



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

September 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 August 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 August 2014.

Our rangers have been busy meeting with rural fire departments to complete the required federal property inventory of equipment provided to fire departments through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program and the Firefighter Property (FFP) program. There are over 1,430 FEPP items and 2,650 FFP items which include trucks, generators, and general firefighting equipment that are in use by rural fire departments obtained through the AFC Rural Fire Protection Program.

Mother Nature has been good to us this summer. With the periodic rains wildfire activity has been low.

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

August 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During August, a total of 28 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 325 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of August is 203 wildfires for 2,720 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 August, 45 rural fire departments (134 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were 13 Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$1,541,360.00) picked up from military posts. 252 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$68,412.93) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as check valves, engine starters, and nonmetallic 1.5" hose.

RFP provided 2 interest free loans (totally \$12,842.00) through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in August- Hector VFD (Pope County) for \$6,342.00 and Milo (Ashley County) for \$6,500.00.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on thirteen 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 August, Firewise staff assisted 15 communities/fire departments with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted two communities with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conducted five initial presentations about the Firewise program, and conducted recognition ceremonies for one new Firewise community in Bradford. Firewise staff conducted three risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff attended Hill Top VFD Firewise Day.

Firewise staff visited 15 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 15 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with 10 county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for five Firewise events and attended the Office of Emergency Management Conference.

Firewise staff assisted with eight media releases, responded to two media calls about fire prevention, fire danger and Firewise, and updated Facebook site and www.arkansasfirewise.com. Firewise staff worked on a project to create a new Firewise conference display.

Firewise staff worked with the Girl Scouts on a scout Firewise patch and Arkansas State Parks staff on Firewise guidelines.

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 August, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 1 dumping, 1 equipment theft/vandalism related, 1 fire related and 3 timber theft cases.

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 4,629 landowners owning 852,955 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 282,085 acres.

For August, 13 FSP plans were prepared on 2,354 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 56 rural forestry management plans on 5,101 acres. AFC personnel constructed 61,936 feet of fire lane.

Forest Health: Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been positively identified in Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hot Spring, Nevada, and Ouachita Counties.

The Arkansas State Plant Board, has regulatory authority over issues related to control of the insect, and is currently finalizing a response plan. The Arkansas State Plant Board is scheduled to meet September 11th at which time staff will report to the Board the currently known status of EAB within the state. Proposed quarantine area and regulations will be presented to the Board for discussion and possible action. Board options include implementing an emergency quarantine and scheduling a public hearing at a later date to further review the proposed quarantine regulations.

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 tree canopy assessment for the City of Bentonville is complete. The study was funded through a competitive grant that AFC was awarded by the USDA Forest Service. The study encompassed 20,444 acres as defined by the city limits of Bentonville and provides a snapshot of land cover based on 2013 satellite imagery. Tree canopy covers 4,982 acres (25%) of Bentonville based on total land area after excluding water. The analysis from the ecosystem services study revealed that Bentonville's urban forest provides \$1.7 million in air quality services each year, \$500,000 in annual carbon sequestration benefit, and \$32.6 million in total storm water management savings. Older neighborhoods in Bentonville exhibit the healthiest urban forest characteristics and provide the most ecosystem services to the City, while newer developments have many young trees which should one day contribute to Bentonville's Urban Tree

Canopy. A suggested city-wide canopy cover goal of 35% (an additional 7,041 acres of tree canopy) has been recommended along with goals for individual zoning types. These goals will be used as a starting point for the city's interdisciplinary goal setting process.

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 August are 399,625 pine, 70,875 oak and 39,000 other hardwood. Sales of ash seedlings are paused until the Plant Board EAB response plan is finalized.

Baucum Nursery crew continues to provide necessary cultural practices to the pine and hardwood crops; especially top pruning, fertilization, irrigation and hand weeding. The next projects will be lateral pruning and taking field inventory of all species.

Baucum Nursery hosted nurserymen from the Kentucky state nursery for an exchange of ideas related to nursery production and operations. AFC nurserymen will go to Kentucky during the first part of September.

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 August, the primary project was construction of a new shop at Bluff City. Tree Improvement staff, along with help from the AFC Nevada County crew erected all the red iron and began putting sheet metal on the roof and walls of a pre-engineered metal building.

AFC sells excess pine cones to private nurseries. The price for this year's excess cones is \$140 per bushel. The winning bid last year was \$125 per bushel. AFC sold about 335 bushels of cones last year. In addition to a significant increase in the price per bushel we also anticipate a much larger crop than last year.

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 Pulaski and Perry counties with forest industry personnel. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of Arkansas' BMP Implementation report, AFC's manual "BMPs for Water Quality Protection", and a technical assistance summary report of recommendation to the participants.

The BMP coordinator responded to one logger complaint in Pike County. Participants included ADEQ field inspector supervisor, ADEQ field inspector, US Army Corps of Engineers, AFC District Forester, County Ranger, and BMP Coordinator. The complaint involved sediment entering the Little Missouri River below Lake Greeson Dam. It was determined that the cause came from several land uses such as, construction site, private landing strip, development site, and perhaps others. There was no evidence that showed the sediment coming from an active logging site.

The BMP coordinator received an extension 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.

The two portable bridges purchased through a USDA Forest Service grant are being used by timber industry and so far have had positive feedback in the early stages.

BMP Coordinator has a meeting scheduled with Arkansas Forestry Association and UAM School of Forestry on educating foresters, landowners, and loggers on new BMP/Forest Water Quality technology.

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 August, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 97 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) coordinated a cover newspaper story in the Tri-Lakes edition of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette informing the public on mission of AFC Aviation Operations and important tasks performed by AFC Aviation Manager Mike Sellers and his pilots.

PIC ordered Smokey Bear prevention materials for all AFC offices to be distributed during school and community events.

PIC represented AFC at joint meeting for Emerald Ash Borer.

- Coordinated television media coverage for live interview with Arkansas Plant Board on KATV Channel 11 and KARK Channel 4 News.
- Assisting with development of EAB Educational materials for possible quarantine decision on September 11th by Arkansas Plant Board.
- Coordinated full EAB story in Arkansas Democrat Gazette .

PIC participated in Smokey's 70th Birthday Part Celebration in Clarksville August 9th and distributed statewide media coverage (social media posts, photo ops, and "Selfies with Smokey").

PIC hosted booth and handed out AFC grown seedlings at the Arkansas Wildlife Federation Banquet in Bryant, August 23rd.

PIC updated Arkansas Champion Trees presentation and distributed to field staff.

PIC developed AFC Prescribed Burning presentation for staff assisting in Prescribed Burn Workshops (hosted by Arkansas Game & Fish Commission).

PIC represented AFC at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Conference in Springdale.

AFC districts reported participating in 8 news articles, 8 presentations to school and civic groups, and 10 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

August 31, 2014

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(318,399.04)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(318,399.04)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(36,457.35)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(36,457.35)	
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	(30,349.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(30,349.00)	
4042001000 Fines	(273.34)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(273.34)	
4047002000 Other Sales	(24,707.84)	Misc. Fire Equipment (Radios, Pagers, Etc...)
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	(700.00)	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(3,877.72)	Acreage Tax, Prescribe Burn
** OR - Miscellaneous	(29,285.56)	
4048019000 Resales	(24,565.59)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(24,565.59)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.10)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(100.00)	
4057003000 Utility Reimbur	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(100.00)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(101,136.62)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(101,136.62)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	9,551.97	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	2,553.01	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	807.00	
** Treasury Charges	12,911.98	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	787,338.24	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	5,679.17	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,400.82	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,240.45	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,519.20	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	115,282.67	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,088,540.55	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	1,045.07	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,381.41	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,039.68	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,363.80	
5020005000 Freight	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	25,829.96	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	552.15	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	395.02	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	947.17	

5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	12,237.19	
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	258.34	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	8,446.75	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	34,899.11	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	28,206.09	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	7,505.32	
** Repairing & Servicing		91,552.80	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000	Electricity	10,133.74	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	2,063.14	
5040003100	02 Water	30.28	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	661.87	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	5,828.15	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	290.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,096.31	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	2,757.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		23,860.49	
5050001000	02 Mileage	1,165.91	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,702.95	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	5,506.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	590.00	
5050011000	02 Prkg Fees Travel	63.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	8,625.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	2,800.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		21,452.86	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	18,556.23	
5060001400	02 WC Admin Fee Exp	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	1,043.25	
** Professional Services & Fees		19,599.48	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	944.95	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	152.00	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	678.77	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	30,798.17	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	587.75	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	44.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	14,773.39	Loans to Rural Fire Departments
** Other Expenses & Services		47,979.03	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	2,899.31	
5090004000	Tires	3,178.37	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	55,228.46	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	15,274.38	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	2,249.83	
5090006000	Office Supplies	7,524.04	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	293.61	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	

5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	145.46	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	27.24	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	66.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,736.67	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	211.03	
5090019000	Food Purchases	464.53	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	33.19	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,117.01	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	20,687.59	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	537.30	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,612.88	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	1,550.00	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	1,550.00	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		129,386.90	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	16,875.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		16,875.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	101.30	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		101.30	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	33,505.03	Trailer, Flat Bed
** Capital Outlay		33,505.03	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	148,928.58	
** Depreciation/Amortization		148,928.58	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	(7,657.56)	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets		(7,657.56)	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(786,330.00)	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(64,003.75)	
6060008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	(1,270.12)	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	1,249.50	
** Transfers In/Out		(850,354.37)	
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(251.64)	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	7,723.50	
** Prior Year Adjustment		7,471.86	
*** BALANCE		0.00	