



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

September 9, 2013

The Honorable John C. Edwards
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for August 2013

Dear Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89th General Assembly, 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 August 2013.

AFC's Rural Fire Program serves our state's 1,000 rural volunteer fire departments by providing training, equipment, interest-free loans and federal grant funding.

During the last 12 months the Rural Fire Program personnel have picked up 82 DOD Freightliner trucks from military installations located from South Dakota to Virginia. The trucks are offered to rural fire departments at no cost through the DOD Firefighter Program administered by the AFC. Some of these trucks have been converted to 2,000 gallon tanker trucks at a cost of \$13,000-\$16,000 per tanker to the local department. A tanker truck (used) on the open market could easily cost \$75,000 or more.

Insurance Services Office (ISO) assigns each community a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. AFC's Rural Fire Program provides training and equipment to assist rural fire departments to lower ISO class ratings. According to the Arkansas's latest census there are approximately 700,000 housing units in small urban (less than 10,000 population) and rural areas. If each housing unit is insured, an estimated total annual savings of \$35 million would be realized in Arkansas homeowners' insurance by lowering the ISO rating by one class (from 10 to 9). Many of the 1,000 rural fire departments have ISO class ratings lower than a Class 9 making the actual annual savings to homeowners greater than \$35 million.

I am proud of the services provided to Arkansas's rural fire departments by AFC's Rural Fire Program. I invite you to visit our Rural Fire Program facility located at Greenbrier. Please contact Rural Fire Administrator John Blackburn at (501) 679-3183 or 3171 or me to arrange a tour.

We seem to be going into a drought period. Wildfires have increased in south Arkansas. AFC firefighters suppressed 25 wildfires this last weekend.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION



Joe S. Fox

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



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

August 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During August, a total of 62 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 379 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of August is 206 wildfires for 2,708 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: Benton County AFC crew assisted in clearing trees from roads to allow emergency vehicles to get through after flooding had occurred.

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 August, 49 rural fire departments (146 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. 3,150 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 \$28,082.21 (Grayson – Logan County and Velvet Ridge – White County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on twelve 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 August, Firewise staff assisted 11 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted two presentations about the Firewise program, two risk assessment trainings, and conducted one Firewise recognition ceremony. Staff attended a Cherry Hill fire department community event, Arkansas Emergency Medical Technicians conference (Hot Springs), Office of Emergency Management conference (Springdale) and the Arkansas Timber Producers Association conference (Hot Springs), and provided materials for three additional Firewise Day events.

Firewise staff visited 12 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 22 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Staff met with 13 county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise.

Firewise staff prepared five media releases and responded to 16 media calls about fire prevention and fire danger. Staff updated the Firewise Website and Facebook Page. Staff collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service on a release and pictures of Arkansas firefighters assisting on western US fires, and assisted Arkansas Fire Boat School committee by providing pictures taken during the May school.

Firewise staff worked with the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial board.

Law Enforcement: Forestry Commission has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but focus primarily on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and equipment theft and vandalism. Forestry Commission aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In August, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 4 equipment related, 3 unlawful dumping, and 5 timber theft cases.

AFC Law Enforcement officers attended the Southeast Arson Task Force training in Georgia.

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 4,599 landowners owning 846,338 acres enrolled in the FSP. For August, 15 FSP plans were prepared on 1,141 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,246 active Forest Stewards owning 280,388 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 August, AFC foresters prepared 98 rural forestry program forest management plans on 4,858 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 198,621 feet of fire lanes and conducted 6 prescribed burns on 409 acres.

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. Federal grant FY 2013 funds have been released to landowners and loggers. Loggers will qualify for an incentive of \$1,000 per tract to harvest timber on tracts 10-20 acres in size. This logger incentive helps cover the cost of moving equipment, logging and haul cost for small tracts.

Variable Oakleaf Caterpillar defoliation peaked in much of central Arkansas. Forest Health Specialist and County Foresters fielded numerous calls due to defoliation of oaks. Hypoxylon Canker continues to kill many red oaks throughout the state. Drought is the major factor in stressing the trees.

During August, detection flights for Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) were conducted in six counties (Sevier, Pike, Ouachita, Dallas, Hot Spring and Calhoun). In July, detection flights were conducted in eight counties. For July and August a total of 4,936,276 acres were flown with no SPB detected.

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 Arkansas Regional Coalition of the Ouachitas is very interested in helping Mena address improvements in their downtown area with trees. AFC urban forestry personnel did a presentation and walking tour to discuss potential tree planting ideas for Mena's streets.

AFC then partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council to provide a workshop titled "Grow Your Business". The workshop explained how trees can encourage economic development by attracting businesses and visitors, which can ultimately increase a city's tax base. Attendees learned how to develop a landscape ordinance and design streetscapes. A case study detailing a successfully implemented tree project was shared and the Tree City USA program and benefits of urban trees were also highlighted. The registration fee for attendees was provided by Rich Mountain Community College. Other partners were the Arkansas Regional Coalition of the Ouachitas, Downtown Partners and University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Continuing education units were available to professionals.

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. We began accepting orders for the 2014 planting season on July 16. Preorders were processed between July 1 and July 15. Sales through the end of August resulted in 314,175 pine, 127,025 oaks and 74,970 other hardwoods.

Baucum Nursery staff continues to work hard keeping weeds out of the beds and providing all the necessary water, fertilizer and pesticides. Field inventory will be the next major event.

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 pine and hardwood seed orchards. Tree Improvement staff completed the removal of an 8 acre pine breeding orchard that was established in 1982 with all 1st generation loblolly pine selections. The 8 acres will be used for the newest selections for future controlled crosses and preservation of other important loblolly pine families. AFC Baucum Nursery makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which is the result of the tree improvement program.

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.

The BMP coordinator provided one courtesy exam and responded to one logger complaint.

The BMP Coordinator provided one technical logger training session for Deltic Timber Company foresters, loggers and contractors. The training was attended by approximately 100 participants.

The BMP Coordinator represented the AFC at the planning meeting for the Four State BMP Conference which will be held in Longview, Texas on October 22 and 23. The Conference will cover a board range of forest water quality topics.

The BMP Coordinator was the point person for the AFC at the Arkansas Timber Producers Association Southwest Forest Products Expo held August 23-24, 2013 at Hot Springs. The attendance for both days was approximately 1,100 loggers, foresters and landowners. The AFC displayed one of their newest firefighting dozers and transports and a booth on "How To Sell Your Timber". AFC provided two training sessions each day on "How To Sell Your Timber" and "Best Management Practices for Water Quality with emphases on Stream Crossings" which were well attended by loggers, foresters, and landowners each session.

The 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 (PSSF). Work has begun this month, with the implementation of several road BMP's being installed such as; road side ditches, wing ditches, French mattress, and geotextile fabric. The BMP Coordinator is in the process of obtaining bids to purchase a portable bridge to place at stream crossings during logging operations. The portable bridges will be used at demonstration workshops on the PSSF and to loan to forest industry or loggers.

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 August, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 60 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 August, the districts reported 10 news articles, 9 presentations to schools or civic organizations, and 9 exhibits at public events.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 31, 2013

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(308,440.12)	
** Sr (3.0) - Taxes	(308,440.12)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(46,790.98)	
** Sr (1.5) - Taxes	(46,790.98)	
4034001000 Rents	(600.00)	
** Sr (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(600.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(9,832.25)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales Of Agency Produce	(9,832.25)	
4042001000 Fines	(400.00)	

** OR - Fines And Penalties	(400.00)	Fines for Timber Theft, Dumping, etc.
4047002000 Other Sales	(10,617.00)	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(29,581.60)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
** Or - Miscellaneous	(40,198.60)	
4048019000 Resales	(13,429.18)	
** OR - Sales Of Goods And Services	(13,429.18)	Firefighting Equipment to Volunteer Fire Depts.
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(174.92)	
** OR - Grants And Reimbursements	(174.92)	Electric Utility Capital Credits
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(551,120.61)	
** Federal Grants And Reimbursements	(551,120.61)	Program and Indirect Cost Reimbursements
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	9,253.20	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	832.10	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,008.53	
** Treasury Charges	11,093.83	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	784,707.54	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	9,347.76	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	47.08	
5010005000 03 Fica & Medic Exp	56,495.83	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp Hal	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost Of ARCAP	4,245.12	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	116,392.12	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	210.00	
** Salary Expense	1,089,505.45	General Operations & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	4,293.88	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,472.75	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	18,969.65	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,103.29	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. Of Commod	32,839.57	General Operations & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	4.34	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	4.33	
** Printing & Advertising	8.67	General Operations & Federal Programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	8,762.91	
5030005100 Pest Control Ci 02	0.00	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	27.24	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	272.73	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	5,760.90	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	13,865.40	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	14,702.91	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	4,229.09	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	400.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	48,021.18	General Operations & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	11,626.03	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,425.80	

5040003100	02 Water	87.69	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	545.70	
5040005000	Rent Of Facilities	15,208.07	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	200.00	
5040007000	Rent Of Office Equip	5,013.51	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	78.00	
5040013000	Satellite/Cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		35,184.80	General Operations & Federal Programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	706.86	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,510.24	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	3,307.30	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	953.20	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	77.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	61.04	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	560.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	410.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		7,585.64	General Operations & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	8,565.92	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	3,861.00	
** Professional Services & Fees		12,426.92	General Operations & Federal Programs
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	452.35	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	821.65	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	15,453.58	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	0.00	
5080029000	Nbr - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans To Individuals	38,546.31	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
** Other Expenses & Services		55,273.89	General Operations & Federal Programs
5090004000	Tires	5,946.51	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purch	41,375.13	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purch	22,087.86	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	6,638.25	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,541.53	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	336.71	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	41.41	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	10,704.01	
5090019000	Food Purchases	797.14	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,205.69	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	8,101.84	
5090025000	Agri Hort WI Supps	8.63	
5090026000	Dp Supps	7,318.48	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	444.53	
5900004000	Lva Exp (Modified)	4,406.69	
5901070000	Lva Exp Full	4,406.69	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		119,361.10	General Operations & Federal Programs

5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	20,305.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	20,305.00	Federal Grant Subawards
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	141,333.65	
** Depreciation/Amortization	141,333.65	
6100002000 Gainloss FA(Full)	(2.27)	
** Gain/Loss On Fixed Assets	(2.27)	
6060003100 Inter Xfer In Rebate	0.00	
6060004500 Intraagy GR Tran-In	(656,285.43)	General Revenue Distribution
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	913.28	General Revenue Reclaimed
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	28,544.52	Workers' Comp Claim 25k, ANCRC grant reclaimed
6061007500 Wc Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(626,827.63)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref To Exp	327.52	
** Prior Year Adjustment	327.52	
*** Balance	0.00	