



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

June 10, 2013

The Honorable Paul Bookout  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

The Honorable John Charles Edwards  
Arkansas House of Representatives  
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for May 2013

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Dear Senator Bookout and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 2013 General Session, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for May 2013.

Trees are an important part of a community. In 1976, the National Arbor Day Foundation developed the Tree City USA program to recognize those cities that have active tree programs. Participating communities demonstrate a commitment to caring for and managing their public trees.

Communities that are certified in the program display a Tree City USA sign at the city limits. On the National Arbor Day Foundation website thirty-eight Arkansas communities are listed as a "Tree City USA."

Eureka Springs is Arkansas's oldest Tree City USA community and is highlighted in the urban forestry assistance section of the attached report.

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



## **ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

### **May 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During May, a total of 17 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 79 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of May is 41 fires for 359 acres burned.

**Disaster Assistance:** AFC crews assisted in clearing roads and checking on families affected by the May tornado and wind events that occurred in Benton, Garland, Polk, Pulaski, and Saline Counties.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** AFC crews assisted in 4 search and rescue operations in Baxter, Benton, Newton, and Scott Counties.

**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. The RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

In May, thirty- four rural fire departments (105 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Ten Department of Defense (DOD) trucks were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 7,366 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items were issued to rural fire departments such flashlights, safety glasses, gloves, emergency revolving lights, and boots. RFP provided one rural fire departments loan through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$10,000.00 (Chidester- Ouachita County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on nine 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 with 115 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In May, Firewise staff assisted five communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted six initial presentations about the Firewise program to fire departments and taught one 8-hour Wildland Firefighting class. Staff participated in Firewise Days at the communities of Cato, Holland, and Center Point.

Firewise staff visited five AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 23 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise.

Firewise staff attended the Fire Fighters Memorial Board Committee meeting and the Fire Boat School Committee meeting. Staff participated in the Searcy County Health Fair and health events in Russellville and Little Rock. Staff made presentations at Garvin Woodland Gardens, two One Call meetings, Arkansas River Valley Fire School and a University of Arkansas at Monticello forestry class.

Firewise staff prepared three media releases and responded to three media calls about fire prevention, provided television interview on fire conditions and updated the Firewise Website and Facebook Page.

**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 May, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 3 unlawful dumping and 2 timber theft cases.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT**

**Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs:** The 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 a non-industrial private forest landowner interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry, aesthetics, and/or timber production to have a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan prepared. Private consulting or AFC foresters working in conjunction with private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals collaboratively develop the multi-resource management plan for the landowner.

Arkansas has 4,590 landowners owning 845,919 acres enrolled in the FSP. For May, 13 FSP plans were prepared on 1,274 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,233 Forest Stewards owning 278,646 acres.

In addition to the FSP, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners 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. For May, AFC foresters prepared 18 rural forestry program forest management plans on 1,132 acres. In addition, AFC personnel assisted or conducted prescribed burns on 4 tracts for 146 acres and constructed 25,590 feet of fire lanes.

**Forest Health:** AFC offers cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work in pine stands as part of a comprehensive federal Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Program. This program is well-received by landowners. For May, 5 projects on 251 acres were completed.

Pine sawfly populations have shown up in Benton, Washington, Dallas and Ouachita Counties. Pine sawfly defoliates pine trees. Pine trees will re-grow new needles. Usually pine sawfly does not cause mortality, but may cause growth loss.

Concerns with dying or declining oak trees in northwest Arkansas have been received. Respective County Foresters are checking with the landowners to identify problems. The oak decline is due in part to the three drought years (2010-2012).

**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 City of Eureka Springs Tree City Committee and the Eureka Springs Parks & Recreation Commission co-hosted the annual *Eureka Springs Arbor Day Celebration*. The event took place in Harmon Park on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The American Legion Post #9 Honor Guard began the celebration with a Flag Ceremony and Mayor Morris Pate read the 2013 Arbor Day Proclamation.

The site of the 2013 Celebration is near the Cardinal Spring Wetland Demonstration Project which was funded by a low impact development grant from the Arkansas Forestry Commission Urban & Community Forestry Program. Elementary school students from Clear Spring School helped plant some of the trees for the project. Bruce Levine, project coordinator, spoke briefly about the project. An interpretative sign for the site was unveiled. The sign was funded by a grant from the Upper White River Basin Foundation, Inc. The Cardinal Spring Trail, created by Nathan Wilkerson as his Eagle Scout project, brings people from a rain garden, designed by the Illinois River Watershed Partnership, at the lower edge of the project up to a sitting area near the springs.

Eureka Springs celebrated 30 years as a *Tree City USA*, making this community the oldest *Tree City USA* in Arkansas. Eureka Springs has also received the prestigious *Growth Award* five times. This award recognizes Eureka Springs for providing the highest level of tree care and education.

**Baucum Nursery:** AFC's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. For the 2013-2014 season the target number for pine is 4,105,000 seedlings and hardwood is 5,350,000 seedlings. All seed have been planted. With any farming type operation weather is a factor in growing a successful crop. Baucum Nursery received over 8 inches of rain in a 3 day period (May 30 through June 1). Had it not been for the application of a bed stabilizer and other management practices, the entire crop could have been lost at this very young age and vulnerable stage.

During this time of year Baucum Nursery personnel are busy keeping weeds out of the beds and providing all the necessary water, fertilizer and pesticides. Seedling height must be managed, so as seedlings grow top pruning will be added to the list of cultural practices.

**Tree Improvement:** AFC's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One of AFC's objectives in tree improvement is establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest seed orchards. Tree Improvement personnel have grafted over 150 advanced generation shortleaf pine orchards; which will double the size of the only advanced shortleaf pine orchards anywhere; they grafted over 500 improved loblolly pine which will be used in a redesign of our newest improved loblolly pine orchard, which significantly increases the replication of AFC's very best selections. In addition to the pine, Tree Improvement personnel have completed over 150 grafts of improved hardwood.

**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 May, the BMP coordinator conducted provided one technical logger training session, one courtesy exam and responded to two logger complaints.



The BMP coordinator represented the AFC at two cooperative meetings with other agencies, associations, and groups, concerning water issues at both state and national levels. BMP Coordinator is working with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association planning committee for the Southwest Forest Products Expo to be held August 23-24, 2013 at Hot Springs.

BMP coordinator is providing onsite supervision for the Central Arkansas Water BMP fire break/roads project. BMP Coordinator continues to work on the USDA Forest Service competitive grant that will provide funds for AFC to design and implement a BMP demonstration area on the Poison Springs State Forest.

**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 May, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 73 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 media and civic organization presentations that are not included in the district reporting. During May, the districts reported 16 news articles, 133 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 2 radio and television interviews, and 13 tree planting events with communities or schools and 11 exhibits at public events.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

May 31, 2013		
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(234,311.20)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(234,311.20)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(104,807.94)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(104,807.94)	
4034001000 RENTS	(310.00)	
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(310.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(108,509.00)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(217,741.50)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(326,250.50)	
4042001000 FINES	(557.50)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(557.50)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(14,951.51)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan collections
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(6,918.75)	Prescribed burns
4047099700 RESTITUTION	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(21,870.26)	
4048019000 RESALES	(42,228.95)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(42,228.95)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan resales
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.04)	

<b>** OR - Investment Revenue</b>	(0.04)	
4050001000 NONFED		
GRANTS/REIMB	0.00	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>	0.00	
4050004000 FED		
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(239,219.19)	
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>	(239,219.19)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	7,029.34	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,644.47	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,167.39	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	12,841.20	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,138,084.40	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	13,425.14	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	83,842.03	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,810.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,243.57	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	159,935.64	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	55,150.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	1,563,490.78	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000 Postage	1,126.35	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	5,811.71	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	303.05	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	588.39	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	478.44	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	8,307.94	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000 Printing	1,253.23	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	17,214.52	Advertising related to Federal Program
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	18,467.75	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	6,099.88	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	249.55	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	4.92	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,422.98	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	18,039.43	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	16,732.97	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	2,445.96	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	47,995.69	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000 Electricity	12,092.18	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,739.91	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,576.73	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	3,929.92	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,349.19	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	4,834.80	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	26,522.73	General operations of agency and Federal programs



5050001000	02 Mileage	435.96	
5050003000	02 Meals & Lodging	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,131.49	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,483.69	
5050004100	09 - Meals	193.58	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	437.50	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	608.60	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	9.00	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	14.25	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,565.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	120.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>6,999.07</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	(110,443.42)	Correction of incorrect Purchase Order
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	942.80	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>(109,500.62)</b>	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	8.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	35.00	
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	450.28	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	55.90	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	886.32	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	15,714.90	
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	0.00	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	157.94	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	45,022.78	Payment for Equipment Rural Fire Revolving Loan
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>		<b>62,331.12</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5090001000	Road Pub Area Mats	13.09	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	5.00	
5090004000	Tires	3,175.19	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	34,927.29	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	7,888.69	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	169.35	
5090006000	Office Supplies	2,392.87	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	2,112.68	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	987.12	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	8,995.88	
5090017000	Animal Purch NonCap	0.00	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	371.90	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	854.19	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	946.86	

5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	5,797.52	
5090024000 Feed AnimalLivestock	0.00	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	654.00	
5090026000 DP Supps	1,383.56	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	2,401.18	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	12,457.41	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>85,533.78</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	3,800.00	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	260.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	465.08	
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>	<b>725.08</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
6080001000 REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	0.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
<b>** Refunds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	223,449.10	
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>	<b>223,449.10</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	139,869.08	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>139,869.08</b>	General operations of agency and Federal programs
6060002000 Intra-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(334,957.00)	
6060003100 INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(801,666.75)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850 FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(140,985.00)	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(1,277,608.75)</b>	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	