



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

February 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 January 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 January 2018.

In 2017, 1,566 wildfires burned 27,549 acres in Arkansas. This is the highest wildfire frequency year since 2012 when 2,148 wildfires burned 34,434 acres. Overall, wildfires were larger in 2017 with an average size of 17.6 acres compared to a 10-year average of 15.5 acres.

2017 was an active wildfire year, which indicates that we have a lot of woody debris on our forest floor. With plenty of fuel, an uncertain drought outlook, and wildfires trending larger in size, Arkansans can expect the possibility of an active wildfire season beginning soon. Forestry crews remain highly trained and well equipped. Residents should always be mindful of safe burning, but should use added caution in the coming year.

The 2018 wildfire outlook, provided by the National Interagency Coordination Center, predicts higher than normal Arkansas wildfire activity from February – April in Northwest Arkansas counties based on predicted drought conditions and forecasts for dry air over the region.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION



Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

January 2018 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During January, a total of 169 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 2756 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of January is 148 wildfires for 2244 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew from Searcy County was dispatched to find a person that was reported to be stranded behind a tree that had fallen across the road at the Richland Creek Campground. The person got out before our crew got there.

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.

- 30 rural fire departments, (107 firefighters), were provided wildland fire training, including two minority departments and four AFC personnel in attendance.
- RFP received two service trucks (valued at \$238,643.43), one Ford F-550 brush truck (valued at \$54,310.43), one Stewart & Stevenson (valued at \$184,333.00), one commercial generator (valued at \$2,312.00), and one pressure washer (valued at \$11,863.58).
- There were eight Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including six Freightliners (valued at \$738,434.00), one brush truck (valued at \$15,751.00) and, one service truck (valued at \$32,990.00).
- 245 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFDs (valued at \$11,442.26) including, FEMA meal kits, flood lights, chemical lights, jackets, leather men's and women's gloves, cargo tie downs, and rescue bars.
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on 14 AFC vehicles and 10 DOD vehicles.
- RFP provided two interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund.

Oil Trough VFD	\$8,893.73	Foam Skid Unit	Independence Co.	D-8
Garner VFD	\$12,866.30	2002 Freightliner	White Co.	D-7
- 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant update; the leaf blowers and backpack pumps were delivered to RFP. We are currently waiting on bids for the PPE from the State Procurement Office. The price of PPE will determine the number of rakes per kit that we order.

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

Firewise achieved the following in January:

- Delivered National Program Recognition plaques and signage to one new Firewise site
- Delivered initial program presentation to two fire departments
- Delivered risk assessment training to one fire department
- Assisted fire department with creating news release to showcase program activities

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 5 dumping, 14 fire related, 1 equipment theft/ vandalism, and 6 timber theft cases. They closed 9 fire related, 4 equipment theft/vandalism, 18 timber theft and 7 dumping cases.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator attended the Arkansas Continuity of Operations training and attended Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Training.

Another AFC Law Enforcement Investigator assisted Boone County Sheriff's office with a felony unlawful burning case. He also, assisted with a drone incident on a Logan County fire.

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 5,034 landowners owning 930,008 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,301 Forest Stewards owning 284,499 acres.

For January, 13 FSP plans were prepared on 900 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 107 rural forestry management plans on 9,070 acres. AFC personnel conducted 31 prescribed burns on 2,959 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 has attended multiple trainings and new year meetings. Staff attended the Arkansas Municipal League Winter

Conference in Fort Smith. This created 17 new contacts to expand our program. Contacts signed up for either Tree City USA, inventories, or educational programs that we offer. Staff was also able to award six Arkansas communities with sub-awards to better their Urban Forestry program. Urban Forestry has also accepted and started the review process for the Champion Tree Program.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist 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.

Southern Pine Beetle

- Though southern pine beetle (SPB) is currently not an issue in Arkansas, it ravaged the national forests of Mississippi in 2017. Preparedness is warranted in Arkansas and neighboring states.
- Thinning overstocked pine forests remains the best prevention against SPB damages.
- AFC is participating in various collaborations to organize statewide readiness in the event of detecting SPB.
- This subject is high priority for the forest health specialist, who is establishing AFC as a key player in monitoring SPB using aerial surveillance.

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 attended the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program (WGFTIP) Steering Committee meeting which was held in Little Rock on January 24. The Steering Committee serves as a Board of Directors for the WGFTIP. This meeting completed AFC's Reforestation Manager's 3-year term.

On January 24, Reforestation Manager and Nursery Manager conducted tour of Nursery for Director of WGFTIP and the Coop's Research Associate.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15, 2017. Through February 1, 2018, there were:

- 636 on line orders and 136 traditional orders
- Total sales of 1,214,400 pine and 5,134,150 hardwood

Comparatively, in the same period in FY 17, there were:

- 445 on line orders and 107 traditional orders
- Total sales of 2,298,500 pine and 4,937,525 hardwood

During the month of January, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following.

- Harvested (lifted) 1,708,750 hardwood seedlings
- Harvested (lifted) 712,700 pine seedlings
- Shipped 1,549,100 hardwood seedlings
- Shipped 222,950 pine seedlings
- Installed new septic line for Pulaski County office

Received the following seed from suppliers.

Species	Pounds
Black gum	150
Button bush	2
Cedar elm	3
Cherrybark oak	235
Cypress	1000
Hackberry	15
Nuttall oak	1983
Pin oak	1410
Red cedar	1
Shumard oak	2096
Sugarberry	150
Sycamore	4
Water oak	1445
Willow oak	980

Tree Improvement:

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

- Finished pruning lower limbs of production trees in orchard 1718
- Finished installing fence and gate at Rosston test site
- Inventoried orchards 1718 & 1720 for grafting
- Packed 12,000, 3 star loblolly pine seedlings for Baucum Nursery customers
- Moved 1,000 pine and 100 water oak rootstock into greenhouse for grafting
- Took soil samples in orchards 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721
- Took needle samples from production orchards 1715 and 1716
- Provided tour of seed orchards at Bluff City for orchard evaluation by Director of Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program

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 75 plots during January. Inventory 2017 is now 89% complete.

COMMUNICATIONS

Arkansas Forestry Commission Communications Update: January, 2018

Media Update

- Distributed to statewide media: "Arkansas Forestry Commission Shares Wildfire Outlook for 2018," 1/4.

- Distributed to statewide media: “U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue Visits Governor Hutchinson and State Agriculture Leaders,” 1/19.
- Distributed to statewide media: “Timber Output Survey Measures Arkansas Timber Production,” 1/31.

Meetings and Events

- Attended for input and discussion, the final Row Crop Burning Task Force Meeting, for final draft of Voluntary Smoke Management Guidelines for Row Crop Burning, 1/18.
- Attended, photographed, and publicized the visit/round table discussion of U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue with Governor Hutchinson, Arkansas Agriculture Secretary Wes Ward, and agriculture industries including forestry, at the Governor’s Mansion and later on a farm tour, 1/19.
- Presented at the Quarterly AFC Board Meeting, 1/19.
- Presented a general forestry update at the Arkansas Farm Bureau Forestry Commodity Group Winter Meeting, in North Little Rock, 1/23.
- Provided mini introduction of media policies, website overview, and communications responsibilities at the AFC Orientation Training, 1/24.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department Newsletter, 1/9.
- Organized Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee Monthly Call, 1/10.
- Sent out requests for seedling giveaways from all county offices, which are due back by March 2. Seedling giveaways are for educational events, many of which will take place in the coming months at Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations.
- Sent out individual emails to program managers and supervisors for the 2017 Annual Report, with final reports from 2017. A final draft will be ready by February 28. The report will be available online by March 16.
- Working to update all Champion Tree pages, and training new Urban Forestry staff to maintain updates.

AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 18,355 Likes (up from 18,205 Likes in December, 2017)
- Twitter – 7,379 Followers (up from 7,340 Followers in December, 2017)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January 2018

.	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(369,829.82)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(369,829.82)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(689,084.49)
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	(478.48)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(689,562.97)

4038001000 TIMBER SALES	0.00	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(41,326.16)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(41,326.16)	
4042001000 FINES	(408.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(408.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(300.00)	
4044003000 OTHER RENT	0.00	
** OR - Rents	(300.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(21,760.04)	
4047021000 OPERATING		
DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(734.98)	WEX Rebate
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(22,495.02)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR		
SERVICES	(14,699.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(694.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(31,647.95)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(47,041.45)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.22)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.22)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(5,119.37)	Reimb of Bureau Veritas Invoices
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(5,119.37)	
4050004000 FED		
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(247,522.59)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(247,522.59)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,094.89	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	11,049.72	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	738.16	
** Treasury Charges	22,882.77	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	798,503.35	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	10,275.07	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	27.06	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,446.73	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,444.45	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,705.04	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	1,944.50	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	1,600.00	
** Salary Expense	1,110,806.20	
5020001000 Postage	2,014.10	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	23,240.09	Capture Dec/Jan Payments
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	20,889.63	Capture Dec/Jan Payments
5020004000 Network Services Exp	3,402.87	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	38,390.00	Mapping software
5020005000 Freight	13.47	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	

** Communication & Transp. of Commod	87,950.16
5030001000 Printing	0.00
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00
** Printing & Advertising	0.00
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	17,883.99
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	295.39
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	11.68
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	7,245.90
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	23,905.95
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	17,363.11
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	25,030.77
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	241.16
** Repairing & Servicing	91,977.95
5040001000 Electricity	16,561.73
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,258.80
5040003100 02 Water	135.10
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	6,938.90
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	11,324.50
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,296.95
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	1,086.32
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00
** Utilities & Rent	40,692.30
5050001000 02 Mileage	329.25
5050003100 02 - Meals	543.39
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,913.75
5050004100 09 - Meals	271.44
5050004200 09 - Lodging	941.46
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	387.10
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	601.56
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	18.61
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	118.71
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES	0.00
TRAVEL	0.00
5050011100 02 VALIDATED PARKING	0.00
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES	123.48
TRAVEL	123.48
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	44.91
5050014000 09 Other Travel Exp	207.74
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,499.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	65.00
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	336.00
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence	7,401.40
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	52,714.50

Holidays caused some payments not to be processed December.

Western Pilot, Prescribe fire workshop, Stewardship

5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,882.93	
5060011000	Direct Prov Svcs	0.00	
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	11,320.55	Termite contract; Appraisal- 4 Tracts
** Professional Services & Fees		65,917.98	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	22,523.00	Aircraft Insurance
** Insurance & Bonds		22,523.00	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	22,440.00	West Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Dues
5080008000	Air Observe Crop Svc	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	575.10	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		396.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,722.04	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	19,952.73	Baucum Nursery
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	(16,038.54)	
** Other Expenses & Services		29,179.33	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	4,507.88	
5090004000	Tires	1,253.60	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	13,256.55	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	13,031.62	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	7,463.35	
5090006000	Office Supplies	3,626.27	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	469.77	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	30.21	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	4,509.97	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	720.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	336.91	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	460.57	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	867.54	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	60,798.90	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	54,439.71	
5090026000	DP Supps	4,321.85	
5090026300	02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	(3,006.33)	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	27,361.85	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	314.16	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	314.16	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		195,078.54	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	13,530.00	
5100005100	02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		13,530.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	1,417.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	0.00	

5110010000 Real Property Tax	0.00
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	1,417.00
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	0.00
** Capital Outlay	0.00
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	102,755.01
** Depreciation/Amortization	102,755.01
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(964,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(576.46)
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(964,576.46)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	(2,624.38)
** Insurance Proceeds	(2,624.38)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** BALANCE	0.00