



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

July 9, 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 June 2013

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 June 2013.

Arkansas has experienced a low wildfire occurrence since January 2013 as compared to the wildfire occurrence Arkansas experienced for the same time period in 2012. January through June 2012, Arkansas had 1,078 fires that burned 16,264 acres. January through June 2013, Arkansas has had 391 fires that have burned 5,128 acres.

Our traditional summer wildfire season in Arkansas is generally July through September. Today, Arkansas has 7 counties under burn bans. Summer fire season is starting as usual.

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

June 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During June, a total of 29 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 189 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of June is 96 fires for 996 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC crews assisted in 2 search and rescue operations in Johnson and Washington 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 June, forty-four rural fire departments (117 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Seventeen 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. 4,695 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items were issued to rural fire departments such as flashlights, safety glasses, gloves, emergency revolving lights, and boots. RFP provided two rural fire department loans through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$27,485.00 (Genoa- Miller County and St. Vincent- Conway County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on six 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 June, Firewise staff assisted six communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted two initial presentations about the Firewise program, one risk assessment training, and conducted three Firewise recognition ceremonies. Staff attended the Hilltop Firewise Day and provided materials for three additional Firewise Day events. Firewise staff taught one 8-hour Wildland Firefighting class.

Firewise staff visited 11 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 provided information to 250 communities who have participated in Firewise. Staff talked with four county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Staff conducted routine inspections of equipment bought with Firewise grants.

Firewise staff attended the Fire Fighters Memorial Board Committee meeting and the Fire Boat School Committee meeting and worked at 2013 Fire Boat School.

National Firewise advisors attended the opening event at the 2013 Fire Boat School and recognized former Arkansas Firewise Coordinator Matt Simpson. Staff attended the Arkansas State Firefighters Association and Arkansas Fire Chiefs Convention, visiting with participants and handing out eleven packets to fire chiefs interested in the Firewise program.

Firewise staff prepared three media releases and responded to eight media calls about fire prevention, 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 June, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 2 fire related, 3 unlawful dumping, 3 equipment related and 8 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 4,596 landowners owning 846,184 acres enrolled in the FSP. For June, 46 FSP plans were prepared on 6,320 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. In June, 27 landowners owning 5,424 acres were certified as Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,257 Forest Stewards owning 283,528 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, and Wetland Reserve Program. For June, AFC foresters prepared 20 rural forestry program forest management plans on 1,723 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 61,000 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 June, 8 projects on 301 acres were completed.

Variable Oakleaf Caterpillar damage is being reported across the state. All species of oaks are attacked. These oak defoliators have 2 generations per year- late April and late July. Under normal conditions, little damage is done. However, when trees are under stress (last 3 years of drought conditions) the additional stress may trigger mortality. The public is being informed through news and other electronic media that lawn and other similar high value trees will need to be watered to reduce stress.

Concerns with dying or declining oak trees in northwest and north central Arkansas are being reported. 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 Urban Forest Strike Team Leader refresher training workshop was held in Raleigh, NC June 17-18, 2013 in which AFC personnel participated. UFST's are self-contained, professionally trained Certified Arborists or urban foresters from state forestry agencies, other state and municipal agencies, consulting and commercial arboricultural firms, the USDA Forest Service, and other federal agencies that are specifically trained to assess risk on storm-damaged trees. These teams are deployed to document trees that meet FEMA debris management criteria for Public Assistance reimbursement, assist communities with risk mitigation of storm-damaged trees, and retain as many viable trees as possible.

The objective of the UFST post-disaster rapid tree risk assessment is to identify the risk that storm-damaged trees pose to people and property on publicly managed land and to private property in areas designated by the controlling authority and to make professional recommendations to mitigate that risk. The risk assessment and other data collected are provided to assist the controlling authority with prioritization of the recommended mitigation.

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.

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. AFC Baucum Nursery makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood. Landowners can view what tree species are available for sale by the AFC and can purchase AFC seedlings through the AFC website.

Teachers on a tour with the Arkansas Forestry Association were hosted and provided information forest tree genetics by AFC Tree Improvement personnel.

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 June, the BMP coordinator conducted provided one technical logger training session and one courtesy exam.

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 June, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 97 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 June, the districts reported 14 news articles, 47 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 2 tree planting events with communities or schools and 3 exhibits at public events.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 30, 2013

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(262,090.56)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(262,090.56)	Timber Severance Revenues for June 2013.
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(94,851.32)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(94,851.32)	
4034001000 RENTS	(510.00)	
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(510.00)	Revenue from Rental of State-owned housing for June 2013.
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	0.00	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	760.00	
** SR (1.5) - Sales of Agency Produce	760.00	
4042001000 FINES	(195.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(195.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping.
4043002100 NBR Lic, Fees, Per.	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(22,500.00)	Rural Fire Revolving loan collections.
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	(13,373.22)	Revenues from Prescribed burns, Trees of AR for June 2013.
4047099700 RESTITUTION	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(35,873.22)	Revolving loan collections, Prescribe Burns, and Trees of AR revenues for June 2013.
4048019000 RESALES	(42,742.69)	

** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(42,742.69)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan resales.
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.04)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.04)	
4050001000 NONFED GRANTS/REIMB	0.00	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(6,457.81)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(6,457.81)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(52,934.64)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(52,934.64)	Federal Grant Reimbursements received in June 2013.
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	7,862.72	Fees charged by Treasury on
		Timber Severance Revenues for June 2013.
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	1,861.03	Fees charged by Treasury on Acreage Tax and
		and Seedling Sales for June 2013.
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	972.37	Additional fees charged by Treasury on Special
		Revenues.
** Treasury Charges	10,696.12	Total fees charged by Treasury on Special
		Revenues in June 2013.
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,051,910.96	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	12,989.28	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	77,247.80	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,810.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,214.04	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	149,498.66	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	460.00	
** Salary Expense	1,405,530.74	General operations of agency and Federal
		programs.
5020001000 Postage	2,134.98	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,460.44	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	13,394.81	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	13,729.95	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	144.53	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	41,976.03	General operations of agency and Federal
		programs.
5030001000 Printing	2,576.90	
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	10,200.00	Advertising expenses related to Federal
		program.
** Printing & Advertising	12,776.90	General operations of agency and Federal
		programs.
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	18,272.05	

5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030006000	Pub Facility M&O	50.00	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	482.02	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	2,682.11	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	8,605.66	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	9,296.22	
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	122,934.05	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	87.40	
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
**	Repairing & Servicing	162,409.51	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5040001000	Electricity	9,771.90	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,954.59	
5040003100	02 Water	37.76	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	1,727.83	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	2,937.84	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	180.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,604.51	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	3,860.80	
**	Utilities & Rent	23,075.23	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5050001000	02 Mileage	753.48	
5050002000	09 Mileage	123.90	
5050003000	02 Meals & Lodging	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,744.07	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	6,946.37	
5050004100	09 - Meals	3,273.93	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	8,226.79	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	50.00	
5050006000	09 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	201.00	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	4.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,143.79	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	7,140.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
**	Travel & Subsistence	30,607.33	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	46,454.00	

5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	57,495.53	
**	Professional Services & Fees	103,949.53	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
**	Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	35.00	
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	993.44	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD SER	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	428.73	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	687.03	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	19,404.71	
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	0.00	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	371.50	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	151,483.54	Payment for Equipment Rural Fire Revolving Loan.
**	Other Expenses & Services	173,535.95	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5090001000	Road Pub Area Mats	9,496.00	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	5,119.66	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	29,849.08	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	13,416.63	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	350.52	
5090006000	Office Supplies	5,328.06	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	2,146.14	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	2,334.37	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	312.24	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,644.69	
5090017000	Animal Purch NonCap	0.00	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	794.03	
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,312.38	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	164.57	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,352.83	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	8,965.47	
5090024000	Feed AnimalLivestock	0.00	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	1,774.90	
5090026000	DP Supps	12,843.71	

5090027000	Software/Licenses	1,550.84	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	10,099.34	Asset purchases under 5,000.00
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	118,855.46	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	1,000.00	
5100005000	02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
5100010000	04-MunAidHwySe	0.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	1,000.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5110001000	Refund of Taxes	6,148.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	3,610.81	
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	9,758.81	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
6080001000	REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	0.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	706,635.10	
**	Capital Outlay	706,635.10	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	141,099.70	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	141,099.70	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
6060002000	Intra-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100	INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(811,066.90)	
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	(51,452.00)	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004299	NBR Fed Rev XFR Out	0.00	
6061004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007300	Surety Prem. Tr. Out	0.00	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
**	Transfers In/Out	(862,518.90)	
***	BALANCE	0.00	