division employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The Forestry Division’s Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

Baucum Nursery: The Forestry Division’s Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year-to-date through March 31, there were 650 orders. Total sales of 765,975 pine and 6,181,225 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY 19, there were 879 orders for total sales of 1,231,350 pine and 5,861,225 hardwood.

During the month of March, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following:

- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 428,000 pine
- Shipped the following:
 - 275,550 pine
 - 115,450 hardwood
 - 16,050 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 18,700 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine

- Received the following pounds of seed:

American Elm	1
Drummond Red Maple	5
Flowering Dogwood	1
Red Cedar	1
River Birch	2
Shumard Oak	252
Sycamore	7
Water Oak	102

- Planted 187,920 linear bed feet of seed, 167,720 linear bed feet left to plant.

Tree Improvement: The Forestry Division’s tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

During the month of March, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Finished digging stumps.
- Received hardwood scion from coop.
- Cut and dipped hardwood scion material for grafting.
- Continued collecting scion material for grafting.
- Moved pine & hardwood rootstock into greenhouse.
- Began grafting pine, over 800 grafts completed to date.
- Began grafting hardwood, over 180 grafts completed to date.
- Potted 320 trees for urban programs and delivered to Greenbrier.

Best Management Practices (BMP): The Forestry Division provides BMP training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

BMP achieved the following in March 2020:

- Produced 2019 BMP report for Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA).
- Statement produced for Lincoln County complaint report.
- Exams on logging sites in Hot Spring County and State Forest.
- Checked and completed Union County complaint.
- Meeting/Exam with Hot Spring County Forester on logging sites.
- Assistance given to landowner on harvesting methods.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): Forestry Division 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's natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 89 plots for the month of March. The 2020 survey is now 14% complete.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(474,022.34)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(474,022.34)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(16,589.15)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(16,589.15)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(114,185.63)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(569,203.59)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(683,389.22)	
4042001000 FINES	(1,041.70)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(1,041.70)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,310.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,310.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	14,424.49	Correction from Feb.
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(144,575.00)	AR Dept of Transportation-Property Hwy Right of Way
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(130,150.51)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(6,364.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(421.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(13,971.07)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(20,756.57)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.20)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.20)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(10.00)	DFA-Revenue Refund
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(10.00)	

4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(263,489.00)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(263,489.00)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	14,220.67
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,067.44
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	542.93
** Treasury Charges	16,831.04
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	776,543.47
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	15,793.69
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	191.51
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,663.54
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,965.64
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,738.84
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	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,089,756.69
5020001000 Postage	679.53
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	5,856.64
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	10,781.36
5020004000 Network Services Exp	6,324.24
5020005000 Freight	187.68
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	23,829.45
5030001000 Printing	278.28
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	278.28
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	22,518.48

Wall maps-Union Co.; Business Cards

5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	1,441.03
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	11,499.78
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	23,310.41
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	3,684.07
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	21,951.28
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	17,938.95
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0.00
5030016500 02 Netwk EquipRepSvc	0.00
5030017000 Software Maintenance	7,500.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	114.46
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	(6,591.93)
** Repairing & Servicing	103,366.53
5040001000 Electricity	14,429.58
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,704.27
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	4,802.82
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	8,081.16
5040006000 Lease Private Land	290.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,536.38
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	(72.12)
** Utilities & Rent	31,883.41
5050001000 02 Mileage	402.36
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,140.67
5050003200 02 - Lodging	5,665.35
5050004100 09 - Meals	176.94
5050004200 09 - Lodging	230.79
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	813.63
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	67.84
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	217.75
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	34.88
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00

5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	650.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00	
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050025000 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence	9,400.21	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	243,077.00	Henrys Aerial Service; Stewardship/Forest Legacy
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	5,318.63	Baucum Nursery-Tree Planting
** Professional Services & Fees	248,395.63	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	769.09	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	6,880.99	Baucum Nursery-Temp Staff
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	250.93	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	198.00	
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	99.39	
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	1,843.67	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	767.50	
** Other Expenses & Services	10,809.57	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	88,145.91	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000 Tires	6,705.93	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	22,921.25	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	14,683.42	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	4,086.57	
5090006000 Office Supplies	3,590.97	
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	1,271.34	

5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	463.39
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0.00
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	997.35
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	38.99
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	12,364.79
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	813.79
5090019000 Food Purchases	845.97
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	948.18
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,544.34
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	1,935.12
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	853.79
5090026000 DP Supps	4,638.02
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	752.14
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	350.92
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	0.00
5090027000 Software/Licenses	(3,130.00)
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	226.44
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	15,552.10
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	25,633.70
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	25,633.70
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	231,868.12
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	14,511.76
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	0.00
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	14,511.76
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00
5110008000 License & Permits	1,100.00
5110014000 04 - Other Refunds	0.00
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	112.22
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	1,212.22
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	52,699.00

Computers; Truck Shell; Bumper Winch; Trailer

Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Land and Mobile Home

** Capital Outlay	52,699.00
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	137,011.65
** Depreciation/Amortization	137,011.65
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	12,152.57
5130030400 Intra fedxout-warr04	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(450,000.00)
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(960,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(18.75)
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	55,000.00
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061006820 Tran Out to CompUnit	0.00
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(1,342,866.18)
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	

Funds Transferred to AG - Paying Fund