



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester  
October 7, 2013

The Honorable Bill Sample  
Arkansas Senate  
State Capitol

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

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for September 2013

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Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89<sup>th</sup> 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 September 2013.

During September the southern one-third of Arkansas was experiencing extreme drought conditions. AFC suppressed four separate large wildfires in this extreme drought area that burned more than 2,900 acres before being controlled (Union County- 203 acres, Ashley County- 755 acres, Bradley County- 1,509 acres and Drew County- 495 acres).

Two single engine air tankers (SEATs) and AFC air attack plane, fifteen AFC dozers from three AFC districts, two industry dozers, and ten fire departments were involved in the suppression of the Bradley County wildfire.

During the Drew County wildfire a private citizen could not find an escape route out of the fire. At the time the lost man was on the phone talking to a 911 dispatcher. AFC air attack plane circled the fire until the man was spotted. AFC's air tactical group supervisor in the air attack plane relayed through AFC and 911 dispatchers directions for the man to escape the wildfire. This man's life was saved through the efforts of a highly experienced AFC air tactical group supervisor.

I am proud of the AFC men and women that put their lives on the line to protect Arkansas's citizens and natural resources.

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**

### **September 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During September, a total of 174 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 4,348 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of September is 170 wildfires for 2,474 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. The RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

In September, 32 rural fire departments (68 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Eighteen 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. 3,100 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.

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 September, Firewise staff assisted 53 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts and conducted five presentations about the Firewise program. Firewise staff attended a Wildland Urban Interface/Prevention Exchange meeting in Virginia and made a presentation on the Arkansas Firewise program. Firewise staff attended the Conway Eco Fest, Perry County fair, Arkansas Rural and Volunteer Firefighters Association conference, West Pulaski Fire Department education and fund raiser event, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife event, and provided materials for 10 additional Firewise Day events.

Firewise staff visited eight AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 16 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Staff met with four county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise.

Firewise staff prepared one media releases and responded to eight media calls about fire prevention and fire danger. Firewise staff updated the Firewise Website and Facebook Page and took pictures at the Arkansas Prescribed Fire School.

**Law Enforcement:** Forestry Commission has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but focuses 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 September, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 13 fire related, 1 unlawful dumping and 5 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 4,614 landowners owning 848,068 acres enrolled in the FSP. For September, 7 FSP plans were prepared on 940 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,247 active Forest Stewards owning 280,910 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 September, AFC foresters prepared 130 rural forestry program forest management plans on 7,377 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 113,148 feet of fire lanes and conducted 12 prescribed burns on 445 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.

In September, private landowners were reimbursed for 11 SPB Prevention Program projects covering 409 acres and 3 logger incentives were paid.

**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 Urban Forestry Council in partnership with AFC and sponsored by McClelland Engineering held a "Designing with Trees Workshop" in Little Rock. This is a continuation of last year's workshop and provided the next steps in the planning process for developing green spaces in the urban environment. Attendees learned about evaluating the site for tree selection and featured native trees; how to protect existing trees during construction; and, insuring the long term health of a tree through proper establishment procedures. It was well attended and professionals represented at the workshop included landscape architects, engineers, city planners and foresters.

**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. Sales through the end of September resulted in 623,000 pine, 226,300 oaks and 139,070 other hardwoods.

Monitoring field inventory has been the major activity in September.

**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. AFC Baucum Nursery makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which is the result of the tree improvement program.

The staff of the Bluff City Tree Improvement Complex has been preparing for the upcoming cone harvest which will begin the first of October.

**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 foresters, loggers and contractors. The training was attended by approximately 38 participants.

The BMP Coordinator is working with the Cooperative Extension Service to develop a guide on "Arkansas Watershed Stewards." The guide will be a tool for groups interested in gaining an understanding of how watershed plans can be developed and implemented. A follow up to the guide will be training sessions for groups with the target audience being groups located in 8 HUC watersheds.

The BMP Coordinator participated in a Nonpoint Source Pollution Stakeholder meeting. The meeting covered topics related to the new 5 year state water plan, EPA 319 funding, list of threatened and endangered species and the EPA nonpoint source plan matrix.

Utilizing a USDA Forest Service competitive grant to design and implement a BMP demonstration area on the Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF), installation work was completed on 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 bridges 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 September, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 67 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 September, the districts reported 12 news articles, 37 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 5 radio or television interviews, and 26 exhibits at public events.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 30, 2013

4020014000 Timber Severance	(328,907.97)	
<b>** Sr (3.0) - Taxes</b>	<b>(328,907.97)</b>	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(97,695.39)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	(1,573.88)	
<b>** Sr (1.5) - Taxes</b>	<b>(99,269.27)</b>	
4034001000 Rents	(400.00)	
<b>** Sr (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas</b>	<b>(400.00)</b>	Rental of State Owned Housing
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(50,600.00)	
<b>** SR (1.5)- Sales Of Agency Produce</b>	<b>(50,600.00)</b>	
4042001000 Fines	0.00	
<b>** OR - Fines And Penalties</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
4047002000 Other Sales	(10,444.66)	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(4,794.32)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
<b>** Or - Miscellaneous</b>	<b>(15,238.98)</b>	
4048019000 Resales	(33,890.75)	
<b>** OR - Sales Of Goods And Services</b>	<b>(33,890.75)</b>	Firefighting Equipment to Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.04)	
<b>** Or - Investment Revenue</b>	<b>(0.04)</b>	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(1,285.21)	
<b>** OR - Grants And Reimbursements</b>	<b>(1,285.21)</b>	Misc. Reimbursement & AT&T Refund
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	10,861.75	
<b>** Federal Grants And Reimbursements</b>	<b>10,861.75</b>	Program and Indirect Costs Reimbursements
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	9,867.24	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	2,280.29	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,214.75	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>	<b>13,362.28</b>	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	786,035.65	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	9,027.41	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.00	
5010005000 03 Fica & Medic Exp	56,535.61	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp Hal	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost Of ARCAP	4,279.53	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,257.95	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	548.63	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,090,944.78</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs

5020001000 Postage	818.91	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,504.42	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,004.47	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,887.30	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. Of Commod</b>	<b>26,326.42</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	2,840.03	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	7,185.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>10,025.03</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,348.89	
5030005100 Pest Control Ci 02	0.00	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	2,707.56	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	21,499.66	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	25,453.01	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	22,243.21	
5030016000 Dp Equip Maint	131.91	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>83,384.24</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	13,272.55	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	4,746.95	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	530.84	
5040005000 Rent Of Facilities	14,124.92	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	2,046.95	
5040007000 Rent Of Office Equip	2,823.50	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	11,629.40	
5040013000 Satellite/Cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>49,175.11</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5050001000 02 Mileage	412.44	
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,212.98	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,029.44	
5050004100 09 - Meals	260.86	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	164.73	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	304.80	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000 02 Parking Fees	32.18	
5050012000 09 Parking Fees	6.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,835.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	740.00	
5050019100 Board Member Expense	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>10,998.43</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	12,573.60	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	12,082.50	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>24,656.10</b>	General Operation & Federal



		Programs
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	250.00	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	904.70	
5080013000 Security Services	430.70	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	502.03	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	15,231.06	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	0.00	
5080029000 Nbr - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000 Loans To Individuals	29,697.96	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>47,016.45</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	3.61	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	2,609.82	
5090004000 Tires	9,114.06	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purch	50,227.88	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purch	32,842.89	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	4,799.76	
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,891.39	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	23,450.69	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	196.50	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	6,835.67	
5090019000 Food Purchases	871.53	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	1,264.40	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	3,115.37	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	11,065.51	
5090025000 Agri Hort WI Supps	5,600.85	
5090026000 Dp Supps	1,650.73	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	23,915.68	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	1.00	
5090036000 Nbr - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 Lva Exp (Modified)	2,841.45	
5901070000 Lva Exp Full	2,841.45	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>189,140.24</b>	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	37,522.00	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>	<b>37,522.00</b>	Federal Grant Subawards
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	141,294.74	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>141,294.74</b>	
6100002000 Gainloss FA(Full)	0.00	
<b>** Gain/Loss On Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
6060003100 Inter Xfer In Rebate	0.00	
6060004500 Intraagy GR Tran-In	(667,700.00)	General Revenue Distribution
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	(913.28)	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100 Gr Reclaim Xfer Out	913.28	
6061007500 Wc Ad. Cost Tr. Out	0.00	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>	<b>(667,700.00)</b>	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref To Exp	0.00	

** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** Balance	0.00