



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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3821 West Roosevelt Road Little Rock, AR 72204-6396

(501) 296-1940 fax: (501) 296-1949

Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Larry Teague
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Lane Jean
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for February 2015

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Act 59 of the 89th General Assembly, 2014 Fiscal Session, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Joint Budget Committee. Please find attached the report for February 2015.

We had a very busy Valentine Day weekend, February 14 and 15; AFC firefighters suppressed a total of 105 wildfires that burned 3,013 acres. AFC crews were fighting wildfires until the snow and ice hit Arkansas on Sunday night, February 15.

During February, AFC personnel held a tree giveaway for residents of Vilonia and Mayflower in remembrance of the April 2014 tornado. Funding for 10,000 trees was provided through the Arbor Day Foundation.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Cynthia Edwards



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION February 2015 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During February, a total of 219 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 4,638 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of February is 152 wildfires for 2,473 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 February, 61 rural fire departments (171 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were 6 Department of Defense (DOD) generators (value at \$164,139.00) picked up from military posts. 99 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$5,886.00) were received for redistribution to VFD's including backup alarms and spotlights.

Rural Fire provided a loan through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund to DeValls Bluff (Prairie County) for a 1999 Pierce Saber Pumper- \$15,000.00.

Through a federal grant, Rural Fire issued 10 wildfire suppression kits (consisting of 6 PPE coveralls, 2 leaf blowers, 2 back pack pumps and 8 fire rakes) to the following VFDs: Ratcliff VFD (Logan County), Overcup VFD (Conway County), Mammoth Springs VFD (Fulton County), St. Vincent VFD (Conway County), Amity VFD (Clark County), Hilltop VFD (Faulkner County), Zion VFD (Izard County), Fox VFD (Stone County), Strickler VFD (Washington County), and Pineville VFD (Izard County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on 6 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 February, Firewise staff assisted 15 communities with Firewise renewal efforts, conducted three initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented six risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff conducted a recognition program at Washington, Hempstead County.

Firewise staff visited 12 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 24 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff met with two county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for four Firewise events.

Firewise staff worked with the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial and worked on plans for the 2015 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Firewise staff assisted with six media releases and updated Facebook site and www.arkansasfirewise.com.

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 February, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 9 dumping, 21 fire related, 1 equipment vandalism and 6 timber theft cases.

An AFC law enforcement officer attended a week long Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) in Clemmons, North Carolina and completed training for an incident commander on a type 1 incident.

An AFC law enforcement officer attended a planning session with the AFC District Forester, AFC Staff Development Coordinator, and Lincoln County Office Emergency Service Director for a county wide training session on a major wildland fire scenario & simulation to be presented in March in Lincoln County.

Two AFC law enforcement officers gave firearm familiarization training to newly promoted AFC County Rangers that are completing required law enforcement certification training.

An AFC law enforcement officer worked as air attack observer on a wildfire in Searcy County.

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 4,693 landowners owning 864,799 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,302 Forest Stewards owning 281,586 acres.

For February, 16 FSP plans were prepared on 1,611 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 79 rural forestry management plans on 6,524 acres. AFC personnel constructed 334,758 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 91 prescribed burns on 5,806 acres.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In February, 38 tracts totaling 2,202 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 Arkansas Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation partnered together to remember the April 28, 2014 tornado event that impacted the communities of Vilonia and Mayflower. On Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, AFC personnel and other community volunteers provided 10,000 trees to Vilonia and Mayflower area residents.

The tree species distributed included a mixture of: redbud, white oak, pecan, hickory, white oak, crabapple, red mulberry, pin oak, cherrybark oak, and willow oak.

Residents were provided 10 trees each.

A cedar tree outside the Fire Department in Vilonia and a willow tree near Mayflower City Hall were planted as a memorial to those who were killed last April.

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 February are 1,653,575 pine; 1,896,900 oak and 871,750 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.

The AFC Reforestation Manager helped with two seeding donation programs in February. A tree giveaway event was held in remembrance of the April 2014 tornado at Vilonia and Mayflower. The seedlings were grown at AFC Baucum Nursery. The second program was for the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) Forestry Day at the State Capital on February 25th. AFC Baucum Nursery donated 1,000 improved cherrybark oak seedlings.

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.

Cones from the controlled cross pollinations of 2013 were harvested this fall. All of those cones were processed in February. This was our most successful crop in many years. There were 42 crosses that produced enough seed to plant in progeny tests. Based on current data there are 17 of those crosses that will be planted in the greenhouse in April. Those seedlings will then be out planted in 100 tree blocks next year. Those blocks provide the source for AFC third generation selections.

The pine seed orchards at Bluff City received significant damage from ice and snow in February. Many of the lower limbs of the trees were broken. Some of the upper limbs and tops were broken or damaged. Clean up will be a very large job. March is already a very busy month with controlled cross pollinations, but it will be necessary to clean up all the debris and make clean cuts on limbs that were broken near the trunk of the trees.

On February 4th our tree improvement and nursery staff met with Dr. Tom Byram, Director of the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program (WGFTIP) and Roy Vosquez, a new technician with WGFTIP. The Reforestation Manager conducted a review of the following with Dr. Byram: AFC shortleaf pine breeding and seedling production program, recent breeding records and seed production for loblolly pine, assistance in preserving genetic stock from former forest industry partners that have dropped out of the coop, thinning of a 20 year old loblolly pine test near Dover. After our meeting we

conducted a tour of the improved cherrybark oak and improved nuttall oak orchards at Baucum Nursery and a general tour of Baucum Nursery seedling lifting and storage operation.

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 received two timber harvesting complaints. Only one complaint involved water quality impairment problems.

The BMP Coordinator provided a logger training session in Van Buren County for Green Bay Packaging Company foresters and loggers. Twenty-three participants attended the training.

The BMP Coordinator provided reports at the BMP Task Force Committee and Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee meetings.

The BMP Coordinator attended an Arkansas Timber Producers Association's In-Woods Expo planning meeting. The In-Woods Expo is planned for June 18-20, 2015.

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 February, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 86 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) attended Complex Incident Management Training (CIMC) in Clemmons, North Carolina, alongside three other AFC personnel.

- CIMC Training is offered by the National Association of State Foresters and also funded in part by the U.S. Forest Service.
- CIMC Training offers high-intensity training for complex, large-scale emergencies in terms of organization, planning, and long-term strategy.
- AFC personnel that attended were trained in the roles of Public Information Officer, Incident Commander, and Operations Chief.

The PIC coordinated four television interviews following the Valentine's Day upsurge in wildfire activity, and extended period of high wildfire danger after that time.

- Statewide press releases were distributed reflecting total wildfires and acreage burned. Radio interviews accompanied.
- County newspapers picked up the releases.

The PIC generated press releases for AFC District personnel and assisted in distribution to local media:

- Illegal Dumping and Investigation Release
- Outdoor Burning Safety Tips Release

The PIC helped to publicize seedling giveaways (sponsored in part by the Arbor Day Foundation) in Mayflower and Vilonia communities.

- Two television media interviews with personnel at events resulted.
- Local area newspapers covered the events.

The PIC helped to organize and coordinate/attended the Forestry Field Day at the Capitol.

The PIC attended Arkansas Forestry Association Communications Committee meeting.

Social Media Update:

- Facebook - 12,382 Likes (up from 12,272 in January)
- Twitter – 4,710 Followers (up from 4,591 in January)

AFC districts reported participating in 17 news articles, 36 presentations to school and civic groups, and 7 festival or event exhibit.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

February 28, 2015

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(289,776.63)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(289,776.63)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(15,276.86)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(15,276.86)	
4034001000 Rents	(400.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(400.00)	
4037001000 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Miscellaneous	0.00	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(64,601.69)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(57,208.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(121,809.69)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	(125.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(125.00)	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(55,315.15)	Payments by VFDs to Revolving Loan Fund
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(44,137.75)	Trees of AR, Prescribe Burn, Fire Lane, and Etc.
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(99,452.90)	
4048019000 Resales	(26,517.81)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(26,517.81)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.08)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.08)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(32.83)	
4050003999 NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(32.83)	
4050004000 FED	(8.50)	

GRANTS/REIMBURSE

4050004100	NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
4057003000	UTILITY REIMBUR	(222.07)	
**	Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(230.57)	
4090010000	3% SPECIAL REV FEES	8,693.30	
4090020000	1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,097.17	
4090030000	ADDITIONAL SR FEES	719.35	
**	Treasury Charges	11,509.82	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	821,645.89	
5010001100	NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600	NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	7,559.06	
5010003000	06 Overtime Salaries	1,197.75	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	58,985.74	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,568.14	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	117,045.00	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000	03 Work Comp Prem Tx	3,996.43	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
**	Salary Expense	1,133,478.01	
5020001000	Postage	886.94	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	20,683.44	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	19,130.48	2 months
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,235.20	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000	Freight	27.80	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	42,075.18	
5030001000	Printing	237.86	Business Cards & Misc. Items
5030001100	02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	28.06	Ricoh USA Inc.
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	102.07	Camden News
5030004000	Film Processing	0.00	
**	Printing & Advertising	367.99	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	17,495.67	
5030005100	Pest Control Cl 02	0.00	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	6,952.52	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	35,726.81	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	8,591.20	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	25,290.52	Aircraft Maintenance
5030015000	Research Equip Maint	0.00	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	832.31	
5030017000	Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
**	Repairing & Servicing	94,889.03	
5040001000	Electricity	13,166.07	
5040002000	Electric Special Use	28.11	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,897.95	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	6,970.27	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	5,311.00	

5040006000	Lease Private Land	180.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	3,921.74	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	283.62	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
**	Utilities & Rent	31,758.76	
5050001000	02 Mileage	598.92	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	3,291.50	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	8,265.09	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,306.09	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	56.52	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,946.50	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	130.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub Cl 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub Cl 09	0.00	
**	Travel & Subsistence	15,594.62	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	11,744.00	Stewardship Plans
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5060015000	Misc. Technical Serv	1,118.10	
**	Professional Services & Fees	12,862.10	
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	0.00	
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	471.15	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	449.63	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	8,478.59	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	88.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	82,104.14	Loans to VFDs
**	Other Expenses & Services	92,084.11	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	22,440.71	Seeding Bags
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	2,307.39	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	22,661.22	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	27,133.14	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	9,184.02	
5090006000	Office Supplies	6,205.77	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	235.61	

5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	53.96	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	1,316.78	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	5,888.95	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	282.45	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	9,709.23	PPE through a federal grant
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,834.35	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	28,934.50	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	15,856.21	
5090026000 DP Supps	5,036.84	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	1,397.97	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090038000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5800004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	1,443.81	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	1,443.81	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	163,366.72	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	48,318.34	Grants to RFDs, Landowners for SPB
5100005000 02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	48,318.34	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	0.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	0.00	
** Capital Outlay	0.00	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	131,862.83	
** Depreciation/Amortization	131,862.83	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
6080003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6080004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(1,269,119.94)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060006850 FA Transfers In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(15.00)	
6060008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00	
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	(1,264,134.94)	
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	