



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

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

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WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

March 9, 2018

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 February 2018

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Section 42 of Act 841 of the 2017 Regular Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee when the Legislature is in session. Please find attached the report for February 2018.

In the month of February, AFC suppressed 67 wildfires for a total of 1499 acres. Also in the month of February, the entire state received record amounts of rainfall.

Even with substantial rainfall, fire suppression is still a daily mission of the AFC to keep Arkansans safe from the threat of wildfires.

The dry vegetation that is dominate this time of year, burns quickly after rainfall. On Tuesday of this week (March 6) we had 32 wildfires. The winds were high and the relative humidity was low. The AFC is ready to serve even after a large rainfall. The spring "green up" should end this unusual wildfire season.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

February 2018 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During February a total of 67 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1499 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of February is 174 wildfires for 3088 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC ranger assisted in a search for 2 missing people at Trigger Gap off Highway 221 S. This search was southwest of Berryville in Carroll County.

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.

February 2018

- 117 rural fire departments, (315 firefighters), were provided wildland fire training, including 44-minority departments and nine-AFC personnel.
- RFP received three-brush trucks (valued at \$236,353.33), one Ford F-250 brush truck (valued at \$27,101.33), two M1078's (valued at \$209,252.00), two gooseneck trailers (valued at \$23,145.00), and one conex box (valued at \$4,975.00).
- There were three Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including three Freightliners (valued at \$403,288.00), one brush truck (valued at \$17,554.00), one generator set (valued at \$13,551.00) and three generators (valued at \$20,838.00).
- 429 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFDs (valued at \$83,101.75) including fire blankets, hydraulic jack, respirator masks, cold weather jackets, flashlights, and battery chargers.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on 11 AFC vehicles and four DOD vehicles.
- RFP provided three interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund.

Moreland VFD	\$10,947.08	'08 Freightliner	Pope Co.	D-6
Pangburn VFD	\$11,250.00	SCBA's	White Co.	D-7
Fairview VFD	\$7,762.50	Foam Skid	White Co.	D-7
- 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant update: The leaf blowers and backpack pumps were delivered to RFP. Currently bids for the PPE from the State Procurement Office have closed. RFP requested a sample of the PPE from the winning vendor. Rakes will be ordered once the order for PPE has been submitted.

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 second in the nation with 167 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise USA signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in February:

- Attended Program Managers meeting to deliver national program changes for the 2018 year
- Attended District 7 meeting to discuss district site count and involvement
- Delivered two national program recognition plaques and signage
- Delivered two initial program presentations to interested departments
- Created and mailed letter to all current sites outlining program changes for the year

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 three dumping, four fire related, one equipment theft/ vandalism, and four timber theft cases. They closed ten fire related, six timber theft and two dumping cases.

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 5,043 landowners owning 930,705 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,299 Forest Stewards owning 284,381 acres.

For February, 11 FSP plans were prepared on 3119 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 88 rural forestry management plans on 8,757 acres. AFC personnel conducted 12 prescribed burns on 1,124 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.

Urban forestry has been implementing programs and planning more progress for the future. Staff presented at Village Pines Garden Club on how to pick the right tree for the right place. Urban staff continues with monthly articles for City and Town Magazine. Staff also attended a fruit tree training and a volunteer management for community development workshop offered by extension. Staff presented at Pleasant Plains city council meeting for Tree City USA. Final Tree City USA communities were captured for 2017. Updates to Urban Forestry handouts were created. These include Urban & Community Forestry brochure, Tree City USA flyer, and Tree City USA manual.

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.

Arkansas Forest Health Monitoring Program

- Staff attended the national meeting of the Forest Health Monitoring Program (FHMP) in Phoenix, AZ. There he discussed program objectives with leaders from around the country. FHMP is a national program in the State and Private Forestry organization of the USDA Forest Service.
- The Digital Mobile Sketch Mapping system, a tool that uses tablets for aerial survey, is being used in Arkansas and will help AFC monitor forest disturbances.
- Staff and trained AFC staff are able to map forest disturbances, such as bark beetle outbreaks, on an as-needed basis.

Southern Pine Beetle Trapping

- Eighteen SPB traps were placed in southern Arkansas during the last week of February.
- These traps serve as an early warning system to notify AFC of any increases in SPB abundance this spring.

Reforestation: 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.

Reforestation Manager, Nursery Manager, Tree Improvement Manager and Administrative Assistant attended the AFC mid-year check-in meeting at the Arkansas Agriculture Building on February 8.

Reforestation Manager and Nursery Manager attended a native seed meeting hosted by The Heritage Commission on February 27. Reforestation Manager presented a proposal for a possible partnership by producing milkweed at Baucum Nursery.

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

- Made two communication system improvements by adding the following
 - Answering machine with message for after-hours calls.
 - Hand held radios for communication between office, field crew, packing crew and cooler.
- Seedling sales began on July 15. Through February 28, there were 704 on line orders and 164 traditional orders. Total sales of 1,391,850 pine and 5,119,800 hardwood.
- Comparatively, in the same period in FY 17, there were 465 on line orders and 119 traditional orders. Total sales of 2,296,075 pine and 4,945,775 hardwood.

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

- Harvested (lifted) 1,927,300 hardwood seedlings
- Harvested (lifted) 422,500 pine seedlings
- Shipped 2,241,400 hardwood seedlings
- Shipped 924,425 pine seedlings

Received the following seed from suppliers:

Species	Pounds
Cherrybark	29
Nuttall	2,155
Overcup	600
Shumard	2,682
Water oak	3,154
Willow oak	973
Pecan	1,200
Persimmon	141
Water tupelo	200
Bitter pecan	250

Tree Improvement:

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

- Cut scion material for grafting
- Packed 68 boxes of 3 star containerized seedlings and delivered to Baucum
- Began pruning orchard 1715
- Got bid for orchard spraying
- Inventoried orchard 1721 for grafting
- Grafted 560 pine in greenhouse
- Purchased and transported potting soil for rootstock

Purchased and transported chemicals for spraying production orchards

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 conducted one courtesy exam in Cleburne County with four participants. Participants consisted of two landowners, one timber buyer, and AFC's BMP coordinator. The exam addressed the Arkansas Forestry Commissions BMP Program. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of Arkansas' BMP Implementation Reports, AFC's manual "BMPs for Water Quality Protection", the water quality complaint process and MOU with ADEQ. The BMP coordinator provided an overview of the entire program and offered technical assistance, and training to help with their timber harvest.

The BMP coordinator responded to one timber harvesting complaint, through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The complaint was found not valid. The BMP Coordinator responded to the complaint by a site visit and followed up by a report back to the ADEQ.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Southern Group of State Foresters Water Resources Committee about the concerns of potential impacts from the 300-page rule of the WOTUS.

The BMP Implementation Survey update, BMP Coordinator continues the ground surveys, collecting data on approximately 250 logging sites randomly selected. Data collection has been slow due to wet weather and flu season. New completion date should be the end of March 2018, 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 57 plots for the month of February. 96% complete with the 2017 Inventory.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Distributed to statewide media: "Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool," 2/17.
- Distributed to statewide media: "Arkansas Forest Industry Has Many Opportunities for Military Veterans," 2/26.

Meetings and Events

- Presented at the District Forester/Program Manager Meeting, 2/8.
- Presented at the District 5 Meeting in Malvern, 2/16.
- Attended and presented on a panel on the Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines developed for row crop farmers, with input from the AFC/Prescribed Fire Council, at the Arkansas Rice Annual Meeting, 2/19.
- Attended and Chaired the Southern Group of State Foresters winter communications meeting in Covington, Louisiana, 2/20-2/22.
- Attended the Vets4Ag Summit in Monticello, 2/22.
- Attended District 6 Meeting, in Clarksville, 2/27.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department Newsletter, 2/9.
- Coordinated the order of 18,600 bare root seedlings (10,100 hardwood seedlings, 8,500 pine seedlings), requested from AFC field offices for educational events during Earth Day, Arbor Day, and other planting ceremonies and events across Arkansas, for this coming spring.
- Developed presentation for use agency-wide to explain the mission, roles, responsibilities, and updated data and statistics from the AFC.
- Developed a new Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines web page to explain guidelines for forest landowners and forest industry, and new guidelines developed for row crop farmers.
- Continued work on the AFC 2017 Annual Report.
- Continued work on the Arkansas Grown magazine edition, which includes multiple forestry-related stories, program updates, and forestry-specific cover photo.

AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 18,491 Likes (up from 18,355 Likes in February, 2018)
- Twitter – 7,409 Followers (up from 7,379 Followers in February, 2018)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

February 2018

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(370,703.55)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(370,703.55)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(140,230.11)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	(1,103.67)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(141,333.78)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(358,049.00)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(230,265.74)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(588,314.74)	
4042001000 FINES	(591.06)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(591.06)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(300.00)	
4044003000 OTHER RENT	0.00	
** OR - Rents	(300.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(22,197.08)	
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(849.32)	WEX Rebate
6200003000 Other Donations	(10,500.00)	Firefighting Truck
** OR - Miscellaneous	(33,546.40)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(18,412.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,095.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(32,902.99)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(52,410.49)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.23)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.23)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(35,938.63)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	(83,450.66)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(119,389.29)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,121.12	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	8,256.25	

4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	645.90
** Treasury Charges	20,023.27
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	785,177.44
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	11,492.60
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	201.70
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,497.11
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,501.40
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	114,877.08
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	3,992.69
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00
** Salary Expense	1,096,400.02
5020001000 Postage	1,337.64
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	4,638.93
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	8,291.41
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,480.92
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00
5020005000 Freight	359.62
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	16,108.52
5030001000 Printing	3,533.18
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	20.12
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	3,553.30
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	4,979.07
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	109.50
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,228.94
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	9,608.73
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	19,042.73
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	9,036.83
5030017000 Software Maintenance	871.71
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	142.80
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	364.91
** Repairing & Servicing	48,385.22
5040001000 Electricity	14,160.87
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,010.63
5040003100 02 Water	0.00

Brochure/Business Cards

5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	11,109.46
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	10,909.26
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,357.68
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	149.32
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00
** Utilities & Rent		40,697.22
5050001000	02 Mileage	131.04
5050003100	02 - Meals	970.35
5050003200	02 - Lodging	4,827.31
5050004100	09 - Meals	458.05
5050004200	09 - Lodging	1,176.87
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	753.60
5050006000	09 Common Carrier	952.00
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	65.71
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES	
TRAVEL		0.00
5050011100	02 VALIDATED	
PARKING		0.00
5050012000	09 PRKNG FEES	
TRAVEL		60.73
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	50.00
5050014000	09 Other Travel Exp	0.00
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	890.00
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	20.00
5050019100	Board Member	
Expense		0.00
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl	
Mileage		0.00
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence		10,355.66
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	14,530.00
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE	
EXP		0.00
5060011000	Direct Prov Svcs	0.00
5060016000	NBR PROSVS &	
FEES		0.00
5080015000	02 MiscTech	
SrvNonIT		206.00
** Professional Services & Fees		14,736.00
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	0.00
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	25.00
5080008000	Air Observe Crop Svc	0.00
5080009000	Janitorial Service	575.10

5080011000 02-CONTRACT		
FOOD SER	676.47	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	277.62	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	6,568.09	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	1,346.41	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	1,572.76	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	29,250.00	Fire Equipment
** Other Expenses & Services	40,313.45	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	265.55	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	33.23	
5090004000 Tires	11,772.02	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE		
PURCH	23,442.64	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL		
PURCH	28,692.66	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	5,716.09	
5090006000 Office Supplies	4,190.83	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	1,106.35	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	310.63	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	49.80	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	5.12	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	8,421.51	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	447.49	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	478.25	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,107.67	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	113,263.15	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	20,157.05	
5090026000 DP Supps	2,717.14	
5090026300 02		
Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	2,779.41	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat		
Supp	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat,		
Sup	(1,026.36)	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	44,064.79	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	6,428.06	2 Radio links; 2 Computers; Drip Torch
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	0.00	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	274,423.08	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	71,316.23	
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	71,316.23	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	688.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	688.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	

6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	25,396.06
** Capital Outlay	25,396.06
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	103,001.15
** Depreciation/Amortization	103,001.15
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	4,327.46
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	(3,403.13)
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER	
In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(644,666.76)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(276.25)
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	21,252.00
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(622,766.68)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	0.00
** Insurance Proceeds	0.00
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
6990004000 Prior Year Adjust	83,450.66
** Prior Year Adjustment	83,450.66
*** BALANCE	0.00

Truck Donation; Sales Tax - Freightliner Trucks

Funds transferred to PAG0000 Agri Paying Fund to assist in payroll for Fiscal and HR