



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.2

July 9, 2020

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for June 2020

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

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 June 2020.

The month of June provided an opportunity for the Aviation Department to lend a helping hand with the Forest Health Department. Forest Health staff logged 42 flight hours, with the help of aviation, looking for Forest health issues.

Staff was looking for Jumping Oak Gall, Needle cast and Ips beetle activity. When issues were found, points were entered on maps and landowners were notified of the issues. Most of the forest health flights were concentrated in south eastern Arkansas.

Aviation also assisted with finding downed timber from previous storms. Two requests were received for flights in south central and south east Arkansas for downed timber. Again, when downed timber was found, points were entered on maps and landowners were contacted about the issues.

Departments are always willing to work together to give Arkansas landowners quality work and assistance they deserve.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY DIVISION

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

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

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During June a total of ten wildfires were suppressed for a total of 50 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of June is 68 wildfires with 817 acres burned.

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 to property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

June 2020:

- There were three Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with seven FDs (28 firefighters), including one Forestry personnel in attendance.
- Two generators were issued this month. (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$66,297.70)
- RFP received 3,096 items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include medical supplies, SCBA bottles, bottled water, tires, and pressure washers (o.a.c. \$256,446.38).
- RFP also received two generators (o.a.c. \$28,957.70) and one pesticide sprayer (o.a.c. \$6,096.00)
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on five Forestry vehicles (labor savings of \$4,165.00) and six fire department vehicles (labor savings of \$31,705.00).
- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund for \$15,000.00 to South Bend FD (D7-Pulaski Co.) to purchase a 2002 Freightliner with a 2,000-gal tank and pump from Scott Fire Protection District.
- Petit Jean FD (D7- Conway Co.) purchased one foam skid unit from contract sales for \$11,900.
- Delivered Wildland Suppression Kits for fire departments to District 1-Monticello office.

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 **June**:

- Delivered one initial program presentation to an interested fire department.
- Assisted one fire department with renewal paperwork.
- Presented fire department with national program recognition signage and trophies for adding four Firewise USA® sites to their fire district.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one Firewise program presentation delivered to community members, 58 Fire Chief visits, one Firewise Recognition Ceremony attended, 14 paperwork assists, and one literature distribution.

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 investigates violators to deter such crimes. The Department Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened two Forestry Equipment Cases and one Timber Cases. They closed three Timber 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 soil and water professionals.

Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) monthly accomplishments for June 2020.

Activity	Number	Acres
Landowners Assists	95	14,363
FSP Management Plans	18	3,773
Other Management Plans	103	8,303
Certifications	5	3,320
Recertifications	18	3,320

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 monitored presence of **jumping oak gall on white oak** in Northwest Arkansas. This insect, and the discoloration it causes to the tree, was recorded in the area around Beaver Lake.
- Trapping and monitoring for redbay ambrosia beetle was started in June. This beetle transmits the laurel wilt fungus that kills **sassafras**. So far, the disease has been confirmed in 10 southern Arkansas counties.
- Cost share and incentive funding for landowners is made available through the **Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program**. The program provides incentives for thinning pine forests, a practice that lowers risk to bark beetles. **New for this year**, the program will provide 50% cost share for planting shortleaf pine.

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.

- City tree inventories in Cotter and Mountain Home were conducted and the compiled data was used to produce maps and spreadsheets for each inventory.
- Harold Fisher collaborated extensively with Lori Scott-Nakai in Marketing to update the Forestry Division's Champion Tree webpage.
- Urban Forestry staff attended several virtual training meetings and webinars, including: Tree Plotter software, the federal CARS reporting system for Urban and Community Forestry Accomplishment reporting, "Is Your Ash on The Line" (urban wood utilization), "What's Eating My Trees" (insect/disease identification and management), database management for the National Champion Tree registry and Urban Forestry Certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA awards have been received from Arbor Day Foundation and distributed to all who achieved the recognitions for the 2019 calendar year. Arkansas had 40 Tree City USA communities, four Tree Campus USA campuses and one Tree Line USA utility company complete the requirements. Arbor Day Foundation's website <https://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/directory.cfm> has now been updated with the most recent directory of these Arkansas communities who are committed to increasing canopy cover in their area.

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.

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

- Plowed between beds to put soil back on top of the bed.
- Fertilized all crops with time release fertilizer and ammonium sulfate.
- Sprayed Roundup to buffer zones and fence lines.
- Sprayed Roundup on fields 3 and 4 (layout fields)
- Replanted sections of pine that washed out.
- Thinned Cherrybark oak progeny test using a dozer.
- Transported mulch to layout fields.
- Sprayed Roundup in most of the Nuttall orchard and all the Cherrybark and sawtooth orchards.
- Used road grader to re-do ditches, spread mulch and clean all turn rows.
- Mopped all beds with Roundup for weed control.

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

- Second aerial application of insecticide was applied to production orchards.
- Removed stumps with track hoe on new 10-acre orchard site.
- Cleaned and repaired levee, which will save two ponds.
- Worked on water lines in orchard 1721
- Removed debris with dozer on new 10-acre orchard site.

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 June:

- Scheduled training with AGFC for fall 2020.
- Completed webinars on Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) control and Registered Forester training.
- Completed webinar on quail management.
- Inspected new complaint in Garland County.
- Checked older Ouachita County complaint for progress on repairs.
- Assisted D-4 with a thinning plan.
- Video meeting with AR Forest and Drinking Water Group.

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 94 plots for the month of June. We are currently 44% complete with Inventory 2020.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(307,437.04)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(307,437.04)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(117,402.79)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(117,402.79)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(1,444.49)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(156,976.84)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(158,421.33)	
4042001000 FINES	(10.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(10.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(1,000.00)	
** OR - Rents	(1,000.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(11,250.00)	Misc Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc...)
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(11,250.00)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(13,238.50)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(240.00)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(15,650.00)	Fire Equipment

4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(29,128.50)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.06)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.06)
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(83.90)
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(83.90)
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(273,970.93)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(273,970.93)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,223.11
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,417.55
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	454.69
** Treasury Charges	14,095.35
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	761,368.51
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	7,565.78
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	390.09
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	54,891.47
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,981.16
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,557.73
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	1,062,614.74
5020001000 Postage	854.65
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	8,861.87
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	4,954.38
5020004000 Network Services Exp	23,172.54
5020005000 Freight	88.48
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	37,931.92

Covers 2 mos. of payments

5030001000 Printing	5,091.46	Decals; Educational Booklets
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0.00	
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	5,091.46	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	17,469.51	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	660.05	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	(8,171.60)	Expense Error Corrections made
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	17,621.48	
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	356.72	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	19,832.44	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	24,834.68	
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	72.17	
5030016500 02 Netwk EquipRepSvc	0.00	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	3,404.16	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	(4,273.16)	
** Repairing & Servicing	71,806.45	
5040001000 Electricity	10,647.89	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,535.45	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	537.40	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	13,002.14	Land Lease
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	848.15	
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0.00	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	1,311.32	Track Hoe
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	89.13	
** Utilities & Rent	28,061.48	
5050001000 02 Mileage	445.62	
5050003100 02 - Meals	519.73	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,340.00	
5050004100 09 - Meals	74.38	

5050004200 09 - Lodging	219.84
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	0.00
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	34.02
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	0.00
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	190.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	20.00
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	2,843.59
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	144,913.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	0.00
** Professional Services & Fees	144,913.00
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	(4,597.00)
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00
5080009000 Janitorial Service	0.00
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	800.07
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	0.00
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	125.87
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0.00
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	0.00
5080027000 Oth Cnt Svcs NonSt	0.00
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	1,751.59

Expense Error Corrections made to correct charges
Joseph Dillion - AFRC Forest Herbicide Training

Henry's Serial Service - Fire Suppression;
Stewardship

Expense Error Corrections made to correct charges

5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	822.75
5080034000 Audio/Visual Prod	0.00
** Other Expenses & Services	(1,096.72)
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	5,010.05
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	11,562.72
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0.00
5090004000 Tires	6,739.29
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	22,671.20
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	5,053.98
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	1,678.58
5090006000 Office Supplies	3,016.23
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	0.00
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	537.84
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	(480.37)
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0.00
5090012000 Architect Draft Supp	21.76
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	517.41
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	(1,022.11)
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	20,204.22
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	307.28
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,597.93
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	1,150.88
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,730.73
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	16,689.41
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	1,359.74
5090026000 DP Supps	960.02
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	(556.59)
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	0.00
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	173.25
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	(174.26)
5090027000 Software/Licenses	12,719.89
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	(246.35)
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	19,459.95
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	1,300.27

Road Material/Asphalt

Freight Liner and other fire equipment/tools
Computer; Chainsaw

5901070000 LVA Exp Full	1,300.27	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	134,283.22	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	1,000.00	Mitigation
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
5100010000 04-MunAidHwySe	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	1,000.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	0.00	
5110014000 04 - Other Refunds	0.00	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	18.45	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	18.45	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	1,772,414.77	Land Purchase;Tractor/Winch; Freightliner
** Capital Outlay	1,772,414.77	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	146,192.69	
** Depreciation/Amortization	146,192.69	
6091000000 Revenue FA (Full)	0.00	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	7,425.93	
5130030400 Intra fedxout-warr04	0.00	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(903,073.60)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	20,000.00	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	350,000.00	
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	(525,647.67)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(109.22)
6990004000 Prior Year Adjust	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	(109.22)
*** BALANCE	0.00