



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.3

October 8, 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 September 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 September 2020.

September started with rain and high winds. Forestry crews responded to debris removal calls on September 1st and September 9th. Fire danger in Arkansas has been low due to frequent rainfall and Forestry crews were available to answer assistance calls from other states.

On September 15, 2020 the Arkansas Razorback Crew, a twenty-person wildfire crew, left the state to assist Oregon on the Thielsen fire, a 10,000-acre wildfire. The crew assisted on the Thielsen fire until returning home on October 3, 2020.

Work detail assignments allow Arkansas firefighters to gain knowledge, experience and team building skills that are brought back to Arkansas. This experience and knowledge will be used on Arkansas wildfires and to train other Arkansas firefighters.

Hats off to the Razorback Crew for keeping Arkansas on the front lines of fire suppression, even when out of state.

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
September 2020 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During September a total of 11 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 23 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of September is 92 wildfires with 1,321 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: ADA - Forestry Division crews in Faulkner, Cleburne Counties assisted in storm damage clean up in the Wooster and Wildflower Road area on September 1st, Newton County crews assisted in the Buffalo Tower area on Sept 9th.

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.

September 2020

- Two tankers, six brush trucks, two service trucks and one boat/motor/trailer were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c. \$519,319.06).
- RFP received 280 items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include tool kits, tarps, flags, masks, ladders, plasma cutters and other firefighting equipment (o.a.c. \$104,032.95).
- RFP received two brush trucks (o.a.c. \$281,054.00), three boats with trailers & motors (o.a.c. \$15,037.00), one freightliner (o.a.c. \$110,910.00), five generator sets (o.a.c. \$130,059.00) and three miscellaneous items to include a tent, a decontamination trailer and a Compressed Air Foam (CAF) fire system (o.a.c. \$131,473.54).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on four Forestry vehicles/equipment and four FD vehicles (labor savings of \$13,675.00).
- RFP provided four interest-free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:
 - Arkansas City (D1, Desha Co.) - \$6,750.00 – to purchase Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) packs, masks & cylinders.
 - Pleasant View FD (D6, Franklin Co.) - \$8,841.75 – to purchase a 2009 Ford F-250 pickup w/maintenance bed, lights, siren, speaker and pump & engine.

- Southwest Rural VFD (D5, Hot Spring Co.) - \$15,000.00 – to purchase a 2000 International 4900 Pumper.
- O’Kean FD (D8, Randolph Co.) – \$15,000.00 – to purchase a 1997 Freightliner FL112 Pumper.
- FY20 Federal Inventory has been cleared by the United States Forest Service (USFS). FY21 Federal Inventory is ongoing- cleared for thirty-eight counties plus, Aviation and Baucum.
- Attended the quarterly Fire Protection Services Board meeting on 9/9/20.
- Made several in-state trips along with several out-of-state trips to include Norfolk, VA; Fort Hood, TX; Colorado Springs, CO and Arnold AFB, TN.

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 September:

- Delivered Smokey Materials to District 7 (Greenbrier) and Little Rock Headquarters.
- Delivered two initial program presentations to interested departments and one county fire chief’s meeting.
- Delivered recognition signage and trophy to one new community, as well as 15-year recognition signage to three communities.
- Ordered masks with Forestry Division and Firewise USA logos to be delivered to districts and utilized by Forestry personnel and active Firewise departments/communities.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: one Landowner Assist, two Fire Department Meetings Attended, 26 Fire Chief Visits, two Project Assists, one Paperwork Assist and four 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 six Timber Theft Cases, one Dumping Case and one Fire Case. They closed one Timber Theft Case, one Dumping Case and one Property Case.

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 396,704 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 1,267 Forest Stewards owning 285,565 acres in the State.

During the month of September, nine Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 2,854 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 110 forest management practice plans on 7,803 acres and conducted four prescribed burns on 350 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.

Urban staff completed:

- Five Urban & Community Forestry Grants were awarded to the following communities/entities: City of Pine Bluff (tree improvement/tree planting project at multiple parks), City of Trumann (park improvement project), Conway Tree Board (interstate exit beautification project), Crooked Creek Conservation District (park improvement project) and University of Arkansas Little Rock Public Radio (urban forestry/tree planting radio campaign) .
- A total of 28 applications were received from schools across the state seeking assistance from the Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) program. Selected schools will be notified on October 9th.
- Harold Fisher, Urban Forestry Partnership Coordinator, and Lori Scott-Nakai, Marketing, collaborated on a project adding information about whether each species on the Arkansas Champion Tree page is native or non-native to Arkansas.
- Five trees were donated from stock at Bluff City to be planted on the courthouse lawn in Lewisville. The Lafayette County field staff from Forestry Division delivered and planted the trees, which were replacing older trees lost in recent storms.
- Urban Forestry Representative Kenny Smothers (D8) assisted the city of Melbourne with their Arbor Day ceremony, planting a 25-gallon northern red oak.

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

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16. Year to date through September 30, there were 298 online orders and 63 paper orders. Total sales of 940,075 pine and 4,812,375 hardwood. Comparatively, during the same period in FY20, there were 185 online orders and 88 paper orders. Total sales of 609,075 pine and 5,923,550 hardwood

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

- Removed the old seed freezer unit compressor and condenser.
- Cleaned hardwood packing shed.
- Repaired the entry road with grader and land plane.
- Spread new gravel on entry road.
- Continued field inventory of all seedlings.
- Continued preparing fields for fall methyl bromide treatment.
- The following cultural practices were completed for growing of the FY21 crop:
 - Top pruned all crops on a weekly basis as needed.
 - Applied urea fertilizer on a weekly basis as needed.
 - Plowed between beds in all planted fields to aerate soil and stabilize beds on a weekly basis as needed.

Tree Improvement: Division's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

During the month of September, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Completed monthly fertilizer application.
- About 20 downed or broken trees in orchards caused by the tropical storm were removed.
- Cleaned and disked new urban orchard site.
- Inventoried production orchards for cone harvest.
- Floated cones for ripeness to determine start of harvest.

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 September:

- Made plans with Central Arkansas Water and Forestry Division for work on demonstration road in Pulaski County.
- Examined two post-harvest tracts for Green Bay Packaging and reported results to company for Sustainable Forestry Initiative (S.F.I.) audit.
- Examined two tracts for Saline River Conservation Association in Saline County.
- Attended webinar hosted by Georgia Forestry Commission on BMP methods for erosion control.

- Visited older complaint site in Garland County for removal of decked logs and close-out worked preformed.
- Training provided to AGFC on Fireline construction with 23 employees in attendance. Assisted by Forestry Division crew.
- Examination in Ouachita County on NRCS landowner tract for water bar construction.

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 84 plots for the month of September. We are now 75% complete with 2020 survey.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 2020

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE §19-6-3	(312,875.36)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(312,875.36)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(80,827.45)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(80,827.45)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES §19-6-301(2	(612.72)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES §19-6-301	(14,785.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(15,397.72)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(500.00)	
** OR - Rents	(500.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(38,841.75)	Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, etc.)
4047099000 MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(75,423.00)	1995 Forklift; 2012 Forklift; 1997 Chevy Truck
** OR - Miscellaneous	(114,264.75)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(12,655.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE OF COPIES AND PUBLI	(551.25)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(14,633.22)	Fire Equipment

** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(27,839.47)
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIBUTION	(0.08)
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.08)
4050003000 OTHER REFUNDS/REIMBURSEM	(226.02)
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBURSEMENTS	0.00
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(226.02)
4050004000 FEDERAL GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(202,734.72)
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(202,734.72)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REVENUE FEES	9,386.26
4090020000 1.5% SPECIAL REVENUE FEE	1,443.38
4090030000 ADD'L SPECIAL REVENUE FE	360.99
** Treasury Charges	11,190.63
5010001000 00 REGULAR SALARIES	773,066.88
5010002000 01 EXTRA HELP SALARIES	9,689.56
5010003000 06 OVERTIME SALARIES	68.39
5010005000 03 FICA & MEDICARE EXPEN	56,037.46
5010006000 03 BENEFITS INSURANCE EX	121,380.00
5010006500 03 AGENCY COST OF ARCAP	3,867.78
5010007000 03 RETIREMENT EXPENSE	118,801.52
5010008000 03 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSA	0.00
5010009000 03 WORKERS COMPENSATION	0.00
** Salary Expense	1,082,911.59
5020001000 02 POSTAGE	747.78
5020002000 02 TELECOMMUNICATIONS WI	5,384.39
5020003000 02 TELECOMMUNICATIONS WI	216.39
5020004000 02 NETWORK SERVICES EXPE	1,650.11
5020005000 02 FREIGHT	142.89
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	8,141.56
5030001000 02 PRINTING	288.57
** Printing & Advertising	288.57
5030005000 02 BUILDING & GROUNDS MA	11,948.45
5030005100 02 PEST CONTROL	239.49
5030007000 02 HAULING & MOVING EXPE	0.00
5030008000 02 OFFICE EQUIPMENT MAIN	580.08
5030010000 02 PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPME	2,846.02

Payments have been moved to BA 9901

Payments have been moved to BA 9901

\$122.46 will be error corrected; Business Card

5030011000 02 INDUSTRIAL&INSTITUTIO	21,657.01
5030011100 02 FARM EQUIPMENT/REPAIR	327.21
5030012000 02 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	38,203.74
5030014000 02 MARINE & AVIATION EQU	138.34
5030017000 02 SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	18,169.26
5030018000 02 OTHER REPAIRING & SER	32.70
5030021000 NBR - Repairing & Servic	1,321.95
** Repairing & Servicing	95,464.25
5040001000 02 ELECTRICITY	11,348.80
5040003000 02 WATER & SEWAGE	5,583.26
5040004000 02 NATURAL GAS & PROPANE	1,824.16
5040005000 02 RENT OF FACILITIES	14,802.40
5040007000 02 RENT OF OFFICE EQUIPM	3,025.49
5040011000 02 OTHER RENT & LEASES	1,130.27
5040012000 NBR - Utilities and Rent	65.35
** Utilities & Rent	37,779.73
5050001000 02 MILEAGE	240.24
5050003100 02 MEALS	877.41
5050003200 02 LODGING	1,915.27
5050004100 09 MEALS	54.02
5050004200 09 LODGING	217.92
5050013000 02 OTHER TRAVEL EXPENSES	99.15
5050017000 02 CONFERENCES & SEMINAR	125.00
5050018000 09 CONFERENCES & SEMINAR	1,350.00
5050020400 02 BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL-M	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	4,879.01
5060001000 10 PROFESSIONAL & ADMINI	8,464.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXPENSE	0.00
5080015000 02 MISC TECHNICAL SERVIC	0.00
** Professional Services & Fees	8,464.00
5070002000 02 VEHICLE INSURANCE	0.00
5070003000 02 BUILDING & CONTENTS I	0.00
5070007000 02 OTHER INSURANCE	0.00
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00
5080006000 02 ASSOCIATION & MEMBERS	165.00
5080007000 02 TUITION & COURSE MATE	333.30

Forest Legacy; Stewardship

5080008000 02 AIR OBSERVATION & CRO	11,408.00	TimcoAcre-Spray Services
5080014000 02 TRASH PICKUP SERVICES	1,538.02	
5080019000 02 VEHICLE LICENSE & TIT	1,561.78	
5080020500 02 NONEMPLOYEE BACKGROUN	0.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Expenses & S	4,105.55	
5080031000 02 EMPLOYMENT SCREENING	0.00	
** Other Expenses & Services	19,111.65	
5090002000 02 NATURAL RESOURCES SUP	0.00	Firewise Materials
5090003000 02 SPECIAL PURPOSE SUPPL	4,077.40	
5090004000 02 TIRES	4,795.40	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE FUEL PURCHAS	2,113.98	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCHASES	147.11	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL PURCHAS	1,800.36	
5090006000 02 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,330.03	
5090006100 02 FURNISHING AND ACCESS	0.00	
5090007000 02 EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES	7,266.58	
5090011000 02 PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES	0.00	
5090011100 02 AUDIO & VISUAL EQUIPM	212.17	
5090013000 "02 FIREARMS, PUBLIC SAF	1,028.00	
5090014000 02 DRUGS & MEDICINES	0.00	
5090015000 02 HEALTH & LABORATORY S	0.00	
5090016000 02 SHOP & INDUSTRIAL SUP	12,479.73	
5090017000 02 ANIMAL & LIVESTOCK PU	4,000.00	
5090018000 02 SUBSCRIPTIONS & PUBLI	442.48	
5090019000 02 FOOD PURCHASES	746.60	
5090020000 02 CLOTHING & RELATED IT	1,236.22	
5090022000 02 KITCHEN JANITORIAL &	1,067.94	
5090023000 02 SEED FERTILIZER & CON	600.81	
5090025000 02 AGRICULTURAL HORTICUL	11,068.20	
5090026000 02 DATA PROCESSING SUPPL	4,404.76	
5090026100 02 CARTRIDGES, TONERS AN	1,783.48	
5090026300 02 DESKTOPS, LAPTOPS, PD	2,050.71	
5090026400 02 PRINTERS, PLOTTERS, A	0.00	
5090027000 02 SOFTWARE/LICENSES	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Commodities, Mater	811.64	

5090037000 29 EQUIPPING FIRE FIGHTI	59,535.42	Rural Fire-Fire Protection Equipment
5900004000 Low Value Asset Expense	24,101.64	HP ProBooks; Computers; Generator
5901070000 Low Value Asset Expense	24,101.64	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	172,202.30	
5100001000 04 ASSISTANCE GRANTS & A	23,588.21	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	23,588.21	
5110002000 02 - Other Refunds/Cost	10,420.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	10,420.00	
6080001300 Sales Tax Rebate - Refun	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	90,618.26	Donated Forklifts and Truck; Sales Tax on Freightliners
** Capital Outlay	90,618.26	
5901020000 Depreciation Expense (Fu	142,547.17	
** Depreciation/Amortization	142,547.17	
5130030300 04 INTER-AGENCY FEDERAL	2,252.36	
6060003000 Inter-Agency Transfers I	0.00	
6060004500 Intra-Agency GR Transfer	(665,000.00)	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(1,125.00)	
6061003000 INTER-AGENCY TRANSFERS O	113,743.90	Transfer for DIS, Phone, WEX payments
6061004501 Inter-Agency GR Transfer	670.75	
** Transfers In/Out	(549,457.99)	
6990002000 PRIOR YEAR WARRANTS CANC	0.00	
6990003000 PRIOR YEAR REFUNDS TO EX	0.00	
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
*** BALANCE	0.00	