

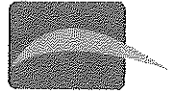


ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION
ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD

1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | (501) 225-1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV



WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable David L. Branscum
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for August 2017

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Branscum:

Per Act 59 of the 89th General Assembly, Fiscal Session, 2014, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for August, 2017.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission has relocated from Roosevelt Road, an office that has served as their State Headquarters in Little Rock since 1958. This move allows the executive staff to join the Arkansas State Plant Board and the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission at a centralized location on 1 Natural Resources Drive in Little Rock. The move will result in increased efficiencies due to easily accessible administrative staff and improve coordination amongst the state's largest industry and its respective governmental agencies.

The move to the centralized location is just one of several efforts the Arkansas Forestry Commission, within the Arkansas Agriculture Department, has undertaken as part of Governor Hutchinson's efforts to increase efficiency in state government.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Mal Deputy State Forester

Soa:

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION
August 2017 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During August a total of 22 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 118 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of August is 160 wildfires for 2099 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew from Newton County assisted in a search and rescue for an injured hiker at Glory Falls which is west of Deer off Highway 21. He was found with serious injuries and was transported to a hospital by helicopter. Also several AFC crews from District 6 assisted in a search and rescue for a missing hiker at Devil's Den State Park in Washington County.

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 August 2017, eight rural fire departments (169 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training with nine AFC personnel also in attendance.

RFP received four Stewart & Stevenson M1078 Brush trucks (Valued at \$447,925.00), two-60KW Libby generators (Valued at \$66,544.00) and one-Chevy Blazer (Valued at \$32,990.00) through the Department of Defense (DOD) Fire Fighter Program (FFP)

There were five DOD vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including three Freightliners (Valued at \$403,278.00) and two Brush Trucks (Valued at \$36,882.00).

There was one Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) fire boat and associated equipment issued to a fire department. A 20' Kann boat (with trailer and two-50hp motors) (Valued at \$26,500.00).

683 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFDs (Valued at \$36,772.73) including: Goggles, Hydro-chem. nozzle, split leather gloves, grab hooks, Krill lamps, Spanner wrench FSS, spill clean-up kits, men's safety boots, tail lamps, work lights and Xenon strobe lights.

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

- Lonsdale FD Water Skid Unit \$7,087.50 Garland Co. D-5

The RFP shop completed maintenance on nine AFC vehicles and four DOD vehicles.

The 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant deadline for application submission was August 25, 2017. The Arkansas Forestry Commission District Foresters are currently processing WFVF grant applications.

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

Firewise achieved the following in August:

- Staff manned a booth at the AEMTA conference in Hot Springs
- Staff manned a booth at The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management conference
- Staff assisted six VFDs with CWPPs Community Wildfire Protection Plans and added two new Firewise communities
- Staff conducted four Initial Firewise Presentations and Conducted three Risk Assessment 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. AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened five dumping and six timber cases. They closed five dumping, two fire related and eight timber cases.

During the month of August, AFC Law Enforcement Certified County Ranger Training through Law Enforcement Standards, attended Program Managers Meeting in Little Rock, assisted Arkansas State Plant Board with security for a Dicamba meeting, attended Arson Task Force Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia, attended Department of Arkansas Emergency Management Conference in Rogers, AR and Assisting Livestock and Poultry Division with a case in Jackson County

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 4,970 landowners owning 915,920 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,292 Forest Stewards owning 282,513 acres.

For August, 24 FSP plans were prepared on 2,607 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 142 rural forestry management plans on 17,429 acres. AFC personnel conducted four prescribed burns on 225 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.

The Urban Forestry Program concluded a pass through grant of nearly \$20,000 to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service this month. The Extension Service created a bioswale with native plants and interpretive signage in the Illinois River watershed in Springdale. A bioswale is a landscape element designed to concentrate and remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. The AFC provides the Arkansas Municipal League with a monthly article highlighting urban forestry. This month's article highlighted the bioswale project in Springdale.

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.

- Ips Bark Beetles
 - Chandler teamed up with University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to create a Zoom webinar that discussed Ips bark beetles in Arkansas. The webinar can be viewed on the UA Extension website.
 - These beetles are pine infesting pests that generally attack drought stressed trees.
 - Fortunately, Ips activity has been minimal in 2017 thanks to regular rainfall. However, some small infestations have been detected by aerial survey in the Ouachita National Forest this year.
- AFC personnel collected the gypsy moth traps that were placed throughout the state. AFC placed over 300 traps this year (3-4 per county). Multiple agencies contribute to this detection program and, in total, several thousand traps are placed each year. Results of the trapping program will be announced when all the traps are inspected.
- Currently, the fall webworm nuisance in northern Arkansas appears to be less severe than previous years. This is a reassuring observation when the caterpillar was alarmingly abundant in fall of 2016.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15. Through August 31, there were 231 on line orders and 71 paper orders received through the mail or in person for total sales of 760,175 pine and 4,407,575 hardwood. Comparatively, in the same period in 2016, there were 145 on line orders and 55 paper orders received through the mail or in person for total sales of 1,632,375 pine and 3,759,750 hardwood.

Baucum Nursery staff conducted the following cultural practices for the FY18 crop during the month of August. Fertilized hardwood and pine three times. Sprayed micro nutrients and Peters fertilizer on hardwood and pine two times. Top pruned all seedlings. Sprayed Post and Goal Tender herbicides on pine. Plowed between beds in all fields. Disked fields. Prepared fields for methyl bromide application. Hand weeding was done in three fields.

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.

During the month of August, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following. Sprayed production orchards on August 1 and August 25. Fertilized production orchards with granular fertilizer. Bushhogged production orchards in preparation for cone harvest. Began inventorying all trees to be harvested and marked with appropriate flagging so the contract harvest crew will know which trees to pick and keep properly labeled. Pruned lower limbs of orchard. Began mowing Dr. Parkes test site.

Best Management Practices: Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) provides Best Management Practice (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 four timber harvesting complaints received from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Two of the complaints were found to be valid, one in Pulaski County, the other in Cleburne County. Both complaints were mitigated using AFC BMPs and closed out. The other two complaints are in the process of a site visit to determine if they are valid complaints.

The BMP Coordinator conducted one technical logger training session for foresters, loggers and contractors in Russellville, Arkansas for Deltic Corporation. The workshop was well attended by approximately 40 participants.

Two courtesy exams were completed in two counties.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Forum planning committee. The Committee is planning a south central forum to be held at De Gray Lake Lodge November 7 & 8 2017.

The eighth BMP survey is under way using digital satellite images to locate tracts. We hope to complete the survey this fall, with data analysis and final report published by June 2018.

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.

FIA completed 120 plots for the month of August. We are now 46.5% complete with Inventory 2017.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Provided significant social media messages for Smokey Bear birthday (8/9) celebration and updates from the Razorback Crew during their 28-day assignment at the Lolo Peak wildfire, Montana.
- Distributed Rural Fire Newsletter to fire department contact list 8/22, highlighting the upcoming Rural Fire Show (10/28). This is the first step of many in publicizing and promoting this event.
 - Also created a Facebook event, with the customized event flyer included.
 - Submitted official request for presence of Governor Hutchinson.
- Coordinated and generated talking points for radio interview with KUAR Radio for Wes McKinney regarding the 28-day mission of the Razorback Crew at the Lolo Peak wildfire, Montana, 8/25.
- Distributed to statewide media: “Arkansas Razorback Crew Receives Appreciation Plaque from Arkansas Razorback Official Mascot,” 8/31.

Meetings and Events

- Attended meeting and drafted protocol for drone use over wildfires, 8/1.
- Attended/presented at AFC District Forester/Program Manager Meeting, 8/10.
- Attended Southwest Forest Products Expo, Hot Springs, 8/25.
- Coordinated and publicized presentation by Razorback Mascot TUSK to Arkansas Razorback wildland firefighters at AAD Headquarters, 8/31.

General

- Prepared presentation materials and infographic for forestry presentation by Joe Fox to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, 8/12.
- Provided general forestry updates in monthly Arkansas Agriculture Department Newsletter, distributed 8/8.
- Ordered Smokey supplies, customized for delivery to each AFC district office.

AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 17,030 Likes (up from 16,897 Likes in July)
- Twitter – 7,098 Followers (up from 7,027 Followers in July)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 2017

	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(347,167.50)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(347,167.50)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(38,230.23)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(38,230.23)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(123,144.50)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(123,144.50)
4042001000 FINES	(108.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(108.00)
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(300.00)
** OR - Rents	(300.00)

4047002000 OTHER SALES	(6,927.52)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Miscellaneous	(6,927.52)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(3,380.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane Trees of AR
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,175.50)	AR
4048019000 RESALES	(5,693.53)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(10,249.03)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.21)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.21)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(143.66)	Pitney Bowes Duplicate Payment
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(143.66)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(9,055.62)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(9,055.62)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,415.02	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,444.62	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	428.66	
** Treasury Charges	13,288.30	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	779,086.97	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	11,416.96	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	185.43	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,174.84	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,331.99	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,502.97	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
** Salary Expense	1,085,959.16	
5020001000 Postage	1,412.67	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	15,019.09	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,798.28	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,676.23	
5020005000 Freight	(57.31)	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	27,848.96	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	131.21	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	129.60	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	1,615.74	
** Printing & Advertising	1,876.55	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	20,624.52	A/C
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	358.45	
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	262.95	HQ Moving Expenses
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	6,215.25	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	26,905.23	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	20,250.91	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	10,017.60	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	2,300.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	511.58	
** Repairing & Servicing	87,446.49	
5040001000 Electricity	13,433.70	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,760.97	
5040003100 02 Water	162.78	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	805.99	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	10,051.34	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	990.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,085.87	

5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	171.32	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
**	Utilities & Rent	29,461.97	
5050001000	02 Mileage	408.24	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,433.26	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	4,968.71	
5050004100	09 - Meals	108.53	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	378.10	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	58.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	3,414.88	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	4,750.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
**	Travel & Subsistence	15,519.72	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	13,678.00	Consulting for Stewardship/WAWRP
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5060011000	Direct Prov Svcs	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	1,140.00	
**	Professional Services & Fees	14,818.00	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
**	Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	1,490.70	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,082.73	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	13,757.01	Baucum Nursery
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	194.45	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	88.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
**	Other Expenses & Services	16,612.89	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	371.23	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	449.85	
5090004000	Tires	7,354.50	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	19,000.18	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	10,130.43	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	757.52	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,819.51	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	69.37	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	13,656.50	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	607.51	
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,502.92	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	296.06	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	749.89	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	11,617.94	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	6,087.49	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,320.82	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	300.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	9.10	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	32,062.30	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	8,503.12	Computer; Laptop; Brush Mower; Riding Mower
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	8,503.12	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	130,169.36	

5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	21,495.76	SPLRWATER; Urban; SPB;
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	21,495.76	MIT
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	75.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	601.80	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	33.69	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	710.49	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	147,524.39	Taxes and Fees on Trucks, Repeater
** Capital Outlay	147,524.39	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	99,872.02	
** Depreciation/Amortization	99,872.02	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	(105.79)	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	(105.79)	
5130003000 Inter fedxout-warr04	14,417.00	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	(3,311.22)	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(770,500.00)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(2,029.95)	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(125,560.00)	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	37,000.00	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	25,000.00	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(824,984.17)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	14,424.24	
** Prior Year Adjustment	14,424.24	
*** BALANCE	0.00	