



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION **B.3**

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

February 9, 2017

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 January 2017

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Act 59 of the 89th General Assembly, Fiscal Session, 2014, 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 January, 2017.

January allowed AFC to conduct a Forest Management Academy for new employees and those that have promoted to positions where training is essential. Classes offered were; Basic Forest Management (last taught 2008), Management Plan Development and Best Management Practices. There were 100 certificates given to employees that attended the classes.

These classes instruct the employees on proper management techniques as well as requirements for private landowners that seek federal assistance when it comes to being certified as Stewards of Arkansas's forests.

We at the AFC strive to train new and seasoned employees in order to bring quality tools such as Forest Management Plans to the Stewards of our forests.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
January 2017 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During January a total of 167 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 3694 acres burned. The ten year average for the month of January is 141 wildfires for 2061 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew from Pike County helped with a search and rescue effort for a 58 year old female with dementia east of Kirby. She was found and treated. An AFC crew of rangers from Benton, Carroll, and Madison Counties assisted in a search and rescue effort for a 73 year old female in Huntsville.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists rural volunteer fire departments (VFDs) 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 January 2017, 41 rural fire departments (121 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training, including one minority department.

RFP received nine Freightliners (Valued at \$1,400,616.00) and three Pumper Trucks (Valued at \$507,325.02) from Department of Defense (DOD). Additional items obtained from the Department of Defense include: two water units (Valued at \$65,000.00), two-10 ton floor jacks (Valued at \$4,376.00), two-350 GPM Pump on wheels (Valued at \$54,420.00), one-10KW Generator on trailer (Valued at \$25,757.00) and one Dodge yard tug (Valued at \$4000.00).

There were six Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles issued to VFDs including four Freightliners (Valued at \$569,501.00) and one Pumper Truck (Valued at \$169,130.50).

There were two FEPP (Federal Excess Personal Property) boats issued to VFDs including with trailers and motors (Valued at \$36,680.79).

21 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (Valued at \$8,379.00) including battery chargers.

Rural Fire provided one interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in January 2017.

- Scott Rural FD 2017 Ford F-350 \$15,000.00 Lonoke County

The RFP shop completed maintenance on ten AFC vehicles, one Dozer, and four DOD Vehicles

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

In January Firewise achieved the following:

- Conducted 13 Initial Presentations and four risk assessment trainings
- Visited with 20 Fire Chiefs regarding Firewise activities.
- Attended Hot Springs Village Business Meeting to provide Firewise Education and to present a 10-year award.
- Attended three trainings.

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 January, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened four dumping, 14 arson, and 19 timber cases.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator attended Forestry Day at the State Capitol.

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 4,922 landowners owning 905,056 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,313 Forest Stewards owning 284,683 acres.

For January, 15 FSP plans were prepared on 3,198 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 128 rural forestry management plans on 9,171 acres. AFC personnel conducted 26 prescribed burns on 1,523 acres.

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.

This was the thirteenth year for the Shade Trees on Playgrounds program (STOP). This year more than 3,000 students at seven schools participated in the (STOP) program. Tree planting ceremonies were held at: Monticello, Dierks, Ward, Jonesboro, Pottsville, Morrilton and Pocahontas.

Curriculum is provided for the schools by the Forestry Commission about the importance of trees, not only to people but also to the environment. The children learn about how shade can help stop skin cancer as well as how trees help provide clean air and water, buffering for wind and noise, wildlife habitat, food, wood for homes and providing places to enjoy the outdoors.

AFC provides five hardwood shade trees, which included a variety of oaks, maples and tulip poplars for the children to plant at the end of the ceremony. Thirty-five shade trees were planted at the schools.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist, Chandler Barton, assists AFC personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AFC offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- A drought is occurring in northwestern Arkansas. Such an event can cause subsequent *Ips* pine engraver beetle outbreaks. This native beetle typically kills sporadic trees in any given year, but an outbreak population spurred by drought can kill a noticeable percentage of a pine forest. Also, landowners should know that hardwood tree death may occur several years after a drought. AFC will be monitoring for *Ips* outbreaks and alert the public so that urgent mitigation and harvesting can take place before the resource is severely affected.
- The Forest Health Specialist gave several presentations, increasing his outreach presence in the state. A presentation on invasive species was given to Har-Ber High School in Springdale. Natural resource education is increasingly important for our future land managers.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15. Through January 30, there were 445 online orders and 92 traditional orders for total sales of 2,308,945 pine and 4,764,675 hardwood seedlings. Comparatively, in the same period in 2016, there were 418 online orders and 77 traditional orders for total sales of 1,911,700 pine and 2,913,225 hardwood seedlings.

Staff completed lateral pruning of all bare root pine seedlings. Lateral pruning is done to help promote new root growth after planting and to make it easier for tree planters to properly plant bare root pine.

Nursery technicians received the following pounds of seed in January, which will be planted as part of the crop for FY'18.

Species	Pounds
Cherrybark Oak	197
Northern red Oak	780
Southern red Oak	440
Nuttall Oak	12,351
Pin Oak	690
Shumard Oak	2,090
Cypress	1,500
Pecan	838

Planted the following pounds of seed so far this year through the end of January.

Species	Pounds
Black Walnut	3,003
Sawtooth Oak	2,844
White Oak	5,500
Water Hickory	2,750

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

In January the Tree Improvement staff packed and delivered 33,000 containerized “lost” pine seedlings (a loblolly pine that is isolated to the Pine City area that is genetically unique from others) which were grown for the Arkansas Heritage Commission. They also packed and delivered 9,900 containerized 3-star loblolly pine for distribution to AFC customers. The staff also made ID tags for 997 trees in AFC’s orchards.

Staff marked and flagged 2440 positions on, 12ft x 12ft spacing for seedlings to be planted in a growth and yield hardwood test on Dr. Rob Parkes property in Scottsville, AR. This eight acre test will provide empirical data on the differences between Improved Nuttall oak vs unimproved Nuttall and Improved Cherrybark oak vs unimproved Cherrybark oak. This test will also compare and contrast the two species.

The Reforestation Manager attended the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program Steering Committee meeting in Shreveport LA on January 17. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss major issues within the cooperative and present recommendations to the Executive Committee for a vote.

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 one timber harvesting complaint in Pulaski County. The complaint involved water quality impairment problems with Streamside Management Zone and the tracking of excessive soil onto state highway. The complaint was addressed and mitigated by BMP Coordinator and ADEQ field inspector.

The BMP coordinator provided three technical logger training sessions this month. The BMP Coordinator also provided a BMP training for Potlatch Foresters, Loggers and Contractors. The training was well attended, with approximately 80 participants.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Committee. The Committee is planning to formalize a working group, mini strategic plan, and mission statement in the first quarter of 2017.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC at the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Education Committee meeting. The meeting was to schedule upcoming and potential landowner workshops for 2017.

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.

During January, the FIA crew completed 60 plots and are now 75% complete with the 2016 survey.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Press release: AFC Recaps 2016 Wildfire Activity and Provides 2017 Outlook, Jan 19.
- Press release: Arkansas Agriculture Department Opens 2017 Century Farm Program through May (Century Farms may include Tree Farms), Jan 26.
- Worked with KARK 4 News to provide wildfire updates for a Crossett wildfire incident, which was featured during their 10 p.m. news and online, Jan 31.
- Created Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool Media Kit, featuring Fact Sheets and media contacts, and distributed to partner agencies for release on Feb 7 (including partners on the Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council and the Ozark Ouachita Highlands Collaborative).

Meetings and Events

- Provided a Communications Quarterly report and presented at the AFC Board Meeting, Jan 13.
- Provided training to D2 personnel in Dierks for the Jr. Wildland Firefighter Program, Jan 19.
- Helped to coordinate and attended Forestry Day at the Capitol – an event put together by the Arkansas Forestry Association to bring attention to the forest industry and forestry agencies during Legislative Session, Jan 24.
 - The Arkansas Forestry Commission booth stood out from many others with the most officials present to answer questions and greet lawmakers.
- Presented AFC communications overview at the New Employee Orientation meeting, Jan 25.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department monthly Newsletter.

SGSF Summer Meeting Planning

- Worked with Evette to get online registration open to guests.
- Reached out to sponsors and vendors, with five secured thus far.
- Confirmed all details for the host hotel, transportation, and opening ceremony.
- Worked with partners in Virginia (hosting the 2018 meeting) to discuss preparation items thus far.

AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 16,079 Likes (up from 15,864 in December)

- Twitter – 6,722 Followers (up from 6,637 Followers in December)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January 2017

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(348,547.67)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(348,547.67)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(712,780.67)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(712,780.67)	
4034001000 RENTS	(200.00)	
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(200.00)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(171,873.79)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(71,828.25)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(243,702.04)	
4040008000 FIRE PROTECTION TAX	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 FINES	(130.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(130.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(100.00)	
** OR - Rents	(100.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(15,000.00)	Fire Equipment
4047003000		
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATE	0.00	
4047021000 OPERATING		
DONATIONS	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(15,000.00)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR		Prescribed Burn/Fire
SERVICES	(12,705.00)	Lane
		Trees of
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(788.50)	AR
4048019000 RESALES	(48,618.87)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(62,112.37)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.19)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.19)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 FED		
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(1,781,675.83)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(1,781,675.83)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,456.45	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	14,621.29	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,671.84	
** Treasury Charges	26,749.58	

5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	768,871.42	
5010001100	NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600	NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	4,453.45	
5010003000	06 Overtime Salaries	1,760.93	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	54,885.85	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	120,435.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,427.75	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	110,057.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	2,140.69	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	4,000.00	
**	Salary Expense	1,071,032.09	
5020001000	Postage	2,920.92	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	4,168.06	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	20,388.14	Part of DIS bill coded wrong, should have been 5020004000(Corrected)
5020004000	Network Services Exp	2,752.49	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000	Freight	889.49	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	31,230.42	
5030001000	Printing	1,205.17	Brochure's
5030001100	02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	63.79	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	2,016.59	Camden News; Sign Painted on Trailer
5030004100	NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
**	Printing & Advertising	3,285.55	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	69,245.95	Mostly Baucum Construction
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	87.06	
5030007000	Hauling & Moving Exp	2,057.58	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	8,266.10	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	5,619.33	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	19,293.64	
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	585.73	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	23,165.90	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	27.94	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
**	Repairing & Servicing	128,349.23	
5040001000	Electricity	14,371.94	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	2,789.94	
5040003100	02 Water	227.09	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	7,244.45	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	10,029.22	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,292.80	Copiers & Stamp machines for various offices
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
**	Utilities & Rent	36,955.44	
5050001000	02 Mileage	219.48	
5050003100	02 - Meals	874.17	

5050003200	02 - Lodging	3,120.46	
5050004100	09 - Meals	1,341.69	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	1,484.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	621.48	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	45.68	
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		252.10	
5050012000	09 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	805.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	325.00	
5050020200	02Bd Mmbr Trav Lodg	0.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	578.42	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub Cl 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub Cl 09	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
**	Travel & Subsistence	9,667.48	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	25,456.14	Consultants/Planning
5060001100	Reimb Prof & Adm	0.00	
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,464.55	
5060006000	Lab Diagnostic Svc	0.00	
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	581.50	
**	Professional Services & Fees	27,502.19	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	20,614.00	Aircraft Ins.
**	Insurance & Bonds	20,614.00	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	15.00	
5080005000	Cash Fund Svc Chg	0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	21,800.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	1,132.10	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		360.75	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	2,117.17	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	21,141.59	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	150.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	0.00	
**	Other Expenses & Services	46,738.61	
5090001000	Road Pub Area Mats	0.00	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	1,006.27	Banner; Award Frames
5090004000	Tires	1,774.90	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	19,204.04	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	10,028.46	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	2,159.97	
5090006000	Office Supplies	6,544.73	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	799.90	

5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	(918.00)	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,566.55	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	784.80	
5090019000	Food Purchases	373.68	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	416.85	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	746.82	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	137,536.14	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	4,694.77	
5090026000	DP Supps	1,168.01	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	10,454.19	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	93,907.31	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	940.00	Utility
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	940.00	Trailer
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	304,129.39	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	1,031,400.00	Forest Legacy; SPB; Mitigation
5100005100	02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
5100008000	NBR Asst Grants, Aid	(3,160.62)	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	1,028,239.38	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	20.00	Seedling Refunds
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	20.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	165,674.57	Land; Cargo Trailer; Frame Extension on Freightliner; Skid Unit/Foam
**	Capital Outlay	165,674.57	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	91,730.14	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	91,730.14	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060004200	InterAgy FedRev X In	(611.10)	
6060004299	NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(975,897.86)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(676.25)	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061004200	InterAgy FedRev XOut	3,160.62	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
**	Transfers In/Out	(974,024.59)	
6990001000	Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
**	Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
***	BALANCE	0.00	