



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable David L. Branscum
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for April 2015

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Branscum:

Per Act 59 of the 89th General Assembly, Fiscal Session, 2014, 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 April 2015.

On April 27, 2014, a tornado touched down in western Pulaski County and tracked northeast devastating the communities of Vilonia and Mayflower. AFC chainsaw and dozer crews responded immediately to open roads in the affected areas for other emergency response personnel and continued to assist during the long period of clean-up.

During February through April, 2015, AFC personnel assisted the Faulkner County Beautification Committee and other community groups with memorial plantings in the city parks at Vilonia and Mayflower, and provided 10,000 trees to residents in the affected areas in Pulaski and Faulkner counties. Funding for 10,000 trees was provided through the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Sunday, April 19, 2015, Parade Magazine recognized the Arbor Day Foundation's and AFC's donation of trees to the tornado affected residents.

I am proud of the dedication and faithfulness by AFC personnel to assist others.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox
Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

April 2015 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During April, a total of 34 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 376 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of April is 139 wildfires for 2,298 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC Independence County personnel dozed an access into a plane crash site to allow emergency vehicles to enter the area.

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, 92 rural fire departments (214 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Rural Fire picked up 1 Tractor for towing and 1 Freightliner from Department of Defense (DOD) (valued at \$187,913.00) for VFD use. There were 7 Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles, generator and tractor (valued at \$551,381.00) issued to VFDs. Five hundred (500) DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$85,063.62) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as single bit ax, storage container, digital cameras and tool kits.

In April, Rural Fire provided 1 interest free loan through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:

- Little River County- Foreman fire department- 1989 Chevrolet brush truck – \$7,875.00

Through a federal grant, Rural Fire issued 15 wildfire suppression kits (one kit includes 6 PPE coveralls, 2 leaf blowers, 2 back pack pumps and 8 fire rakes) to the following VFDs: Grassy Knob VFD (Carroll County), Arkansas City VFD (Desha County), Hickory Creek VFD (Benton County), Lonoke VFD (Lonoke County), Galla Rock VFD (Yell County), Sulphur Springs VFD (Benton County), Hollis VFD (Perry County), Crawford County #2 (Mulberry) (Crawford County), Hamburg Fire Department (Ashley County), Hickory Ridge VFD (Cross County), Cherry Valley FD (Greene County), South Greene County Fire (Greene County), Northeast Greene County (Greene County), Lafe VFD (Greene County) and Bonnerdale VFD (Hot Spring County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven 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 145 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In April, Firewise staff assisted 17 communities with Firewise renewal efforts, conducted six initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented four risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff held recognition ceremonies for Halley in Desha County, five communities in Newton County and Lake Maumelle in Pulaski County. Firewise staff assisted with two Firewise education open houses.

Firewise staff assisted with the Arkansas Fire Boat School, conducted two red card trainings, attended Arkansas One Call Meeting and attended County Fire Chief's meetings in Ashley and Crittenden Counties. Firewise staff assisted with the Wildland Fire Fighting Training for VFDs in Conway County, and attended Earth Day at Jacksonville Air Force Base handing out fire safety information to 500 children and their teachers. Firewise staff provided educational material for 15 Firewise events.

Firewise staff visited 20 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 26 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff met with five county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff developed seven media releases. Firewise staff updated the Firewise database, using the information to create an updated Firewise map and sent information to each district regarding 2014 Firewise activity.

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 April, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 6 dumping, 3 fire related and 7 timber theft cases.

An AFC law enforcement officer attended a Red Card meeting for out-of-state firefighting details in Clinton, and another law enforcement officer attended a Red Card meeting in Malvern.

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 4,706 landowners owning 867,536 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,297 Forest Stewards owning 280,094 acres.

For April, 13 FSP plans were prepared on 1,475 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 102 rural forestry management plans on 5,196 acres. AFC personnel constructed 67,182 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 9 prescribed burns on 794 acres.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In April, 49 tracts totaling 2,220 acres were planted in trees.

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 “Planning and Building Better Communities” conference was held at the Benton Event Center as a partnership between the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council and the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The morning general session was on the Razorback Greenway in Northwest Arkansas and a general overview about the emerald ash borer and how Missouri has been dealing with this pest. The afternoon sessions included: tree ordinances, tree risk assessments, stakeholder collaboration, climbing safety and tree selection. The participating vendors provided information on products to help improve the soil and protect against the emerald ash borer, as well as tree climbing equipment and educational materials regarding trees and pests. Approximately 75 people attended the one day conference.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist represented the AFC at the East Texas Forest Entomology Seminar and gave an update of Arkansas’s insect and disease issues to regional forest entomologists.

AFC will cut down and check nine ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer that was girdled last year in the northeastern Arkansas. EAB has not been found in this area yet, but these girdled trees offer a way to detect the insect if it has established there.

Loblolly pine sawfly has been observed in Ashley County. This unsightly outbreak is typical for this area, but the extent appears larger than normal according to local AFC personnel. Generally, sawflies do not cause tree mortality; however, the severity of this outbreak may cause dieback in some crowns and overall growth losses. The sawflies may contribute to the death of individual trees that are stressed by other conditions.

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 April, which is almost a final report for FY15, were 2,038,650 pine; 2,117,175 oak and 973,225 other hardwood. In addition to regular sales listed above, the nursery also grew 1.2 million hardwood seedlings on contract for a forest seedling nursery in Mississippi.

Almost half of the target crop for FY16 was planted by the end of April, despite the difficulty with the very wet month.

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.

Pollination was completed by removing the pollination bags. There were 131 bags used to isolate 1026 flowers for AFC’s breeding program.

Used bare root seedlings to pot 150- 3gallon containers for AFC District 4 and 120 for AFC District 1 for community tree planting programs. AFC Tree Improvement personnel potted 100 containers for pine rootstock and 100 water oak and 100 willow oak seedlings which will be used as rootstock for grafting and developing AFC seed orchards.

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 Pulaski County with 2 participants.

The BMP Coordinator received two timber harvesting complaints. Both complaints were addressed and are in the process of being mitigated.

The BMP Coordinator participated at the University of Arkansas Southwest Research and Extension Center Forestry field day for forest landowners. The BMP part of the field day was designed to teach forest landowners and managers how to reduce the impacts of forest management on water quality.

The BMP Coordinator represented AFC at the Arkansas Timber Producers Association In-Woods Expo planning meeting. The In-Woods Expo will be held on June 18-20, 2015.

The BMP Coordinator attended planning meeting for the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water Forum to be held May 26-27, 2015.

The BMP Coordinator represented AFC and provided reports at the Arkansas Forestry Association Forest Practices Committee meeting.

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 79 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) served as a Lead Instructor for the M-410 Facilitative Instructor Course in Hot Springs.

- 8 AFC personnel/5 USFS personnel attended class.

The PIC attended seedling giveaway/Master Naturalists Tree ID presentation in Bull Shoals (Baxter County).

The PIC circulated press release and photos of Yaupon Champion Tree monument placement near Hampton.

The PIC circulated press release for Arkansas Timber Producers Association In-Woods Expo event to statewide media partners.

The PIC attended Arkansas Fire Boat School meeting to begin final planning stages for 2015 boat school scheduled for May 29-30.

The PIC provided radio interview for KARN Radio about spring wildfire frequency in Arkansas (April 7th).

The PIC circulated photos, helped publicize Earth Day events in Monticello, Little Rock, Batesville, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, and Magnolia.

Social Media Update:

- Facebook - 12, 257 Likes (up from 12,211 likes in March)
- Twitter – 4,885 Followers up from 4,824 Followers in March)

The PIC completed all regular monthly items including: Weekly News Update and Rural Fire Newsletter.

AFC districts reported participating in 32 Arbor Day and community tree plantings, 15 news articles, 172 presentations to school and civic groups, and 4 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

April 30, 2015

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(193,290.42)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(193,290.42)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(119,381.86)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(119,381.86)	
4034001000 Rents	(300.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(300.00)	
4037001000 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Miscellaneous	0.00	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(133,944.58)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(539,981.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(673,925.58)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	(950.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(950.00)	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(30,320.29)	Fire Truck and Misc. Fire Equipment
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	121,095.95	Revenue Receipt Corrections see(*) below
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	90,775.66	
4047001600 Payment for Services	(49,704.50)	Prescribed Burns; Fire Lane *
4048001000 Sales Copies Pubs	(94,897.95)	Trees of Arkansas *
4048019000 Resales	(50,847.35)	Firefighting Equipment of VFDs. *
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(195,449.80)	
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.09)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.09)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4050003999 NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	

4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(856,500.43)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
4057003000 Utility Reimbur	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(856,500.43)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	5,798.71	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	4,776.94	
4090030000 Additional SR Fees	705.02	
** Treasury Charges	11,280.67	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	799,025.49	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	6,319.95	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.00	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,116.53	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,520.39	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,663.98	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	14,342.38	
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	57,850.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,174,918.72	
5020001000 Postage	895.00	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,059.60	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	327.05	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	11,037.76	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000 Freight	164.18	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	19,594.91	
5030001000 Printing	1,854.00	Printing (Decals)
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	403.09	Camden News Publishing
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	2,257.09	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	9,776.43	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	123.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	(2,532.42)	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	26,209.23	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	12,671.07	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	19,634.55	Aircraft Maintenance
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0.00	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	54.36	
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	65,936.22	
5040001000 Electricity	13,633.06	
5040002000 Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	2,004.73	
5040003100 02 Water	0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	7,032.93	

5040005000	Rent of Facilities	8,763.15	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	1,065.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,399.54	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		34,898.41	
5050001000	02 Mileage	345.49	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,113.52	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,130.25	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	363.70	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,420.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	2,406.05	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	533.74	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	0.00	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		10,312.75	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	97,213.00	Western Pilot; Stewardship Plans
5060001400	02 WC Admin Fee Exp	1,285.88	
5060016000	NBR Prosvs & Fees	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	2,159.00	
** Professional Services & Fees		100,657.88	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
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	20,300.00	WGFTIP dues
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	261.75	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	537.01	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	888.61	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	11,035.69	
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	0.00	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	718.75	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	55,087.06	Loans to RFDs
** Other Expenses & Services		89,453.47	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	4,084.16	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	1,545.56	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purch	24,022.78	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purch	9,120.52	

5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	2,526.65	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,976.17	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	10.82	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	290.26	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	343.93	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	10,689.33	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	451.24	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	167.28	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,236.47	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	32,105.78	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	17,007.65	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,368.21	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	9,781.36	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	23,610.47	Computers, Servers, and Trailers
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	23,610.47	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		168,949.11	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	27,234.13	
5100005000	02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		27,234.13	
5110001000	Refund of Taxes	266.21	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	19,011.23	
5110015000	NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		19,277.44	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301	RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	138,409.21	Transport, air compressor and ATV
** Capital Outlay		138,409.21	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	121,266.63	
** Depreciation/Amortization		121,266.63	
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	(1,060,324.16)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850	FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00	
6060030500	Inter xfer in CI 04	(4,579.13)	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR Reclaim XFER 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	
6061008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out		(1,059,903.29)	
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	