



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

August 8, 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 July 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 July 2013.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) foresters provide forest management assistance and plans for over 800 private non-industrial landowners each year. Driven by the landowner's objectives, AFC's forest management plans provide landowners with recommendations on planting highly erodible croplands, abandoned pastures or reforesting tracts that have been harvested for timber products.

A very important part of Arkansas's tree planting efforts is AFC's Baucum Nursery located east of North Little Rock. This year Baucum Nursery is growing 9.4 million pine and hardwood seedlings. Arkansas's tree planting efforts are important, providing future wood products, wildlife habitat and clean air and water. Through AFC's tree improvement program several of the tree species grown at Baucum Nursery are genetically improved giving landowners greater annual growth per acre.

I am very proud of AFC's work to make Arkansas's forests sustainable, providing economic and recreational opportunities while improving the environment for future generations.

Landowners can view which tree species are available for sale by the AFC and can purchase AFC seedlings through the AFC website- www.arkansasforestry.org.

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

July 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During July, a total of 113 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,090 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of July is 166 fires for 2,231 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC crews assisted in 4 search and rescue operations in Benton and Newton Counties. Three of the search and rescue operations were in Newton County.

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 July, 56 rural fire departments (168 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Fourteen 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. 3,060 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 one rural fire department loan through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$13,593.91 (Rocky Point, White County, District 7).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on sixteen 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 July, Firewise staff assisted 13 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted 10 initial presentations about the Firewise program, three risk assessment training, conducted two Firewise recognition ceremonies and provided materials for three additional Firewise Day events. Staff attended the Cherry Hill Breakfast and Firewise Day. Staff taught two 8-hour Wildland Firefighting classes.

Firewise staff visited 10 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 18 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Staff talked with three county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Staff conducted routine inspections of equipment bought with Firewise grants.

Firewise staff is currently assisting with the Firewise plan revision for Petit Jean State Park.

Firewise staff prepared five media releases, provided 5 interviews to the news media, responded to 20 media calls about fire prevention and fire danger, and collaborated with U.S. Forest Service on a news release. Staff 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 7 fire related, 6 unlawful dumping, and 8 timber theft cases.

AFC Investigators did a presentation at the University of Arkansas at Monticello for an Arkansas Forestry Association teacher's workshop. AFC Investigators conducted a methamphetamine awareness class for Green Bay Packaging field employees.

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 July, 19 FSP plans were prepared on 1,897 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. In July, 6 landowners owning 1,484 acres were certified as Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,258 active Forest Stewards owning 284,391 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 July, AFC foresters prepared 37 rural forestry program forest management plans on 1,579 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 65,453 feet of fire lanes and conducted 4 prescribed burns on 89 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. This program is well-received by landowners. For July, 11 projects on 524 acres were completed.

Concerns with dying or declining oak trees in northwest and north central Arkansas continued to be 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).

During July detection flights for Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) were conducted in eight counties (Ashley, Drew, Bradley, Cleveland, Lincoln, Columbia, Hempstead, and north half of Union) 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.

An urban forestry grant in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA) to help fund a research project atop Mount Kessler by a University of Arkansas graduate student to help promote the land as an outdoor laboratory. A master's degree candidate in the geosciences department is working to catalog old-growth trees in two rugged glades on the wooded hillside in southwest Fayetteville. He is using a Swedish increment borer to take core samples from about 125 post oak trees at one study site at Mount Kessler. The less than pencil-width samples are taken to the university's tree-ring laboratory, where they'll be mounted, polished and studied under a microscope.

The project is a continuation from the partnership that the AFC formed with FNHA in 2005 with a grant to identify the highest priority natural areas for conservation in and around Fayetteville. Partners included The Nature Conservancy's Ozark Highlands Office, the Landscape Architecture Department at the University and the Beaver Water District. The City of Fayetteville adopted the assessment as part of their 2025 plan.

Through participation of the Strategic Conservation Training Program, the AFC and the Beaver Water District recognized an opportunity to initiate a Green Infrastructure Plan for Northwest Arkansas to address the rapid land use changes occurring with strategic conservation planning. AFC applied for and received a grant from the USFS in the amount of \$25,000 and then awarded the \$2,500 grant to the FNHA.

The FNHA received the National Green Infrastructure Implementation Award for the Green Infrastructure Plan. The success of the Green Infrastructure Plan demonstrated the collaboration process that was implemented among key partners and local officials and the invaluable public input provided through volunteerism and professional recommendations. In addition they received awards for their work from the Arbor Day Foundation and the Home Depot Foundation at the National Urban Forestry Conference in Baltimore.

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. Seedlings are growing well with the mild summer and above average levels of rainfall. As a result, the beds of seedlings are being top pruned to keep height and diameter uniform.

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.

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 July, the BMP coordinator conducted 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. As of July, the AFC has completed Phase 1 of the CAW 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 July, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 70 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 July, the districts reported 24 news articles, 11 presentations to schools or civic organizations, one tree planting events with communities or schools and three exhibits at public events.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 31, 2013

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(271,280.28)	
** Sr (3.0) - Taxes	(271,280.28)	Timber Severance Revenues for July2013.
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(81,571.18)	
** Sr (1.5) - Taxes	(81,571.18)	Acreage Tax Revenues for July2013.
4034001000 Rents	(410.00)	
** Sr (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(410.00)	Revenue from Rental of State-owned housing for July2013.
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(31,349.00)	
** Sr (1.5)- Sales Of Agency Produce	(31,349.00)	Seedling Sale Revenues for July2013.
4042001000 Fines	(130.00)	
** Or - Fines And Penalties	(130.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping.
4047002000 Other Sales	(19,559.18)	Rural Fire Revolving loan collections.
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(8,917.35)	Revenues from Prescribed burns, Trees of AR for July2013.
** Or - Miscellaneous	(28,476.53)	Revolving loan collections, Prescribe Burns, and Trees of AR revenues for July 2013
4048019000 Resales	(60,829.63)	
** Or - Sales Of Goods And Services	(60,829.63)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan resales.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.04)	
** Or - Investment Revenue	(0.04)	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(1.49)	
** Or - Grants And Reimbursements	(1.49)	

4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(65,941.70)	
** Federal Grants And Reimbursements	(65,941.70)	Federal Grant Reimbursements received in July2013.
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	8,138.41	Fees charged by Treasury on Timber Severance Revenue for July2013.
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	1,699.95	Fees charged by Treasury on Acreage Tax, Rental of State-owned,
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	983.84	and Seedling Sales for July 2013
** Treasury Charges	10,822.20	Additional fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenues.
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	779,694.05	Total fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenues in July2013.
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	12,631.46	
5010005000 03 Fica & Medic Exp	56,382.50	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp Hal	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost Of Arcap	4,227.28	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	116,153.17	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	5,998.52	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	23,394.18	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
** Salary Expense	1,116,141.16	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5020001000 Postage	1,211.59	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	13,627.47	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	700.18	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	5,310.88	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	222.64	
5020005000 Freight	1,000.00	
** Communication & Transp. Of Commod	22,072.76	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	12,000.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	47.49	
** Printing & Advertising	12,047.49	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	2,394.78	
5030005100 Pest Control Ci 02	285.36	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	161.12	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,931.92	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	6,657.66	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	7,290.55	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	29.91	
** Repairing & Servicing	20,751.30	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5040001000 Electricity	14,194.51	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	170.03	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,463.64	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,743.97	
5040005000 Rent Of Facilities	13,204.00	

5040007000 Rent Of Office Equip	949.28	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	130.00	
5040013000 Satellite/Cable Serv	1,000.00	
** Utilities & Rent	33,855.43	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5050001000 02 Mileage	41.16	
5050003100 02 - Meals	907.64	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,629.44	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000 02 Parking Fees	9.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar		
Fees	135.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar		
Fees	3,500.00	
5050019100 Board Member		
Expense	532.90	
** Travel & Subsistence	6,755.14	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5060001000 Professional Adm		
Fee	1,920.00	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	289.25	
** Professional Services & Fees	2,209.25	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	87,087.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	26,538.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	113,625.00	General operations of agency.
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	200.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	840.12	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	88.00	
5120011000 Loans To Individuals	34,382.62	Payment for Equipment Rural Fire Revolving Loan.
** Other Expenses & Services	35,510.74	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5090004000 Tires	6,435.79	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purch	31,103.20	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purch	14,408.62	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	1,013.04	
5090006000 Office Supplies	1,670.15	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	396.00	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	4,469.67	
5090019000 Food Purchases	669.89	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House		
Sup	2,707.42	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	83.22	
5090026000 Dp Supps	2,996.69	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	1,164.90	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	67,118.59	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	78,377.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	78,377.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs.
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	141,460.71	
** Depreciation/Amortization	141,460.71	General operations of agency and Federal programs.

6060003100 Inter Xfer In Rebate	(12,631.44)
6060004500 Intraagy Gr Tran-In	(825,180.73)
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(3,102.89)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061007500 Wc Ad. Cost Tr. Out	1,313.67
** Transfers In/Out	(839,601.39)
*** BALANCE	0.00