



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

3821 West Roosevelt Road Little Rock, AR 72204-6396

(501) 296-1940 fax: (501) 296-1949

Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

December 9, 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 November 2013

Dear Senator Sample and 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 November 2013.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission is the designated agency for the silvicultural (forestry) section of the Arkansas Water Quality Plan. The AFC partners with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association and the Arkansas Forestry Association to conduct logger, forest industry and forest landowner training on implementing voluntary Best Management Practices during forestry operations. The AFC coordinates with forest industry and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to resolve forestry related water quality issues.

The AFC BMP Coordinator surveys the implementation of forestry voluntary BMPs on randomly selected forestry operations across the state. Seven statewide surveys have been conducted since 1998. The BMP implementation rate has been improving due to education efforts. The BMP implementation rate for the 7th survey was 89 percent as compared to 86 percent for the 6th survey.

I am proud of the respect and appreciation the forestry community has for AFC's voluntary BMP program and BMP Coordinator Arnold Hameister.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Joe S. Fox

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



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

November 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During November, a total of 19 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 149 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of November is 80 wildfires for 1,649 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC Newton County ranger responded to a Search and Rescue operation west of Compton 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 November, 43 rural fire departments (96 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Six 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. 5,900 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 two 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 119 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In November, Firewise staff assisted 40 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted five initial presentations about the Firewise program, three risk assessment trainings, and conducted one Firewise recognition ceremony.

Firewise staff visited 14 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 20 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Staff talked with six county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Staff participated in the Red Card Committee meeting and taught one Wildland Fire Fighting class and one Fire Shelter class.

Firewise staff prepared six media releases and responded to 10 media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and had an interview with the Northwest Arkansas Times.

Law Enforcement: AFC 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. AFC

aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In November, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 6 fire related, 4 unlawful dumping, and 6 timber theft cases.

AFC Law Enforcement officers patrol Poison Springs State Forest during deer season which helps reduce issues between camps on the state forest and adjoining private camps.

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 with the landowner.

Arkansas has 4,637 landowners owning 851,015 acres enrolled in the FSP. For November, 12 FSP plans were prepared on 1,036 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,253 active Forest Stewards owning 283,929 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 November, AFC foresters prepared 40 rural forestry program forest management plans on 3,204 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 57,422 feet of fire lanes and conducted 13 prescribed burns on 374 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. Through the federal grant program landowners can qualify for incentives that pay \$50 per acre for pre-commercial or first commercial thinning in pine stands. Loggers 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 November, private landowners were reimbursed for 6 SPB Prevention Program projects covering 266 acres and 2 logger incentives were paid.

Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) added the entire State of Missouri to the emerald ash borer (EAB) regulated area. This will impact the movement of raw ash products and nursery stock from the State of Missouri to any unregulated area.

At this time, there are no known infestations of EAB in Arkansas. "Purple" sticky traps and trap trees have been employed to survey for the pest with negative results. However, there is no really effective method to survey for EAB at this time.

One suspected gypsy moth was caught in Maumelle. The Plant Board will conduct delimiting trapping in that area for 2 years.

The Plant Board conducted surveys for Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) of black walnut with negative results.

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.

A Tree Climbing Workshop sponsored by the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council, Tree Climbing Tree Services, Pinnacle Arborist Supplies, Arkansas Forestry Commission and U.S. Forest Service was held in Fort Smith, Arkansas on November 21st and was a great educational opportunity for tree care professionals that climb trees every day to learn more about the proper techniques for working in trees.

Five Arkansas communities were selected for an urban tree canopy assessment through a federal grant. Little Rock's assessment was recently completed. The assessment found that tree canopy covers 47% of Little Rock; residential zones make up 75% of all tree canopies; and the existing ecosystem benefit of trees (reduction in air pollution, annual carbon sequestration and reduction in storm water issues) is \$255 million annually.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. In November, future pine and hardwood planting bed ground was treated to reduce weeds and diseases. Similar to any farming operation Baucum Nursery has a crop rotation program to protect and manage the nursery's soil productivity.

AFC is utilizing a U.S. Forest Service competitive grant to purchase a precision sower for planting shortleaf pine. In addition, the precision sower can be used to plant loblolly pine and small seeded hardwoods. The new sower will increase seed efficiency and produce a more consistent seedling in all species that can be planted by a machine planter.

AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of November resulted in 1,090,525 pine, 981,225 oaks and 562,050 other hardwoods.

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.

AFC tree improvement and district personnel planted a 10 block progeny test (with 100 trees per block). This test will provide the AFC additional 3rd generation (improved) selections of loblolly pine.

The Reforestation Manager conducted a Tree Improvement and Nursery training session at Batesville for the Ozark Woodland Owners Association. There were over 40 people who attended the meeting.

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.

The BMP coordinator made two logging site visits and responded to one logger complaint.

The BMP coordinator provided reports at the Arkansas Forestry Association BMP Task Force Committee meeting.

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 continues at PSSF with the implementation of road BMP's. The next step in the grant process is to purchase portable bridges that are a valuable tool for stream crossings during logging operations. The portable bridges will be used at demonstration workshops on PSSF and on loan to local forest industries and loggers to encourage their use.

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 November, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 38 plots.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. The Public Information Coordinator position was filled on November 25. AFC is fortunate to fill this position with someone that has wildfire and public information experience. During November, the districts reported participating in 1 fair or exhibit, 5 news articles, and 62 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

November 30, 2013

| | Balance | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 4020014000 Timber Severance | (327,110.81) | |
| ** SR (3.0) - Taxes | (327,110.81) | |
| 4030002000 Acreage Tax | (558,854.21) | |
| 4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp | 0.00 | |
| ** SR (1.5) - Taxes | (558,854.21) | |
| 4034001000 Rents | (300.00) | |
| ** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas | (300.00) | Rental of State Owned Housing |
| 4038003000 Seedling Sales | (95,217.99) | |
| ** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce | (95,217.99) | |
| 4042001000 Fines | (205.00) | |
| ** OR - Fines and Penalties | (205.00) | |
| 4047002000 Other Sales | (19,691.00) | |
| 4047099000 Misc Revenue | (11,365.82) | Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books |
| 4047099600 NBR - Other | 0.00 | |
| ** OR - Miscellaneous | (31,056.82) | |
| 4048019000 Resales | (21,045.53) | |
| ** OR - Sales of Goods and Services | (21,045.53) | Firefighting Equipment to Volunteer Fire Depts. |
| 4049003000 Interest Distrib | (49.01) | |
| ** OR - Investment Revenue | (49.01) | Interests |
| 4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb | (100,000.00) | The Nature Conservancy |
| 4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb | (1,034.00) | Misc. Reimbursement |
| ** OR - Grants and Reimbursements | (101,034.00) | |
| 4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse | 0.00 | |

| | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev. | 0.00 | |
| ** Federal Grants and Reimbursements | 0.00 | |
| 4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees | 9,813.33 | |
| 4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees | 9,653.09 | |
| 4090030000 Additional Sr Fees | 1,946.64 | |
| ** Treasury Charges | 21,413.06 | Special Revenue Treasury Charges |
| 5010001000 00 Regular Salaries | 1,198,001.79 | |
| 5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs. | 0.00 | |
| 5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits | 0.00 | |
| 5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal | 6,737.66 | |
| 5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries | 0.00 | |
| 5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp | 87,689.35 | |
| 5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL | 117,260.00 | |
| 5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP | 4,454.71 | |
| 5010007000 03 Retirement Exp | 178,690.85 | |
| 5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp | 0.00 | |
| 5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp | 0.00 | |
| 5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All | 282.57 | |
| 5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All | 0.00 | |
| ** Salary Expense | 1,593,116.93 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5020001000 Postage | 684.64 | |
| 5020002000 Telecomm Wired | 7,666.53 | |
| 5020003000 Telecomm Wireless | 294.30 | |
| 5020004000 Network Services Exp | (2,206.35) | |
| 5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech | 111.32 | |
| 5020005000 Freight | 57.48 | |
| 5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com | 0.00 | |
| ** Communication & Transp. of Commod | 6,607.92 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5030001000 Printing | 661.43 | |
| 5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc | 80.00 | Camden News Publishing Company |
| 5030004000 Film Processing | (47.48) | |
| 5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv. | 0.00 | |
| ** Printing & Advertising | 693.95 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint | 7,743.96 | |
| 5030005100 Pest Control CI 02 | 0.00 | |
| 5030006000 Pub Facility M&O | 0.00 | |
| 5030008000 Office Equip Maint | 238.69 | |
| 5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint | 5,634.64 | |
| 5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint | 5,313.13 | |
| 5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint | 11,800.35 | |
| 5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint | 3,805.19 | |
| 5030016000 DP Equip Maint | 0.00 | |
| 5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing | 0.00 | |
| 5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv. | 0.00 | |
| ** Repairing & Servicing | 34,535.96 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5040001000 Electricity | 8,324.48 | |
| 5040002000 Electric Special Use | 0.00 | |
| 5040003000 Water & Sewage | 2,181.96 | |
| 5040003100 02 Water | 0.00 | |
| 5040004000 Natural Gas Propane | 3,099.47 | |
| 5040005000 Rent of Facilities | 7,982.99 | |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| 5040006000 | Lease Private Land | 840.00 | |
| 5040007000 | Rent of Office Equip | 2,848.47 | |
| 5040009000 | Rent Transportation | 0.00 | |
| 5040011000 | Other Rent & Leases | 7,719.60 | |
| 5040012000 | NBR -Utilities & Ren | 0.00 | |
| 5040013000 | Satellite/cable Serv | 0.00 | |
| ** Utilities & Rent | | 32,996.97 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5050001000 | 02 Mileage | 173.88 | |
| 5050003100 | 02 - Meals | 1,305.97 | |
| 5050003200 | 02 - Lodging | 5,332.15 | |
| 5050004100 | 09 - Meals | 0.00 | |
| 5050004200 | 09 - Lodging | 0.00 | |
| 5050005000 | 02 Common Carrier | 1,226.10 | |
| 5050009000 | 02 Ground Transport | 47.90 | |
| 5050011000 | 02 Parking Fees | 168.23 | |
| 5050012000 | 09 Parking Fees | 0.00 | |
| 5050013000 | 02 Other Travel Exp | 0.00 | |
| 5050017000 | 02 Conf Seminar Fees | 1,457.25 | |
| 5050018000 | 09 Conf Seminar Fees | 1,928.19 | |
| 5050019100 | Board Member Expense | 0.00 | |
| 5050021000 | 02 NonStateEmp Trav | 224.32 | |
| 5050025000 | 02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL | 0.00 | |
| ** Travel & Subsistence | | 11,863.99 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5060001000 | Professional Adm Fee | 26,267.08 | |
| 5060002000 | Eng & Architect Fees | 0.00 | |
| 5060016000 | NBR ProSvs,Fees CI10 | 0.00 | |
| 5080015000 | Misc. Technical Serv | 13,020.35 | |
| ** Professional Services & Fees | | 39,287.43 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5070002000 | Vehicle Insurance | 0.00 | |
| 5070007000 | Other Insurance | 0.00 | |
| ** Insurance & Bonds | | 0.00 | |
| 5080006000 | Assoc Member Dues | 9,300.00 | |
| 5080009000 | Janitorial Service | 0.00 | |
| 5080011000 | 02-CONTRACT FOOD | | |
| SER | | 1,243.50 | |
| 5080013000 | Security Services | 0.00 | |
| 5080014000 | Trash Pickup Service | 859.02 | |
| 5080016000 | Temp Employ Svc | 14,057.80 | |
| 5080019000 | Veh Lic Title Fees | 38.00 | |
| 5080020000 | Enforce Invest Exp | 66.00 | |
| 5080022000 | Other Expenses Svc | 0.00 | |
| 5080029000 | NBR - Other Exp, Svs | 0.00 | |
| 5120011000 | Loans to Individuals | 43,811.92 | Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts. |
| ** Other Expenses & Services | | 69,376.24 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5090002000 | Natural Res Supps | 0.00 | |
| 5090003000 | Special Purpose Supp | 0.00 | |
| 5090004000 | Tires | 116.32 | |
| 5090005000 | 02 Gasoline Purchase | 39,634.09 | |
| 5090005100 | 02 Diesel Fuel Purchase | 12,130.02 | |
| 5090005200 | 02 Aviation Fuel | 2,280.44 | |
| 5090006000 | Office Supplies | 3,966.03 | |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5090007000 | Educ Supplies Mats | 1,049.65 | General Operation & Federal Programs |
| 5090011000 | Photo Supps Mats | 216.91 | |
| 5090013000 | 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups | 0.00 | |
| 5090014000 | Drugs & Medicines | 0.00 | |
| 5090015000 | Health Lab Supps | 0.00 | |
| 5090016000 | Shop Indust Supps | 7,694.47 | |
| 5090018000 | Subscriptions Pubs | 0.00 | |
| 5090019000 | Food Purchases | 297.99 | |
| 5090020000 | 02-Clothing,Rel Item | 0.00 | |
| 5090022000 | 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup | 1,485.72 | |
| 5090023000 | Seed Fert Cont Agent | 59,267.88 | |
| 5090025000 | Agri Hort WL Supps | 4,542.30 | |
| 5090026000 | DP Supps | 1,376.38 | |
| 5090027000 | Software/Licenses | 6,650.09 | |
| 5090030000 | Other Comm Mat Supp | 7,139.50 | |
| 5090036000 | NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup | 0.00 | |
| 5900004000 | LVA Exp (Modified) | 3,796.39 | |
| 5901070000 | LVA Exp Full | 3,796.39 | |
| ** Commodities, Materials & Supplies | | 155,440.57 | |
| 5100001000 | 04 Assist Grants Aid | 165,970.00 | |
| ** Assistance, Grants & Aids | | 165,970.00 | |
| 6080001300 | RefExpSlesTaxRebate | 0.00 | |
| ** Refunds | | 0.00 | |
| 5900003000 | Capital Outlay | 0.00 | |
| ** Capital Outlay | | 0.00 | |
| 5901020000 | Depr Expense (Full) | 141,161.55 | |
| ** Depreciation/Amortization | | 141,161.55 | |
| 6100002000 | GainLoss FA(Full) | 1,838.69 | |
| ** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets | | 1,838.69 | |
| 6060003000 | Inter-Agy Xfers In | 0.00 | General Revenue Distribution |
| 6060003100 | INTER XFER IN REBATE | 0.00 | |
| 6060004500 | IntraAgy GR Tran-In | (723,589.92) | |
| 6060006800 | FS Adj Op Trans In | 0.00 | |
| 6060007200 | M & R Transfers In | (17,857.50) | |
| 6061002000 | Intra-Agy Xfers Out | 0.00 | |
| 6061003000 | Inter-Agy Xfers Out | 0.00 | |
| 6061004100 | GR RECLAIM XFER OUT | 0.00 | |
| 6061006800 | FS Adj Op Trans Out | 0.00 | |
| 6061007500 | WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out | 0.00 | |
| 6061008400 | Claims Com. Tr. Out | 62.63 | |
| ** Transfers In/Out | | (741,384.79) | |
| 6990001000 | Prior Yr Warr Outlaw | 0.00 | |
| 6990002000 | Prior Yr Warr Cancel | 0.00 | |
| 6990003000 | Prior Yr Ref to Exp | 0.00 | |
| ** Prior Year Adjustment | | 0.00 | |
| *** BALANCE | | 0.00 | |