



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

May 9, 2014

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 April 2014

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 April 2014.

On Sunday, April 27, Arkansas Forestry Commission crews responded immediately to areas that were affected by the tornado. AFC crews were involved in search and rescue efforts as well as using chain saws and dozers to open up roads for emergency medical responders.

April was a busy month for wildfires. April 2014 wildfire numbers were more than the ten year average. Even with the rains and green-up of vegetation we have had 3 wildfires in May that approached 100 acres or more.

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 April 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During April, a total of 156 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,796 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of April is 150 wildfires for 1,121 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Operation: AFC crew from Newton County assisted in a search and rescue operation for a person who had been camping on the Buffalo National River.

Storm Damage Assistance: AFC crews assisted in storm damage cleanup due to an April 4 storm event in Calhoun, Dallas, Nevada, and Ouachita counties.

AFC crews from Cleburne, Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pulaski, Van Buren and White counties assisted in search and rescue and clearing roads in the Ferndale, Mayflower, and Vilonia areas due to the April 27 tornado.

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 April, 93 rural fire departments (259 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Fourteen Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$1,430,806.08) were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 1,777 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$352,770.91) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as response bags, ladders, and remote control search light kits.

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 131 active Firewise communities in 2013. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In April, Firewise staff assisted four communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, assisted four communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and conducted seven presentations about the Firewise program. Presentations were in the communities of Joy, Perla, Benton, Hardin, Fouke, Russellville and Rockhaven (Newton County). Firewise staff conducted two risk assessment trainings and taught one wildland fire class. Doddridge was recognized for its Firewise status.

Firewise staff visited 10 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 talked with two county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for five Firewise events and met with Arkansas State Parks about assisting in their Firewise renewals.

Firewise staff assisted with three media releases, responded to three media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and the Firewise plan, and updated Facebook site. Firewise staff participated in the Red Card trainings as an attendee and a trainer.

Firewise staff attended Fire Boat School Committee meeting, Red Card Committee meeting, and assisted with air attack. Firewise staff collaborated with five other organizations including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on Firewise and AFC programs.

Firewise staff fielded several calls from rangers and foresters regarding the Firewise program and did a mass mailing to all participating Firewise fire departments. Staff completed a Spanish language brochure and is updating the Firewise basic brochure and conference displays.

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 April, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 5 dumping, 19 fire related and 14 timber theft cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: Forestry Commission works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forest. The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is an opportunity for non-industrial private forest landowners who are interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry and/or for timber production to get a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan that is prepared by private consulting or AFC foresters, private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 4,555 landowners owning 843,036 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,293 Forest Stewards owning 278,755 acres.

For April, 19 FSP plans were prepared on 4,360 acres. In addition, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners that are enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wetland Reserve Program, and AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. AFC foresters prepared 37 rural forestry management plans on 2,507 acres. AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 10 tracts for 676 acres and constructed 48,201 feet of fire lane.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In April, 46 tracts totaling 2,770 acres were planted in trees.

Forest Health: Annual trapping efforts have been initiated for Southern Pine Beetle in southern Arkansas. Annual Gypsy Moth trapping has also been initiated with distribution of traps into northern Arkansas. It is anticipated that neither effort will indicate any endemic outbreaks of either forest pest.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Lifting and planting season for bare root forest tree seedlings is over. The AFC Baucum Nursery staff began planting hardwood species seed that were not planted in the fall and have placed the pine seed in stratification to prepare for planting in April.

AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of April are the final numbers for the 2013-2014 planting season and resulted in 2,573,850 pine, 2,778,300 oaks and 1,203,175 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.

During April, with the assistance of our AFC crews from Stuttgart and Forrest City we measured three 20 year old loblolly pine tests and one 15 year old Nuttall oak test for a total of 9,136 trees. These measurements complete the measurement cycle and all genetic data has been collected for future generations. These progeny tests were located at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Outreach at Lonoke. AFC Lonoke County Forester will be working with the UAPB Lonoke farm to secure a logging company and thin all the trees as a forest management step to produce better quality lumber and higher revenue potential for the UAPB Lonoke farm system.

Control cross pollinations in the pine orchards were completed. The numbers of flowers and pollination bags will be reported next month after the bags are removed from the trees.

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 conducted two courtesy exams in Bradley and Pope Counties with total of 10 AFC and private non-industrial forest landowner participants. During the meetings the BMP Coordinator addressed on-site BMP recommendations as in relation to BMP guidelines.

The BMP coordinator resolved one logger complaint in Pike County. The complaint involved water quality impairment problems with Streamside Management Zone and stream crossing.

The BMP Coordinator conducted two technical logger training session for foresters, loggers and contractors. Both workshops were held in conjunction with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association (ATPA). The workshop in Rison was attended by 52 participants. The second workshop was held in Domino, Texas and had approximately 43 participants including 5 landowners.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC at the ATPA In-Woods Expo planning meeting which will be held in 2015.

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 April, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 68 plots.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Public Information Coordinator updated the AFC website on Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Urban Forestry initiatives at the AFC Community Forestry tab, attended Tree Pruning workshop in Independence County, attended Tree Giveaway and Safety Fair in Garland County, and attended Tree Planting and City Park Ceremony in Howard County.

The Public Information Coordinator coordinated registration for 2014 Arkansas Fire Boat School (some 300 firefighters attend the training event, annually).

The Public Information Coordinator provided full website/social media support to ADEM and other responding agencies in the wake of the April 27th tornado.

- o Highlighted all AFC activities to the Governor’s Office and ADEM.
- o Kept all AFC apprised of the latest needs and storm information, as it was available.

Final steps are being taken (month-long) to publish the 2014, color-edition of the “Trees of Arkansas” book. The book will go to print at the beginning of our new fiscal year in July.

AFC districts reported participating in 1 radio/television interview, 15 news articles, 110 presentations to school and civic groups, 17 community tree/Arbor Day planting events, and 8 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

April 30, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(278,083.41)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(278,083.41)	
4021020000 Postage	(4.36)	
** SR (3.0) - Fees	(4.36)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(118,888.20)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(118,888.20)	
4034001000 Rents	(400.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leases	(400.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(105,546.93)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(117,343.90)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(222,890.83)	
4042001000 Fines	(540.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(540.00)	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	41,126.33	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	41,126.33	
4048019000 Resales	(44,824.33)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(44,824.33)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.

4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.10)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	Interests
4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(504,356.22)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(504,356.22)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	8,342.65	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	5,149.19	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,349.17	
** Treasury Charges	14,841.01	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	807,620.07	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	5,073.41	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	191.90	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,606.19	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,563.62	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	118,872.03	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	10,772.89	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	18,362.87	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,140,322.98	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	4,995.65	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	17,206.76	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,980.27	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,613.85	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	33,907.85	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	(340.01)	
5030001200 Legal/Medical Copying	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	228.36	Camden News Publishing Company
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	(111.65)	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	10,398.22	
5030005100 Pest Control Cl 02	132.69	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,088.80	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	4,585.85	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	19,173.72	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	52,944.45	Airplane maintenance
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	90.38	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	90,414.11	General Operation & Federal Programs

5040001000	Electricity	13,632.33	
5040002000	Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,335.67	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	5,245.93	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	15,412.67	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,576.83	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		37,203.43	
5050001000	02 Mileage	1,051.68	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,639.54	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,675.00	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	186.76	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	295.10	
5050006000	09 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	74.87	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	30.63	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,920.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	60.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
5050027000	09 Ag Sponsored Conf	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		7,933.58	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	59,880.11	Western Pilot
5060002000	Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees Cl10	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	1,672.00	
** Professional Services & Fees		61,552.11	General Operation & Federal Programs
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	452.35	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	359.84	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	8,465.82	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	22.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	0.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	16,654.99	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
** Other Expenses & Services		25,955.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	3,950.80	

5090004000	Tires	6,507.54	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	42,105.62	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	31,169.53	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	8,681.29	
5090006000	Office Supplies	2,992.95	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	78.08	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	8,737.60	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	(243.02)	
5090019000	Food Purchases	343.49	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,410.27	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	7,930.02	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	360.10	
5090026000	DP Supps	1,927.98	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	118.84	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	3,335.62	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	3,335.62	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		122,742.33	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	43,899.00	
5100008000	NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		43,899.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	18,963.04	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		18,963.04	
6080001000	REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	0.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301	RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	149,527.08	
** Capital Outlay		149,527.08	Purchased Truck/Sales Tax; Radios
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	143,055.07	
** Depreciation/Amortization		143,055.07	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets		0.00	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	(56,980.00)	
6060003100	INTER XFER IN REBATE	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(883,660.63)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850	FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(29,908.56)	
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	(27,145.00)	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061004200	InterAgy FedRev XOut	0.00	

6061004299	NBR Fed Rev XFR Out	0.00
6061004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	5,000.00
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061006850	FA Transfers Out	0.00
6061007300	Surety Prem. Tr. Out	0.00
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	1,366.45
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00
**	Transfers In/Out	(991,327.74)
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