



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

June 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 May 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 May 2014.

This past Saturday, June 7, over 300 firefighters from 37 fire departments including fire departments from Texas and Mississippi participated in the 11th annual Arkansas Fire Boat School held on Lake DeGray. Fire departments are trained on how to respond to several different scenarios. For example, recently a fire boat assigned to Flat Rock, Johnson County, assisted in a search and recovery of the victim and vehicle that drove into Piney Creek off of I-40.

AFC's Rural Fire Program acquires boats through the federal excess property program. The Arkansas Fire Boat Committee assists the AFC by reviewing and approving fire boat acquisition requests. One of the requirements for fire departments that receive a fire boat is to attend annual fire boat training.

We appreciate state agencies such as Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Fire Academy, Department of Health, and UAMS that regularly assists with the very successful Arkansas Fire Boat School.

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

May 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During May, a total of 60 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 696 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of May is 46 wildfires for 416 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Operation: AFC crews from Benton, Carroll and Newton Counties assisted in a search and rescue operation for a lost person on the Buffalo National River.

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 May, 53 rural fire departments (151 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Twelve Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$362,133.00) were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 2,773 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$1,090,181.96) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as tires, flashlights, boots, and cooling vests.

Rural Fire provided two interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:

- Jerusalem VFD for \$10,398 to purchase a foam unit; 2 year payback –Conway County
- County Line VFD for \$15,000 to purchase a 1989 Ford Pumper; 3 year payback – Bradley/Cleveland Counties

The RFP shop completed maintenance on five 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 May, Firewise staff assisted seven communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, assisted two communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and conducted five initial presentations about the Firewise program. Firewise staff conducted three risk assessment trainings and taught five fire shelter trainings, and one wildland fire class.

Firewise staff visited 15 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 20 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with two county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff collaborated with Arkansas State

Parks, Arkansas One Call, Girl Scouts and Arkansas Fire Boat School to reach the public with the Firewise message. Firewise staff provided educational material for five Firewise events.

Firewise staff assisted with five media releases, responded to three media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and the Firewise plan, and updated Facebook site. Firewise staff attended a Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Committee meeting.

Firewise staff assisted with AFC employee First Aid/CPR certification training. Firewise staff made a presentation at the Arkansas Rural Services Conference on AFC's Rural Fire Program support of VFDs.

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 forestry equipment theft and vandalism. AFC aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In May, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 2 dumping, 2 fire related and 1 timber theft cases.

AFC Investigators attended the State Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Little Rock. One Investigator attended the National Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

AFC Investigators assisted with the Arkansas River Valley Wildland Academy. One Investigator assisted with the Scott County Kids Fishing Derby.

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 4,570 landowners owning 845,438 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,299 Forest Stewards owning 279,336 acres.

For May, 15 FSP plans were prepared on 2,402 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 26 rural forestry management plans on 1,734 acres. AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 2 tracts for 83 acres and constructed 27,264 feet of fire lane.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In May, 7 tracts totaling 507 acres were planted in trees.

Forest Health: In cooperation with the University of Missouri and the U.S. Forest Service, AFC personnel are collecting data on a potentially new disorder affecting white oak species currently being referred to as Rapid White Oak Mortality (RWOM). The past two years has seen a significant increase in white oak mortality in Iowa and southern Missouri and research has been initiated to determine if this was caused by prolonged drought exposure which heightened susceptibility to known oak mortality

syndromes or if a new threat is emerging. Additionally, AFC is assisting in distribution of "Citizen Surveys" in northern Arkansas to locate potential symptomatic areas for field researchers to visit and collect samples.

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 hosted the "Evaluating and Conserving Natural Assets" workshop at Heifer International in Little Rock. This is the third in a series held over the last year. Participants learned how to evaluate natural assets and to develop land use plans for new development or redevelopment which protect, conserve or restore natural resources. Through the Green Infrastructure (GI) grant an Arkansas GI manual was developed as a new planning tool to help localities, land trusts, conservation groups and others map and prioritize their natural assets. The hands-on workshop demonstrated how the new mapping tool can be utilized to help communities meet environmental, regulatory and social goals. Participants learned how this strategic approach to land planning can help them to meet both regulatory and planning demands. The workshop described how to use natural asset mapping and planning to boost the community's tourism, attractiveness to companies and improve residents' quality of life by increasing access to fitness and outdoor recreation. Local examples for how to evaluate and utilize landscape features as infrastructure to create both enhanced environments and economies were provided. Thirty-six individuals participated in the training. Several professions were represented including regional, county and city planners, city parks directors, land trusts, non-profits, urban and county foresters and landscape architects.

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

All seed is now planted for the 2015 crop of seedlings. A new precession sower has been ordered. When the new sower arrives we will plant some sample blocks of pine and small seeded hardwood. The sample planting will give us a test of how uniform we will be able to produce future crops.

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.

Tree breeding work was completed in May in our pine orchard by removing the bags that cover the controlled cross pollinations. There are 2 primary breeding programs we are working on. Both are under the direction of the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Cooperative. Those programs are pedigree and polymix. The polymix breeding program is designed to rank parents of all families in our breeding and testing programs. We pollinate the female flowers with a predetermined mix of pollen representing 14 different males. Cones from those crosses are collected and processed. The seed from those crosses are then planted in progeny tests. The measurement data from those tests provide information that determined the selections that are good enough to carry forward in our pedigree testing program. The pedigree program is designed to use only the best performing parents, crossing them in every possible way to produce progeny that theoretically should have superior quality. Cones and seed from those crosses are then planted in 100 tree block plots to measure and make 3rd generation and 3rd cycle selections.

This year the tree improvement staff did controlled cross pollinations on 13 different female clones and pollinated 354 flowers in our polymix program (which should produce 354 cones). The target number of seed for polymix tests is 100. In the pedigree breeding program, 112 different crosses were selected as having the potential to produce superior progeny. All of those crosses were made with 51 bags isolating 433 flowers. The target number of seed in the pedigree program is 200.

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 one courtesy exam in Faulkner County with 4 participants. Participants consisted of AFC personnel, and private non-industrial forest landowners and one consultant Forester. During the meeting the BMP Coordinator addressed on-site BMP recommendations as in relation to BMP guidelines.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC at a week-long BMP Effectiveness Symposium held at Virginia Tech. There were technical presentations on the latest watershed research, state BMP programs, BMP monitoring, ways to improve BMP implementation rates, and site-level effectiveness of BMPs.

The BMP coordinator attended the Southern Group State Foresters (SGSF) Water Resources Committee meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The SGSF Chairman recognized Arkansas State Forester Joe Fox as the new SGSF liaison for the Water Resources Committee.

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 May, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 82 plots.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) completed full website update to Arkansas Firewise website.

PIC attended the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting; facilitated forestry discussion on behalf of the SGSF Communications Committee; and worked on state-by-state roll-out plans for a new wildfire risk assessment portal.

PIC completed and posted the 2013 AFC Annual Report.

PIC coordinated registration for 2014 Arkansas Fire Boat School with final attendance of 325 across 17 Arkansas counties including attendees from Texas and Mississippi.

AFC districts reported participating in 1 radio/television interview, 13 news articles, 147 presentations to school and civic groups, 10 community tree/Arbor Day planting events, and 9 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

May 31, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(233,161.46)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(233,161.46)	
4021020000 Postage	0.00	
** SR (3.0) - Fees	0.00	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(129,772.92)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(129,772.92)	
4034001000 Rents	(310.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(310.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	0.00	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(103,714.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(103,714.00)	
4042001000 Fines	(850.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(850.00)	
4047002000 Other Sales	(22,798.50)	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(41,716.56)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(64,515.06)	
4048019000 Resales	(8,650.23)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(8,650.23)	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	(13.02)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(13.02)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(196,793.73)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(196,793.73)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	6,994.85	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	1,955.90	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	895.07	
** Treasury Charges	9,845.82	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,196,228.23	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,274.11	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,142.63	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	87,307.29	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,596.35	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	176,658.84	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	57,362.86	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,644,830.31	General Operation & Federal Programs

5020001000 Postage	511.26	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	15,041.47	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,610.94	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,371.28	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	150.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	26,796.27	
5030001000 Printing	(4.82)	
5030001200 Legal/Medical Copying	0.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	385.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	380.18	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	13,467.53	
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	4,057.75	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	8,382.13	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	16,560.91	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	15,807.83	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	145.00	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	58,421.15	
5040001000 Electricity	10,567.37	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,263.07	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,190.93	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	4,250.00	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,629.15	
5040009000 Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	5,764.00	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent	27,664.52	
5050001000 02 Mileage	391.41	
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,140.96	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,308.66	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	141.40	
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	(2.34)	
5050011000 02 Parking Fees	122.89	
5050012000 09 Parking Fees	0.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	327.98	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	779.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	327.00	

5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	944.71	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
5050027000	09 Ag Sponsored Conf	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		9,481.67	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	96,310.00	Western Pilot
5060002000	Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees C110	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	796.25	
** Professional Services & Fees		97,106.25	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	35.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	452.35	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,057.58	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	11,729.98	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	626.50	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	44.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	10.82	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	84,910.30	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
** Other Expenses & Services		98,866.53	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	297.44	
5090004000	Tires	1,315.28	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	31,888.24	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	9,308.64	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	1.00	
5090006000	Office Supplies	5,267.67	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	6.05	
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	6,341.32	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	275.52	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	3,905.22	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,092.62	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	5,748.94	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	10,245.84	
5090026000	DP Supps	2,127.58	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	541.20	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	35,078.49	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	35,078.49	Low Value Assets (Radio's Purchased)

		General Operation & Federal Programs
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	148,519.54	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	45,544.13	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	45,544.13	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110008000 License & Permits	225.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	225.00	
6080001000 Ref to Exp-Curr Year	0.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	263,128.92	
** Capital Outlay	263,128.92	Land Acquisition/ Purchase of Vehicles (9 Trucks)
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	143,408.93	
** Depreciation/Amortization	143,408.93	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	10,762.01	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	10,762.01	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060003100 Inter Xfer in Rebate	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(901,016.00)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850 FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(206,490.00)	
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	0.00	
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	0.00	
6061008400 Claims Com. Tr. Out	311.99	
** Transfers In/Out	(1,107,194.01)	
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	