



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.6

June 8, 2021

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 May 2021

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 May 2021.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy canceled all classes for 2020 but offered critical courses virtually in 2021. Forestry Division not only had students, but instructors teaching a few virtual courses as well.

Four veteran instructors taught virtually at the academy, while forty-seven Forestry Division students attended virtual courses. All in all, Forestry Division students received fifty-eight certificates for virtual courses completed satisfactorily. Some students schedules allowed them to take multiple courses.

Over 300 students from seventeen states took advantage of the virtual fire academy. This virtual academy allowed students from Arkansas and other states to take advantage of courses being taught by veteran instructors.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox by *m*

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Forestry Division
May 2021 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During May a total of fourteen wildfires were suppressed for a total of 152 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of May is thirty-four wildfires with 324 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: Forestry Division crews from Sebastian and Franklin Counties assisted with storm damage clean up in the City of Fort Smith. A Forestry Division crew from Lawrence County assisted with storm damage clean up in Walnut Ridge.

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.

May 2021:

- There were three Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with fifteen FDs (thirty-four firefighters) and two Forestry personnel in attendance.
- One tanker, two brush trucks, one trailer and three generators were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c.) \$441,230.00).
- RFP received thirteen items for the warehouse to include chain saws and shovels (o.a.c. \$4,220.08).
- RFP received one fire truck, one tanker, two brush trucks and four water tank trailers (o.a.c. \$347,889.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on six Forestry vehicles and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$6,375.00).
- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:
 - Prim FD (D7, Cleburne Co.) - \$14,325.60 – Refurbishment of 2008 2WD Freightliner, 2,000-gallon tank installed, paint and truck parts.
- Two items were sold under the contract sales:
 - Prim FD (Cleburne Co.) pump/engine - \$3,200.00

- Greenbrier FD (Faulkner Co.) foam skid unit - \$11,900.00
- Ninety wildland grant kits have been delivered either to the Fire Department or the county for delivery. The six alternates kits are expected to be complete around September.
- An Incident Management Team meeting was held to discuss the upcoming Rural Fire Show.
- Eighteen vendors have registered for the Rural Fire Show.

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

Firewise achieved the following in **May**:

- Delivered one initial program presentation to an interested fire department.
- Public Information Specialist delivered training to Incident Management Team to address use of Microsoft Teams interface.
- Coordinator assisted with multiple training sessions being hosted on Zoom interface for different areas in the division.
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: two grant presentations, 27 Fire Chief Visits, one Firewise Project Assist, five Fire Prevention Presentations to Schools and/or Civic Groups, 10 Fire Department Meetings Attended, 10 Literature Distributions, two Landowner Assists, one Exhibit/County Fair/Festival Attended to distribute program information and one Local Recognition event for participating Community

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 timber cases and six dumping cases. They closed three dumping cases and 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. Arkansas has 322,168 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 1,275 Forest Stewards owning 286,554 acres in the State.

During the month of May, six Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 254 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 35 forest management practice plans on 1,923 acres and conducted prescribed burns on 406 acres.

Urban & Community Forestry Assistance (U&CF): 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.

- The Urban & Community Forestry Program began a new annual “Tree”-mendous Educator recognition program. Nominations were accepted during Teacher Appreciation Week and the two teachers recognized (Jackie Scott in Little Rock and Jackie Brady in Hope) each received a potted tree from U&CF stock and a certificate of recognition.
- Urban Forestry staff, Baucum and Bluff City staff and personnel from Clark County and Nevada County all assisted with delivering seedlings and potting mix to Bluff City, potting approximately 400 trees and delivering those trees to the Forestry Division nurseries.
- The Urban Coordinator presented a session on Forestry Division and Urban & Community Forestry to Cooperative Extension Service Agents at their Landscape Tree Inservice training on Tuesday, May 25th.

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

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

- Finished planting pine and hardwood for 2022 crop.
- Continued to apply pre-emergence herbicide to all planted beds.
- Continued setting up irrigation on all planted fields.
- Top pruned 2-year old seedlings.

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

- Designed and mapped new hardwood orchards at Bluff City for the following improved species:
 - Chinquapin Oak
 - Sweetgum
 - Willow Oak
- Designed and mapped new Urban Forestry hardwood orchards at Bluff City for the following improved species:
 - Burr Oak
 - Cedar Elm
 - Cypress
 - Shumard Oak
- Finished grafting pine and hardwood.
- Planted pine and hardwood for grafting next year.
- Fertilized young transplanted grafts in orchards.
- Potted 400 hardwood seedlings for Urban Forestry.

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 **May**:

- Inspected a Faulkner County planned timber sale for Division managed lands.
- Inspected Perry County Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sale twice.
- Presented a report to Arkansas Forestry Association. (AFA)
- Attended webinar on landline maintenance.
- Checked Columbia County logging site Streamside Management Zone (SMZ).
- Attended webinar on carbon markets.

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 76 plots for the month of May. We are now 45% complete with the 2021 inventory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(303,996.40)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(303,996.40)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(184,717.51)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(184,717.51)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(20,898.60)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(25.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(20,923.60)	
4042001000 FINES	(40.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(40.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)	
** OR - Rents	(700.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(1,178.80)	Fire Show Funds
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(13,076.10)	Built 2000 Gallon Tanker
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	(460.29)	WEX Rebate
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	0	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(14,715.19)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(27,525.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(454.25)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(10,112.04)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(38,091.29)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.09)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.09)	
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	0	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0	

4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(238,976.19)
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(238,976.19)
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,119.89
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	3,084.62
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	406.82
** Treasury Charges	12,611.33
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	781,522.39
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	16,722.22
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	135.57
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,580.76
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	130,050.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,517.78
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	121,118.23
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	42,510.95
** Salary Expense	1,153,157.90
5020001000 Postage	726.13
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	8,794.04
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	430.00
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,830.95
5020005000 Freight	737.31
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0

** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	12,518.43
5030001000 Printing	1,613.30
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	(711.12)
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0
5030004000 Film Processing	0
** Printing & Advertising	902.18
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	16,607.70
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	685.87
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	59.39
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	8,388.03
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	32,469.33
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	773.56
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	32,266.93
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	10,339.42
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	482.70
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	292.82
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	130.00
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,117.38
** Repairing & Servicing	103,613.13
5040001000 Electricity	12,443.33
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,109.03
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,933.30
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	700.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	100.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,178.70
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0

Error correction from previous month

5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	0
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	5.75
** Utilities & Rent	19,470.11
5050001000 02 Mileage	1,088.22
5050003100 02 - Meals	416.56
5050003200 02 - Lodging	960.44
5050004100 09 - Meals	62.21
5050004200 09 - Lodging	109.44
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	500.00
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	578.95
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	690.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0
** Travel & Subsistence	4,405.82
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	17,308.00
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0
5060005000 Medical Fees	0
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	2,370.32
** Professional Services & Fees	19,678.32
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0
5070007000 Other Insurance	0
5070010000 NBR - Ins. & Bonds	5,921.85
** Insurance & Bonds	5,921.85
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	14.00
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	5,180.00
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	781.87
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0
5080013000 Security Services	0

Stewardship; Forest Legacy

Contract services for drinking water collaboration

National Assoc. of State Depts. Of Agriculture;
Certified Arborist; Drone Test (Lee Chambers);

5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,153.91
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	0
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	93.90
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	(109,950.94)
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,303.71
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0
** Other Expenses & Services	(98,423.55)
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	16,959.04
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	13,557.12
5090004000 Tires	17,268.02
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	1,802.00
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	104.76
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	5,221.21
5090006000 Office Supplies	7,143.07
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	265.34
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	692.39
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	168.77
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0
5090012000 Architect Draft Supp	0
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	3,294.35
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	38.39
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	27,339.78
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	1,863.00
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,557.31
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	732.19
5090021000 Linen Supplies	27.41
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	4,727.35

Error correction to move to correct coding

5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	216,396.13	High due to error corrections from line 121.
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	89,929.02	
5090026000 DP Supps	2,432.54	
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	4,699.18	
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	170.38	
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	1,850.21	
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	1,807.74	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	1,367.66	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	3,926.05	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	564.79	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	18,598.29	Refurbish Freightliners; 100 Sound Burst Speaker;
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	1,008.01	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	1,008.01	Laptop
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	446,519.51	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	15,843.06	VFA; SPB; MIT
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	10,000.00	Choose Outdoors
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	25,843.06	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	2,920.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	262.50	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	9,758.81	Ouachita County
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	(225.00)	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	12,716.31	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	65,183.48	100' Pirod Tower & Installation; Dodge Ram; Land
** Capital Outlay	65,183.48	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	148,272.57	
** Depreciation/Amortization	148,272.57	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0	

** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	0
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	0
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(560,465.19)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(26,244.00)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	193,277.40
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0
** Transfers In/Out	(393,431.79)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	0
** Insurance Proceeds	0
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0
** Prior Year Adjustment	0
*** BALANCE	0.00