



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.3

August 5, 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 July 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 July 2020.

COVID-19 has put restrictions on most agencies and the work that they perform. Even with the COVID-19 work restrictions, our field staff continues to be productive. During the last five months of the COVID-19 restrictions, our staff has prepared over 200 more Forest Management plans, 70 more Tree Farm certifications and assisted over 400 more landowners affecting over 90,000 acres than the same time frame last year.

This year, staff has prepared 1,400 forest management plans for a total of 124,000 acres. This is almost 18,000 acres more than the 5-year average. Staff have certified or re-certified 195 Tree Farms for a total of over 25,000 acres, over 6,000 acres more than the 5-year average.

Remote working is exactly what Forestry Division Staff have been doing for years. The COVID-19 work restrictions did not affect the Forestry Division to the point of lowering benefits to the landowners of Arkansas.

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
July 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During July a total of 26 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 110 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of July is 115 wildfires with 1,447 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 and refurbishment to federal property destined for FDs and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

July 2020

- There were five Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with thirty-nine FDs (80 firefighters), including seven Forestry personnel in attendance.
- Three tankers and one brush truck were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$639,062.00).
- RFP received one fire truck (o.a.c. \$206,421.25) and one dump truck (o.a.c. \$72,425.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on two Forestry vehicles, one Forestry dozer and two Forestry generators (labor savings of \$1,870.00).
- RFP provided three interest-free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:
 - Johnson County #10 – Oark FD (D6, Johnson Co) - \$13,952.25 - to purchase a 2,000-gal tank, pump & engine, paint and parts on a 2007 Freightliner.
 - Greenbrier FD (D7, Faulkner Co.) - \$15,000.00 - to purchase a 1989 Pierce Lance Tanker also to include delivery.
 - Gum Springs FD (D5, Clark Co.) - \$14,424.03 to purchase a 2,000-gal tank, paint, installed lights, speaker, siren, pump & engine and parts on a 2009 Freightliner.
- FY20 Federal Inventory has been cleared by the United States Forest Service (USFS). FY21 Federal Inventory is ongoing- cleared for eight counties plus Aviation.

- All Wildland Suppression Kits for the 2019 VFA Grant have been delivered. All expenses have been exhausted from this grant.
- Visited with Helena-West Helena FD's new Chief and Asst. Chief along with Ranger Jeremy Jones to discuss program and options available to their department.

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 **July**:

- Ordered Smokey Wildfire Prevention/Education materials for six of the Forestry Districts.
- Delivered Smokey materials to District 8 and District 6.
- Received expandable display banners ordered in April. These will be utilized by Firewise at any future conference or convention and can be utilized by Firewise sites for program education requirements. One set was ordered for each District and is being delivered alongside the Smokey materials order.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: five Landowner Assists, three Fire Department Meetings Attended, 66 Fire Chief Visits, two Wildland Firefighting Trainings Attended, three Grants Presented, four Paperwork Assists and three Literature Distributions.

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 two Forestry Division equipment cases, eight timber theft cases, five dumping cases and one arson case. They closed four dumping 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 393,118 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 1,265 Forest Stewards owning 285,284 acres in the State.

During the month of July, six Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 672 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 158 forest management practice plans on 10,890 acres and conducted seven prescribed burns on 317 acres.

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.

- Two aerial surveys conducted in northeastern Arkansas to record forest disturbances. No substantial issues recorded.
- New funding now available for the cost share of thinning or shortleaf pine planting through the **Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program**. Applications being accepted now. The Forestry Division facilitates this program through a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

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.

- Urban Forestry Coordinator Krissy Thomason gave a presentation on Urban Forestry and the Champion Tree program during the Registered Foresters Webinar series.
- An urban tree inventory was started on the campus of Ouachita Baptist University. The university wishes to develop a management plan for their urban treescape.
- Urban inventories were completed for two local cemeteries in Conway, AR.
- A resource guidebook for urban forestry activities, guidelines for urban representative certification pay and expectations and general urban forestry resources is being compiled to be distributed to District Urban Representatives to be used for consistency and continuity in the Urban Forestry Program.
- Krissy Thomason provided urban forestry and education assistance to the Arkansas Environmental Education Association in developing a resource guide for teachers and schools concerning the utilization of outdoor learning opportunities as schools start back up under conditions mandated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

2021 seedling sales began on July 1 with the pre-order payment period. The 2021 pre-order payment period had 158 customers who placed pre-orders and 96 of them completed processing their pre-order by paying for their seedlings for a total collection of \$57,718.00. Compared with the 2020 pre-order payment period which had 74 customers who placed pre-orders and 52 of them completed processing their pre-order by paying for their seedlings for a total collection of \$58,194.83.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through July 31, there were 180 online orders and 33 paper orders. Total sales of 566,590 pine and 4,679,475 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY20, there were 92 online orders and 69 paper orders. Total sales of 341,550 pine and 5,858,125 hardwood.

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

- Bush hogged nuttall orchard.
- Sprayed Roundup around all buildings, stored equipment and riser lines.
- Used road grader to clean ditches.
- Disked field 3 and field 4.
- The following cultural practices were completed for growing of the FY21 crop.
 - Sprayed Proline fungicide on Black Walnut and all White Oak species.
 - Top pruned all crops on a weekly basis.
 - Applied urea fertilizer on a weekly basis.
 - Plowed between beds in all planted fields to aerate soil and stabilize beds on a weekly basis as needed.
 - Applied Poast herbicide and elite supreme crop oil to hardwood species on a weekly basis as needed.
 - Applied Poast and Goal Tender herbicides to pine on a weekly basis as needed.
 - Used Egedal (equipment) to plow between hardwood rows for mechanical weed removal.

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

- Removed stumps with track hoe on new 10-acre orchard site, orchards 1710 and 1703.

- Removed debris with dozer on new 10-acre site and orchard 1710. Began removing debris in orchard 1703.
- Continued bush hogging production orchards and grounds.
- Removed weeds from all potted trees.
- Applied monthly fertilizer to orchard 1720 & 1721 and transplanted grafts in 1718 & 1719.
- 3rd aerial application of insecticide was applied to production orchards.
- Sprayed herbicide over water lines in orchards 1720 and 1721.
- Moved hardwood grafts to shade house and inventoried.

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 **July**:

- Completed Registered Forester training by webinar.
- Completed three courtesy exams for tracts in Bradley, Prairie and Pope Counties.
- Sent report to Green Bay Packaging on findings of post-harvest logging site inspection.
- Checked complaint from Van Buren County. It was not valid.
- Checked two State Forest logging sites for Sustainable Forestry Incentive (S.F.I.) report.
- Participated in video meeting on Forest Drinking Water.
- Received and mapped new courtesy exam request from Central Arkansas Water.

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 102 plots for the month of July. We are now 56% complete with Inventory 2020.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July

.	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(335,301.02)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(335,301.02)

4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(140,636.74)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(140,636.74)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(8,371.89)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(148,855.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(157,226.89)
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(600.00)
** OR - Rents	(600.00)
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(43,376.28)
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(5,133.95)
** OR - Miscellaneous	(48,510.23)
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(6,927.60)
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(545.75)
4048019000 RESALES	(23,501.53)
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(30,974.88)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.05)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.05)
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(175.88)
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(175.88)
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(199,714.12)
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(199,714.12)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,059.03
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,546.27
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	486.84
** Treasury Charges	15,092.14
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,155,389.00

Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc.)

Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane

Trees of AR

Fire Equipment

5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	22,213.35
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	342.32
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	86,651.95
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	121,380.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	3,489.84
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	175,263.36
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	1,170.58
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	18,163.32
** Salary Expense	1,584,063.72
5020001000 Postage	1,193.96
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,195.96
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	11,769.82
5020004000 Network Services Exp	14,856.06
5020005000 Freight	315.62
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	35,331.42
5030001000 Printing	87.99
** Printing & Advertising	87.99
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	4,541.24
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	202.48
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	584.50
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	311.37
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	33,171.56
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	9,678.85
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	2,228.21
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	135.11
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,380.98
** Repairing & Servicing	52,234.30
5040001000 Electricity	11,541.23
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,790.01
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	577.77
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	15,254.52
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	8,983.45
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	111.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	(529.21)

** Utilities & Rent	37,729.09	
5050001000 02 Mileage	269.22	
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,655.27	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	3,449.50	
5050004100 09 - Meals	96.56	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	204.26	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	30.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92	
** Travel & Subsistence	6,757.73	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	3,456.00	Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	2,072.64	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,100.00	FAR Web Software Hosting and Support
** Professional Services & Fees	8,628.64	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	105,619.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	29,755.01	
5070007000 Other Insurance	21,571.42	Cyber Insurance
** Insurance & Bonds	156,945.43	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	22,900.00	2020 WGFTIP Dues-Pine Program
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	979.31	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	1,806.56	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	176.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(7,269.44)	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	235.50	
** Other Expenses & Services	18,827.93	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	34,381.70	Trailer (Fort Smith Properties)
5090004000 Tires	2,711.28	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	18,648.02	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	10,410.43	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	2,367.09	
5090006000 Office Supplies	2,742.88	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	17,280.59	Smokey Supplies for Districts
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	621.84	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	4,339.79	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	462.06	

5090019000 Food Purchases	899.73	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	989.28	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	768.21	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	358.68	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	2,662.23	
5090026000 DP Supps	1,329.19	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	227.74	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	808.71	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	434.99	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	450.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	(6,376.09)	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	63,329.41	Freightliner; Tanker; Foam Units
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	6,187.82	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	6,187.82	Box Trailer; Apple iPad Mini (8)
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	172,223.40	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	21,524.71	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	21,524.71	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	23,492.89	Freightliner tandem axle (3); Land Appraisal
** Capital Outlay	23,492.89	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	140,424.35	
** Depreciation/Amortization	140,424.35	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(712,984.53)	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	18,959.28	
** Transfers In/Out	(694,025.25)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(203.63)	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(8,532.04)	
** Prior Year Adjustment	(8,735.67)	
*** BALANCE	0.00	