



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

July 8, 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 June 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 June 2014.

AFC rangers and foresters work with schools to educate students and teachers on the environmental and economic importance of trees and Arkansas's forests. Since January, AFC personnel have made 430 presentations to schools. In June, AFC Public Information Coordinator Adriane Barnes and I made a presentation at the Arkansas Forestry Association's Teacher Conservation workshop being held near Russellville providing information on Arkansas's forests for teachers to take back to the classroom.

Whether working with Future Farmers of America forestry teams, Boys State, or schools, educating the next generation of decision makers is important in AFC's strategic plan.

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

June 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During June, a total of 14 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 27 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of June is 97 wildfires for 995 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 June, 34 rural fire departments (102 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Ten Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$308,043.34) were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 3,475 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$746,395.46) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as tires, flashlights, boots, and cooling vests.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on four 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 June, Firewise staff assisted eight communities/fire departments with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted one community with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and conducted seven presentations about the Firewise program. Firewise staff worked on a mitigation project in Adona (Perry County). Firewise staff conducted two risk assessment trainings.

Firewise staff visited 14 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 42 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with eight county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for eight Firewise events and attended the Holland (Faulkner County) Education Day.

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 and www.arkansasfirewise.com. Firewise staff did a radio interview in Searcy.

Firewise staff assisted with the Fire Boat School and the ADEM Capstone 14 disaster exercise. Firewise staff collaborated with five other organizations including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on Firewise and AFC programs. Firewise staff attended the Joint Convention of Arkansas Fire Chiefs in Hot Springs.

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 June, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 4 dumping, 2 fire related and 4 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 forests. 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 4,598 landowners owning 848,805 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,309 Forest Stewards owning 282,113 acres.

For June, 28 FSP plans were prepared on 3,367 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 52 rural forestry management plans on 4,308 acres. AFC personnel constructed 17,840 feet of fire lane.

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 University of Central Arkansas recently completed a low impact development (LID) garden and parking area on the campus. A portion of this project was funded through an urban and community forestry grant. The LID project was designed by the U of A Community Design Center. The demonstration landscape features a storm water runoff treatment network that cleans the water before it goes back into the ground. The role of trees on the site demonstrates how storm water runoff can be managed and kept on site for water quality and runoff volume compared to conventional solutions. A variety of native trees were planted on the site.

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

The new precession sower has been delivered. The sower will be used for pine and small seeded hardwood crops. The new precession sower will be used next year since tree crops have already been planted.

Baucum Nursery crew has been providing necessary cultural practices to the pine and hardwood crops. The increased rainfall during June increased the need for fungicide applications and provided a perfect environment for weeds to grow. In addition to fungicide applications; weed control and fertilization have been the other major cultural practices. Many of the tree species are approaching a size that will require top pruning in the very near future.

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 June, construction of the concrete pad for a new shop at Bluff City was completed and the metal building was received. AFC labor will erect the building after the concrete has had sufficient time to cure.

The primary function of the crew during June was installing water lines for the new breeding and preservation orchards as well as the new shortleaf production orchard. The potted grafts will be planted as soon as the installation of all the water lines is complete.

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. Participants consisted of an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission forester and private landowners.

The BMP coordinator responded to two logger complaints in Van Buren County and in Stone County. Only the complaint in Stone County was valid and acted upon by the BMP Coordinator. The BMP coordinator is working with the ADEQ hazard waste field inspector. The complaint involved hydraulic fluid on the ground.

The BMP Coordinator conducted two technical "in-house trainings" for 22 AFC foresters and rangers. The training consisted of a half day indoor session and a half day field session followed by a proficiency test.

The BMP coordinator attended and participated in the third Conway Lake Point Remove watershed meeting. The meeting's focus was to organize a leadership structure and mission statement for a watershed plan. The watershed group is requesting assistance through an EPA 319 grant.

The AFC received a grant to purchase two portable bridges. The bridges will be on loan through the AFC BMP program. The bridges will be used by loggers to cross creeks. Already companies are requesting to use the portable bridges.

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 June, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 92 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

Public Information Coordinator (PIC) represented AFC at the ADEM Capstone Exercise at Camp Robinson.

PIC served as conference speaker alongside State Forester at Arkansas Forestry Association's Teacher Conservation workshop near Russellville.

PIC created roll-out plan for SouthWRAP (Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal) – on behalf of Arkansas, in partnership with the Southern Group of State Foresters. In addition, PIC attended SouthWRAP training webinars, provided training to AFC staff for SouthWRAP application, and designed presentation material for SouthWRAP and began delivery at the Joint Convention of Arkansas Fire Chiefs.

PIC served as Conference Speaker at Joint Convention of Arkansas Fire Chiefs and attended banquet with family and represented agency at the Banquet and Ceremony honoring AFC Fallen Firefighter, Jake Harrell.

PIC completed final edits for final draft of updated/color version of the Trees of Arkansas book – due out in July, 2014.

AFC districts reported participating in 1 radio/television interview, 10 news articles, 75 presentations to school and civic groups, 1 community tree/Arbor Day planting event, and 10 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

June 30, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(263,403.88)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(263,403.88)	
4021020000 Postage	0.00	
** SR (3.0) - Fees	0.00	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(120,821.89)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	(348.19)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(121,170.08)	
4034001000 Rents	(400.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(400.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(6,223.80)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(40,440.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(46,663.80)	
4042001000 Fines	(710.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(710.00)	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(9,498.05)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(233,552.00)	Donation of 2 transport trucks
** OR - Miscellaneous	(243,050.05)	
4048019000 Resales	(44,825.02)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(44,825.02)	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	(22.91)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(22.91)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(350,548.35)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(350,548.35)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	7,902.12	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	2,177.61	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,007.97	
** Treasury Charges	11,087.70	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,002,886.77	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	1,391.28	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,572.71	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	72,412.20	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,537.08	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	147,038.84	
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	345.70	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,347,444.58	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	710.90	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	13,308.36	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,503.28	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,583.54	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	222.64	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	25,328.72	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	965.09	
5030001200 Legal/Medical Copying	0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	970.10	Fedex Office Charges
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	1,935.19	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	23,158.05	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	379.32	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	1,503.74	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	37,662.17	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	16,415.52	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	65,981.09	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	165.12	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	

5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
** Repairing & Servicing	145,265.01	
5040001000 Electricity	9,606.28	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,964.95	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	2,153.41	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,514.92	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,147.06	
5040009000 Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	3,500.60	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent	21,887.22	
5050001000 02 Mileage	892.92	
5050003100 02 - Meals	2,437.38	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	5,963.14	
5050004100 09 - Meals	1,241.78	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	7,411.84	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	714.00	
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	0.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	151.62	
5050011000 02 Parking Fees	134.30	
5050012000 09 Parking Fees	1,838.82	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	141.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	735.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	3,870.00	
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	25,531.80	FSP consultant payments
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	18,660.00	
5060002000 Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	1,338.50	General Operation & Federal Programs
** Professional Services & Fees	19,998.50	
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	904.70	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	342.00	
5080011000 02-CONTRACT FOOD SER	0.00	
5080013000 Security Services	0.00	General Operation & Federal Programs
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	633.52	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	10,464.38	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	2,035.25	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	

5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	7,415.26	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	65,135.05	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts.
** Other Expenses & Services		87,031.16	General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	19,417.40	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	1,300.00	
5090004000	Tires	5,364.09	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	32,110.51	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	10,299.18	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	595.15	
5090006000	Office Supplies	3,865.56	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	48.05	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	701.08	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	18.57	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	8,171.32	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	715.68	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,186.96	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	8,494.64	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	6,308.83	
5090026000	DP Supps	1,939.64	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	6,336.20	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	6,145.01	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	6,145.01	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		119,162.88	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	51,609.00	SPB Program payments
5100008000	NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		51,609.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	(2,500.00)	
5110003000	14 Other Refunds	2,500.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	35.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	54.58	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		89.58	
6080001000	REF TO EXP-CURR YEAR	0.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301	RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	683,850.43	Purchase 12 ATV's, 9 UTV's, Sower and Donation of 2 Transport Trucks
** Capital Outlay		683,850.43	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	148,747.06	
** Depreciation/Amortization		148,747.06	
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	(11,935.72)	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(1,619,845.37)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	

6060006850	FA Transfers In	0.00
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(85.00)
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	(21,218.00)
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	0.00
** Transfers In/Out		(1,653,084.09)
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