



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

December 10, 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 November 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 November 2012.

Wildfire problems have slowed due to the cooler weather and scattered rainfall even though most of Arkansas is still experiencing dry conditions.

The US Forest Service Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Arkansas is administered by the AFC. The purpose of the FLP is to protect critical forest areas from conversion to non-forest uses. In November, Central Arkansas Water received FLP funds of \$4,000,000 to help purchase the Winrock Grass Farm in West Pulaski County along the Big Maumelle River. You can find more information on FLP in the attached report.

Respectfully yours,
ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe S. Fox

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



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

November 2012 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During November 2012, a total of 62 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,062 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of November is 99 fires for 2,001 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.

Forty four (44) rural fire departments were provided wildland fire training. Nine (9) fire trucks were delivered to rural fire departments. Fourteen (14) 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 3 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 certified Firewise communities. Certified communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In November, Firewise staff assisted 46 communities/fire departments with education and renewal efforts and answered numerous media calls for fire and prevention information. Firewise staff made 1 presentation to a fire department and completed 3 Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). CWPP's are a mechanism for communities to address their wildfire risk. Firewise staff taught the Wildland Fire Fighting Basic Class to three different VFD groups with a total of 52 students. Firewise staff helped facilitate the Wildland Fire Urban Interface class at Lake Hamilton Fire Department. There were a total of 16 classroom hours and 24 students attended.

Firewise staff presented Smokey Bear at the Veteran's Day parade in Hot Springs.

Firewise staff attended the Red Card meeting (national certification for national incident response) and a Fire Boat School meeting.

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 November, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 6 unlawful dumping, 5 fire related, and 5 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 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 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 November, 2 FSP plans were prepared on 1,444 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 114 rural forestry forest management plans on 9,850 acres. In addition, AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 35 tracts for 1,820 acres and constructed 115,146 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. No SPB infestations were detected in this year's flights. 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 November, 6 projects on 131 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. In September, AFC awarded a grant to the city of Fayetteville for its Urban Forestry Tree Canopy Assessment through the U. S. Forest Service Competitive Grant Program. This project is one in a series being developed for a landscape scale Urban Tree Canopy project that encompasses cities in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Jonesboro, West Memphis, Little Rock, And North Little Rock will have an urban tree canopy assessment.

Fayetteville's urban tree canopy assessment was completed and a workshop and presentation to the City Council was given. Major findings from the report include:

- Fayetteville has 36% urban tree canopy (UTC) cover based on 2010 imagery
- Canopy trends indicate a loss of possibly 1-1.5% since 2002 (37% to 36% UTC)
- Current urban forest removes nearly 1.3M pounds of air pollutants from the air

annually (valued at \$3.5M per year)

- 1.1 billion pounds of stored carbon with an annual carbon sequestration rate of 8.4M pounds of CO₂ taken up by the tree canopy
- At 36% UTC, Fayetteville's tree canopy is valued at an estimated \$64M based on avoided stormwater facility construction costs
- At 40% UTC with 4% of new canopy growth from regeneration (natural forested areas), it is valued at \$65M
- At 45% UTC with the new canopy growing over streets and parking lots, the tree canopy would be valued at \$85M
- There are 50,000 potential tree planting locations near residential buildings

The national average canopy cover recommended for a community is 40%.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. This year's Baucum Nursery inventory consists of 3,771,500 loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings and 6,050,925 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Baucum Nursery seedling sales to date are 1,603,000 pine and 3,133,250 hardwood seedlings (as of 11-30-12 sales report).

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.

During November, BMP coordinator provided one technical logger training session, one technical Forester training program, and responded to one logger complaint. The BMP coordinator represented the AFC at four cooperative meetings with other agencies, associations, and groups, concerning water issues at both a state, and national level.

BMP Coordinator is 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. Currently 4 out of 6 planned road demonstration segments are completed.

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.

For November, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 62 plots.

Forest Legacy: On November 26, 2012, the AFC delivered a reimbursement payment of \$4,000,000 to Central Arkansas Water (CAW) for the purchase of the 915-acre Winrock Grass Farm in West Pulaski County along the Big Maumelle River. The funds were from a US Forest Service Forest Legacy Grant. AFC is the State Lead Agency for administering the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in Arkansas. 741 of the 915 acres purchased were placed in the FLP. The purpose of the FLP is to protect forests from conversion to non-forest uses. In July 2010, Central Arkansas Water purchased the tract from Trust for Public Land for \$12,400,000 to protect Lake Maumelle water quality by reforesting the tract to reduce

sediment flow into the Big Maumelle River and ultimately reducing water treatment costs. Central Arkansas Water initially funded the purchase using \$4,000,000 from the General Improvement Fund appropriated by the Arkansas Legislature and an \$8,400,000 Central Arkansas Water bond issue.

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 November 2012, the districts reported 9 news articles and 114 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2012		
4020014000	TIMBER SEVERANCE	(306,313.45)
**	SR (3.0) - Taxes	(306,313.45)
4030002000	ACREAGE TAX	(509,069.06)
4031076000	FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00
**	SR (1.5) - Taxes	(509,069.06)
4034001000	RENTS	(250.00)
**	SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(250.00)
4038001000	TIMBER SALES	0.00
4038003000	SEEDLING SALES	(109,124.00)
**	SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(109,124.00)
4042001000	FINES	(10.00)
**	OR - Fines and Penalties	(10.00)
4047099000	MISC REVENUE	(10,687.51)
**	OR - Miscellaneous	(10,687.51)
4050003000	OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00
**	OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00
4090010000	3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,189.40
4090020000	1.5% SPL REV FEES	8,916.12
4090030000	ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,810.55
**	Treasury Charges	19,916.07
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	1,111,615.07
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	8,176.78
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	81,509.22
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,030.00
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,130.94
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	158,807.97
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	666.00
**	Salary Expense	1,472,935.98
5020001000	Postage	1,608.62
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	14,465.41
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	7,778.19
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,391.55
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	0.00
5020005000	Freight	20.91
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	25,264.68
5030001000	Printing	18.99
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	250.00
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	15,000.00
**	Printing & Advertising	15,268.99
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	9,903.94
5030005100	Pest Control Cl 02	0.00
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	548.75

Rental of State-owned housing

Fines for illegal burning, dumping

Loans for equipment to rural fire depts.

Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue

General operations of agency and Federal programs

General operations of agency and Federal programs

General operations of agency and Federal programs

5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,142.65	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	10,923.50	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	10,012.32	
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	14,063.83	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing		46,594.99	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000	Electricity	9,076.19	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,822.85	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	3,378.30	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	2,840.00	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	200.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,554.78	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	3,859.80	
** Utilities & Rent		22,731.92	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	392.62	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,181.29	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,339.54	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	85.47	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	20.75	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	125.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	625.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		4,769.67	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	3,936.00	Single engine air tankers & Stewardship plans
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	10,679.00	DOT & pre-employment drug tests
** Professional Services & Fees		14,615.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	303.80	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	471.70	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	9,624.98	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	68.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	
** Other Expenses & Services		10,534.48	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5090004000	Tires	2,217.08	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	281.44	
5090006000	Office Supplies	5,673.16	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,609.03	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	54.94	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	2,540.66	
5090017000	Animal Purch NonCap	0.00	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	260.66	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	400.05	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	88,582.15	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	3,362.72	
5090026000	DP Supps	2,335.54	

** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	107,317.43	General operations of agency and Federal programs
6080001000 REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	(352.91)	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	(352.91)	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(605,098.38)	
6061007300 Surety Prem. Tr. Out	1,063.20	
** Transfers In/Out	(604,035.18)	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	287.11	
** Prior Year Adjustment	287.11	
*** BALANCE	0.00	