



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

November 7, 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 October 2014

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89th General Assembly, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for October 2014.

Rural volunteer fire departments (VFDs) are important partners of the AFC in our wildfire prevention and suppression efforts. The last Saturday in October, the AFC recognized that great partnership by hosting the annual Fire Fighter Appreciation Fire Show at the AFC Greenbrier Rural Fire Protection facility. Over 100 fire departments were represented.

The periodic rains in October helped reduce the wild fire danger and occurrence. After one storm event that caused damage primarily in south Arkansas, AFC crews assisted with clearing roads. AFC flew the storm path and notified affected forest landowners of timber damage on their property.

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

October 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During October, a total of 17 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 61 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of October is 97 wildfires for 1,182 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew from Newton County assisted in a search and rescue operation for a missing child on the Buffalo National River. Also, an AFC crew assisted in a search and rescue operation for a missing child east of Stuttgart in Arkansas County.

Storm Damage Assistance: AFC crews assisted in clearing roads from trees that fell across them during a storm on October 13th. The roads that the AFC crews helped clear were located in Grant, Pike, Polk, and Sevier Counties.

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 October, 51 rural fire departments (133 firefighters) were provided Wildland fire training. There were 5 Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$519,893.00) picked up from military posts. 868 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$411,664.61) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as tires, navigational lights, searchlights with remote control, spill kits and nozzles.

Rural Fire provided 1 interest free loan through the AFC Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund for Chimes VFD (Van Buren County) for a 2004 Ford F350 - \$9,900.00.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on eight AFC vehicles and dozers.

The AFC Rural Fire Protection Annual Fire Fighter Appreciation Fire Show was held on Saturday, October 25, with approximately 350 people in attendance and 107 fire departments represented.

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 139 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In October, Firewise staff assisted 75 communities/fire departments with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted three communities (Fairfield Bay, Hot Springs Village, and Antioch) with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conducted seven initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented three

risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff attended the Bradley Firewise Day and assisted Cherry Hill with their Firewise mitigation project.

Firewise staff visited 14 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 33 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with five county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for 10 Firewise events and attended the annual rural fire show at Greenbrier. Firewise staff attended the webinar on Southwrap and seminar on Improving Access for Wildland Firefighters.

Firewise staff assisted with 20 media releases and updated Facebook site and www.arkansasfirewise.com. Firewise staff attended fire fighter training to fill single engine air tankers (SEATs) and the AFC Red Card Committee meeting.

Firewise consulted with Clinton EAST program and the Girl Scouts Firewise patch program.

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 October, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 6 dumping, 1 fire related and 11 timber theft cases.

AFC law enforcement officer personnel patrolled Poison Springs State Forest camp sites during deer muzzle loading season and assisted with the annual rural fire show in Greenbrier.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: 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 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 4,670 landowners owning 858,521 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,308 Forest Stewards owning 282,145 acres.

For October, 7 FSP plans were prepared on 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 89 rural forestry management plans on 5,920 acres. AFC personnel constructed 133,292 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 14 prescribed burns on 663 acres.

Forest Health: Emerald ash borer was not reported in any new counties in October. The emergency quarantine established by the State Plant Board will expire in December and a public meeting is scheduled for December 18 to review the proposed permanent quarantine regulations.

A single gypsy moth was identified in a pheromone trap from Nevada County. As this discovery is still recent, further detection and regulation are forthcoming. The insect, an invasive species introduced in Maine from China in 1869, has spread by natural and human-influenced dispersal across the entire eastern

United States. It poses a serious threat to Arkansas's hardwood forests. Control of a major outbreak in northern Arkansas during the 1990s was a success.

The invasive redbay ambrosia beetle and the associated laurel wilt disease were discovered 5-6 miles from the Arkansas border in Union Parish in Louisiana. It was also discovered in Claiborne and Lincoln Parishes. In Arkansas, this disease and its beetle vector can kill sassafras trees. With a sparse distribution of sassafras, it is uncertain how this disease will affect Arkansas forests.

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

Seedling sales for FY15 began on July 15. Sales through the end of October are 624,100 pine; 495,000 oak and 608,300 other hardwood.

Baucum Nursery crew continues to provide necessary cultural practices to the pine and hardwood crops; especially top pruning, fertilization, irrigation and hand weeding. Field inventory in the nursery beds is being conducted at this time.

Assistant State Forester- Resource Management and Reforestation Manager conducted a tree seedling workshop at Ferncliff. There were 60 AFC and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service employees in attendance. The agenda included 4 speakers covering a wide range of seedling care and planting information. The key note speaker was Dr. Tom Starkey from Auburn University.

AFC personnel conducted a tour of Baucum Nursery with Dr. Tom Starkey and Barry Brooks, both from Auburn University.

Reforestation Manager worked with photographer and writer for an article about AFC seedling production for the Arkansas Grown annual publication.

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.

Cone harvest is almost complete. The contract crew is currently harvesting our shortleaf pine cones. A report for the total loblolly and shortleaf cone harvest will be available in November.

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 responded to four complaints on logging operations. Of the four, only one in Izard County was valid. The complaint involved water quality impairment problems with a Streamside Management Zone.

The BMP coordinator provided one technical logger training session in Idabel, Oklahoma for International Paper and Weyerhaeuser Company foresters, loggers and contractors. The training was attended by approximately 50 participants.

The BMP coordinator represented AFC and provided reports at the BMP Task Force Committee meeting.

The BMP coordinator participated by speaking and providing handouts at the Arkansas Forestry Association's landowner tour of Tree Farmer of the Year John L. McClellan's property. The event was attended by approximately 60 participants.

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 October, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 80 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC):

- Hosted Smokey Bear Poster Contest with final numbers totaling: 516 posters, 18 schools, 17 counties.
 - Announced both winners (from El Dorado), submitted press release to local paper.
 - Distributed 18 Press Releases announcing/thanking participating schools.
- Designed/ordered 2014-2015 wildfire prevention magnets with website listing/"report Wildfires phone number listing/ and winning Smokey Bear Poster contest pictures with AFC logo – for distribution by statewide AFC personnel to Arkansans.
- Helped oversee the fulfillment of Trees of Arkansas online book orders and the distribution of publication to all AFC offices and work stations for resale to the public.
- Coordinated article about Trees of Arkansas book in "Styles" section of *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* (with statewide reach).
- Helped coordinate/attended/publicized through social media and follow-up press releases the annual Rural Fire Show at AFC Rural Fire Headquarters in Greenbrier.
 - Began work on circulation of Rural Fire Newsletter to highlight available equipment from Rural Fire Program and partnership opportunities with statewide fire departments.
- Coordinated small press event for Title Transfer of Bald Knob Fire Department truck acquired through AFC Rural Fire Program – title was transferred to the fire department from Rural Fire Administrator, John Blackburn. Senator Donald Caldwell attended.
- Presented Arkansas Champion Tree Program to the Ozark Society.
- Presented Arkansas Champion Tree Program to Little Rock Garden Club (of state Master Gardener's Society).
- Placed monument stone for Champion White Ash Tree in Hazen.
 - Provided photos and press release for publication in local paper.
- Presented AFC program to Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended/publicized McClellan Tree Farm Tour with partners from Arkansas Forestry Association.
- Attended preliminary Fire Boat School, 2015 planning meeting – to begin crafting emergency scenarios, logistics, partners, reservations, permits, and other details for annual training event, next May.
- Attended planning meeting for M410 Facilitative Instructor class in April, 2015. Four (including myself) of us will serve as lead instructors for a class of 30 in the Spring; half of the attendees will be from the AFC, the other half will be from the U.S. Forest Service.

AFC districts reported participating in 20 news articles, 103 presentations to school and civic groups, 2 community tree plantings, 1 landowner Tree Farm tour and 10 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 31, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(348,884.56)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(348,884.56)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(231,708.19)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(231,708.19)	
4034001000 Rents	(200.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(200.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	0.00	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(30,122.25)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(30,122.25)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	(204.16)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(204.16)	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(7,400.00)	Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, Etc...)
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	(700.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(29,670.74)	Prescribe Burn, Fire Lane, and Etc...
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(37,770.74)	
4048019000 Resales	(17,757.84)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(17,757.84)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.11)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.11)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4050003999 NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4057003000 Utility Reimbur	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(393,256.53)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(393,256.53)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	10,466.54	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	3,930.46	
4090030000 Additional SR Fees	959.80	
** Treasury Charges	15,356.80	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,199,893.28	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	7,202.62	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	19.79	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	87,897.41	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	

5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,427.20	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	175,448.29	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	13,984.79	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
** Salary Expense		1,607,353.38	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000	Postage	488.84	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	8,900.45	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	17,630.20	Payment for Sept. and Oct.
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,669.88	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000	Freight	484.10	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod		29,284.79	
5030001000	Printing	(526.35)	
5030001100	02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	35.66	
5030004000	Film Processing	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising		(490.69)	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	28,149.17	
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	9,676.28	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	22,387.09	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	18,339.77	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	20,159.42	Aircraft Maintenance
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	40.77	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing		98,752.50	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000	Electricity	10,737.86	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	2,333.20	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	2,331.89	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	8,295.67	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,811.31	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	2,698.75	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		29,298.68	
5050001000	02 Mileage	896.18	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,439.28	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	4,170.08	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,620.60	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	76.21	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	43.60	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	435.59	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	50.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,029.38	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	717.74	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	0.00	

** Travel & Subsistence	10,478.66	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	51,052.00	SEAT Contract
5060001400 02 WC Admin Fee Exp	0.00	
5060016000 NBR Prosvs & Fees	0.00	
5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	574.25	
** Professional Services & Fees	51,626.25	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	0.00	
5070010000 NBR - Ins. & Bonds	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	0.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	18,690.00	NASF and Auburn Nursery Coop dues
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	424.00	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	1,395.42	
5080011000 02-Contract Food Ser	480.07	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	927.44	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	13,341.90	Payment for Sept & Oct
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	110.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	28,015.71	Loans to Rural Fire Departments
** Other Expenses & Services	63,877.14	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	1,706.40	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	367.58	
5090004000 Tires	3,103.20	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purchase	32,408.54	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	18,826.44	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	1,364.26	
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,113.15	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	12,146.48	
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	9,208.49	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	2,705.81	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,707.74	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	40,582.68	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	4,308.68	
5090026000 DP Supps	4,738.60	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	(223.41)	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	3,132.72	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	3,132.72	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	144,330.08	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	75,299.00	
5100005000 02 Assist Grants Aid	500.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	75,799.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	1,810.00	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	

** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	1,810.00
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00
** Refunds	0.00
5900003000 Capital Outlay	0.00
** Capital Outlay	0.00
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	143,112.09
** Depreciation/Amortization	143,112.09
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(455,000.00)
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(262.50)
6060008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER	
OUT	0.00
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00
6061008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(455,262.50)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	(1,004.06)
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	(1,004.06)
*** BALANCE	0.00