



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

November 7, 2012

The Honorable Mary Anne Salmon
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Tommy Lee Baker
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for October 2012

Dear Senator Salmon and Representative Baker:

Per Act 252 of the 2012 Fiscal Session, Section 50, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for October 2012.

Wildfire problems have slowed even though most of Arkansas is still experiencing drought conditions.

I am excited about an AFC program called S.T.O.P. (Shade Trees on Playgrounds). Trees dramatically reduce the amount of damaging sunrays reaching the ground. Many school playgrounds have no shade which puts the children at risk for sunburn. Skin damaged by the sun during childhood is the leading cause of skin cancer in adults.

To combat sunburn and the risk of skin cancer, the AFC provides trees to schools. During October, AFC provided trees to 9 schools.

Respectfully yours,
ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Richard A. Weiss
Secretary of Agriculture Butch Calhoun
Ms. Marty Garrity



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

October 2012 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During October 2012, a total of 34 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 90 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of October is 114 fires for 1,369 acres burned.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists rural volunteer fire departments with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans and administers federal grants to assist approximately 1,000 volunteer rural fire departments. RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

Sixty three (63) rural fire departments were provided wildland fire training. Nineteen (19) fire trucks were delivered to rural fire departments. One (1) fire department received a loan to purchase equipment. Thirty two (32) Department of Defense trucks were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire department for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. The RFP shop completed maintenance on 7 AFC vehicles and dozers.

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 in recognized Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In October, Firewise staff assisted 50 communities/fire departments with education and renewal efforts, prepared two media releases, and answered numerous media calls for fire and prevention information. Firewise staff made six presentations to fire departments and civic groups.

Other Firewise activities include providing Firewise information at the Lake Hamilton Fire Department tractor show event, Lake Catherine State Park fall event, and the Little Rock National Weather Service open house.

Arkansas Firewise was one of three states chosen to participate in a Firewise training film being produced by National Fire Protection Association. In October, Arkansas Firewise staff assisted as the film's producers interviewed several Firewise participants and filmed their homes. The producers filmed areas burned by wildfires in Arkansas. The Arkansas Firewise staff was interviewed for this training film.

Law Enforcement: Forestry Commission has the authority to enforce the State's laws pertaining to unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and equipment theft and vandalism. Forestry Commission

aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In October, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 6 unlawful dumping, 4 fire related, and 11 timber theft cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: Forestry Commission works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forest. 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 or for timber production to get a comprehensive 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 4,484 landowners owning 823,587 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,267 Forest Stewards owning 277,219 acres.

For October, 17 FSP plans were prepared on 3,989 acres. One (1) landowner was certified as a Forest Steward. Forest Stewards recertify every 5 years. One (1) Forest Steward owning 845 acres was recertified.

In addition, Forestry Commission 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. Forestry Commission foresters prepared 48 rural forestry forest management plans on 3,637 acres. In addition, Forestry Commission personnel conducted prescribed burns on 6 tracts for 275 acres and constructed 76,730 feet of fire lane.

Forest Health: The Southern pine beetle (SPB) is one of Arkansas's significant forest insect pests generally found in southern Arkansas counties. Each year AFC conducts an aerial survey. Nine southern Arkansas counties totaling 3,769,856 acres were surveyed. No SPB infestations were detected. AFC offers cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work as part of a comprehensive federal SPB Prevention Program. This program is well-received by landowners. For October, 13 projects on 541 acres were completed.

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. The Shade Trees on Playgrounds program was implemented throughout the months of October and November. Schools that participated included: Kingsland, Oden, Augusta, Bismarck, County Line, Vilonia, Izard County, Flippen and Mathias in Rogers. Over 2,000 students learned about how trees grow and the benefits they provide. Fun was had by all helping plant the 35 shade trees on the playgrounds. The program received national recognition on the Alliance for Community Trees "Neighborwoods" project website.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. This year's Baucum Nursery inventory consists of 4,855,000 loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings and 6,793,000 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Baucum Nursery seedling sales to date are 1,410,825 pine and 2,374,175 hardwood seedlings (as of 10-26-12 sales report).

Best Management Practices: Forestry Commission provides BMP training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

During October 2012, BMP coordinator provided one technical logger training session, one technical Forester training program, and responded to one logger complaint.

BMP Coordinator submitted a white paper and supporting poster for the National Society of American Foresters meeting in Spokane, Washington that provides details of Arkansas's forestry BMP program.

BMP Coordinator is currently working with Central Arkansas Water on a BMP fire break/roads project in which the BMP Coordinator developed a work plan and schedule and provides onsite supervision for the project.

Forest Inventory and Analysis: Forestry Commission 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.

For October, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 94 plots.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. With the loss of Conservation Education staff, the State Forester and other staff conducted radio and television and civic organization presentations that are not included in the district reporting. During October 2012, the districts reported 9 news articles and 114 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 30,2012		
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(323,786.48)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(323,786.48)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(210,269.04)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	(3,809.89)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(214,078.93)	
4034001000 RENTS	(400.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(400.00)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	0.00	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(61,787.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(61,787.00)	
4042001000 FINES	(726.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(726.00)	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(7,279.33)	Loans for equipment to rural fire depts.
** OR - Miscellaneous	(7,279.33)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(4,918.22)	Sales of fire fighting equipment to rural fire depts.
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(4,918.22)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(1,343,616.65)	Federal reimbursement for federal program expenses
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(1,343,616.65)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,713.59	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,143.99	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,385.76	
** Treasury Charges	15,243.34	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	751,408.84	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,993.88	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	53,745.25	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,030.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,126.89	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	107,069.45	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	4,596.36	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	17,925.75	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	1,200.00	
** Salary Expense	1,053,096.42	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000 Postage	1,739.88	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,250.06	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	3,971.46	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,726.10	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	6.22	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	20,805.04	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000 Printing	70.00	
** Printing & Advertising	70.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	3,427.89	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,123.71	

5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	17,419.00	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	12,612.55	
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	8,884.63	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing		43,467.78	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000	Electricity	10,615.57	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,905.06	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	1,094.34	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	11,492.99	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	750.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	3,357.70	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	150.83	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	7,719.60	
** Utilities & Rent		37,086.09	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	2,046.28	
5050003000	02 Meals & Lodging	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,624.34	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	3,899.75	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,125.30	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	733.20	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,445.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	955.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		12,828.87	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	10,636.00	Single engine air tanks & Stewardship plans
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	548.25	DOT & pre-employment drug tests
** Professional Services & Fees		11,184.25	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	11,100.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080009000	Janitorial Service	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		General operations of agency and Federal programs
SER		785.02	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	584.36	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	9,365.84	Nursery temporary labor
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	16.29	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
** Other Expenses & Services		21,917.51	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	2,051.80	

5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	82,171.87	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,134.56	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	2,671.61	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	73.54	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	18.93	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	7,700.47	
5090017000	Animal Purch NonCap	400.00	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	97.76	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,221.67	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	12,730.00	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	1,981.62	
5090026000	DP Supps	5,663.83	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	7,453.35	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		128,371.01	General operations of agency and Federal programs
6060003100	INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(865,374.46)	General revenue allocation from DFA
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(14.69)	Marketing & Redistribution proceeds from equip. sales
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	1,518.11	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out		(863,871.04)	
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	