



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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B.1 Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Breanne Davis
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Wooten
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division's monthly activity report for January 2021

Dear Senator Davis and Representative Wooten:

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 January 2021.

Hot Springs National Park is one of the most significant cultural, natural, historic and tourist sites in the country.

Recent findings showed about half of the area that recharges the springs are privately owned and in danger of development. For this reason, several state and local agencies, conservation groups and private landowners are working together to protect the recharge area. As a result, 30% of the privately owned critical recharge area tracts that supply the springs have been acquired by the State.

The AR Department of Agriculture now owns 1,758.12 acres in the Hot Springs Recharge Area. By December 2022, the AR Department of Agriculture expects to receive \$5,215,000 from Forest Legacy to acquire an additional 1,531 acres for a total of 3,289.12 acres.

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
January 2021 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During January a total of 82 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,356 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of January is 122 wildfires with 1,832 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: A Forestry Division crew in Faulkner County assisted with searching for a missing 2-year-old male at 84 Mill Creek Drive. The child was found safe hiding inside the home.

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 administers a federal grant to assist approximately 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance and refurbishment to federal property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

January 2021:

- There were five Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with twenty-two FDs (forty-nine firefighters), including six Forestry personnel and four minority departments in attendance.
- One tanker, one fire truck, one brush truck, one decontamination trailer and one generator were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$619,921.25).
- RFP received two hundred fifty-six items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include sleeping mats, boots, SCBA's and helmets (o.a.c. \$47,883.72).
- RFP received one utility truck (o.a.c. \$29,693.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on three Forestry vehicles and six FD vehicles (labor savings of \$18,785.00).
- CPR training classes were held on January 21 & 27 for RFP staff. (7 attended)

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 96 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **January**:

- Delivered one risk assessment training session to a fire department via Zoom.
- Updated all files, forms and documents on website to reflect 2021 dating and program information.
- Submitted four news release drafts to Marketing for approval and distribution.
- Emailed every active Firewise USA® site in the state to provide them with information and an application about a Community Chipping grant opportunity made available by one of our partner organizations, Ready, Set, Go!
- 2021 Mitigation proposal grant was written and submitted for review.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: 18 grant presentations, 47 fire chief visits, 20 grant presentations, 17 paperwork assists, four literature distributions, four landowner assists, two Department Meetings attended and four firelane installations in preparation for community projects and/or prescribed burns

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 five timber theft cases, four dumping cases, seven fire. They closed two dumping cases, one fire case and six timber theft cases.

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 (NRCS) soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 324,519 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,275 Forest Stewards owning 286,554 acres in the State.

During the month of January, 15 Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 2,609 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 53 forest management practice plans on 4,290 acres and conducted two prescribed burns on 106 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.

- Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) Ceremonies/Tree Plantings were held at McGehee High School, Holly Harshman Elementary in Mena, Smackover Preschool and Gardner-Strong Elementary in Union County. Due to COVID restrictions, ceremonies were held via Zoom or were limited in scope, but all trees were successfully planted and students participated in curriculum about skin cancer prevention and the benefits of planting and maintaining community trees.
- All 40 Tree City USA communities from 2019, plus two new cities, completed their 2020 applications by the end of January, despite complications due to COVID. All four 2019 Tree Campus Higher Education schools and Carroll Electric Cooperative also recertified through the program. Total count for 2020: 42 Tree Cities, 4 Tree Campus High Education schools, and 1 Tree Line USA utility company, which is a 4.45 % increase over 2019.
- Urban Forestry staff attended a North Carolina Forest Service webinar explaining to potential applicants the state's Urban and Community Forestry grant application, selection and approval process. We hope to be able to offer a similar webinar/online training in Arkansas within the next 1 or 2 grant cycles.
- The Urban & Community Forestry program purchased a Stihl pole saw to be used by Urban Forestry District Representatives and Urban Forestry staff throughout the state for pruning demonstrations and to assist with pruning needs as relevant. The saw will be housed at the Clark County work center and is available for use by county crews as needed.
- Krissy Kimbro, U&CF Coordinator, and Harold Fisher, U&CF Partnership Coordinator, attended remotely the Winter Meeting of the Southern Group of State Foresters' U&CF Committee. Subcommittees spent time preparing 2021 work plans and the possibility of an increase in Urban & Community Forestry base funding for federal grant money in the upcoming year was highlighted.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division's (FD) 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: FDs Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Total orders through January 31 are 842. Total sales of 955,975 pine and 4,546,050 hardwood. Comparatively there were 512 total orders for the same time last year. Total sales of 916,875 pine and 6,397,650 hardwood.

Staff completed:

- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 390,190 pine
 - 3,752,569 hardwood
 - 66,100 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 27,275 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
- Total seedlings packed = 4,236,134
- Shipped the following:
 - 80,350 pine
 - 2,692,800 hardwood
 - 15,550 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 10,550 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine

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

- Ranger 2, Bob Newton (District- 4) from Nevada County repaired three tractors saving the agency maintenance costs.
- White and Faulkner Counties (District-7) have provided drivers for our seedling delivery routes.
- Accepted delivery of a new 130 hp Case IH tractor.

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 January, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Began inventory of seed on hand from controlled crosses stored in the freezer.
- Made seedling delivery to Dierks (D 2) for Baucum.
- Made seedling delivery to El Dorado (D 4) and Monticello (D 1) for Baucum.
- Began planting grafted trees in orchard 1721.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist assists Forestry 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.

- The Forestry Division is helping to monitor and map cases of brown spot needle blight in Arkansas. This disease causes loblolly pine to turn an alarming brown color from the

bottom upward. Samples are being sent to pathologists for research on the causal organism.

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 January:

- Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale pre-harvest check in Perry County.
- Worked on 319(h) grant application.
- Received a non-valid complaint for Hot Spring County and forwarded to Law Enforcement Department.
- Provided BMP information to graduate student in MN.
- Checked a logging site in Union County.
- Attended AFA Forest Practice meeting and presented the 2020 BMP report.
- Provided a tailgate logger training session for four loggers in Nevada County.
- Interviewed for an AFA pod cast on Arkansas’ BMP program.

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 63 plots for the month of January. We are 7% complete with Inventory 2021.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January 2021

	Balance
.	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(357,036.77)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(357,036.77)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(643,963.51)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(643,963.51)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(108,754.40)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(100,189.25)

** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(208,943.65)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0	
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(521.19)	WEX Rebate
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	0	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(521.19)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(37,327.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(506.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(8,327.07)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(46,160.57)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.07)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.07)	
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	0	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(136.04)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(136.04)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(305,826.73)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(305,826.73)	

4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,711.11
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	12,333.66
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	768.15
** Treasury Charges	23,812.92
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	797,340.41
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	13,157.62
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	63.69
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,523.58
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	130,050.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,507.74
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	121,396.95
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0
** Salary Expense	1,124,039.99
5020001000 Postage	1,384.53
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	6,618.24
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	181.39
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,767.52
5020005000 Freight	1,290.82
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	11,242.50
5030001000 Printing	42.52
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	(51.38)
5030004000 Film Processing	63.53

Correction from previous month

Correction to be made; wrong GL code used

** Printing & Advertising	54.67
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,911.64
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	965.64
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	600.18
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	542.02
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	12,513.28
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	174.02
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	11,416.61
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	13,353.06
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	115.74
5030017000 Software Maintenance	7,500.00
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,368.52
** Repairing & Servicing	60,460.71
5040001000 Electricity	12,017.25
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,582.10
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	4,625.23
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,150.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	900.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,339.22
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	3,769.00
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	(435.75)
** Utilities & Rent	26,947.05
5050001000 02 Mileage	201.60
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,420.50
5050003200 02 - Lodging	2,102.40

IT; Geographic Tech Group

5050004100 09 - Meals	0	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	6.50	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	0	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0	
** Travel & Subsistence	3,783.92	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	3,600.00	Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,172.07	
5060005000 Medical Fees	20.00	Will be moved to 5080031000; Drug test
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	300.00	
** Professional Services & Fees	5,092.07	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0	
5070007000 Other Insurance	64,439.00	Aircraft insurance
** Insurance & Bonds	64,439.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	22,900.00	Baucum Nursery-2021 WGFTIP Dues
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	50.00	Tuition for IMT course D7 Conway Co.
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0	
5080013000 Security Services	0	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,062.81	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	9,398.56	Baucum Nursery
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	48.00	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0	
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	56,467.56	Cater Farm & Planting (Harvesting) Baucum Nursery

5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(18,561.73)
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0
** Other Expenses & Services	71,365.20
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0
5090004000 Tires	10,720.94
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	1,210.92
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	147.11
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,199.25
5090006000 Office Supplies	4,852.88
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	21.80
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	1,311.03
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	6,492.04
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	468.33
5090019000 Food Purchases	83.24
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	805.25
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,263.43
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	57,791.34
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	3,634.92
5090026000 DP Supps	1,121.37

"Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas"

5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	957.85	
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	0	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	820.38	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	271.21	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	257.63	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	656.94	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	1,299.37	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	38,168.52	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	38,168.52	Drones
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	171,724.27	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	113,139.06	VFA, SPB, MIT
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	113,139.06	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	882.50	
5110008000 License & Permits	1,801.80	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	2,684.30	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	69,204.00	Tractor
** Capital Outlay	69,204.00	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	146,641.46	
** Depreciation/Amortization	146,641.46	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0	

5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	0
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(680,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	97,465.00
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	3,530.00
** Transfers In/Out	(579,005.00)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	(2,005.60)
** Insurance Proceeds	(2,005.60)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0
** Prior Year Adjustment	0
*** BALANCE	0.00