



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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**B.1**

Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

February 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 January 2015

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Act 59 of the 89<sup>th</sup> 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 January 2015.

One year ago on Friday, January 31, 2014, AFC pilot Jake Harrell was flying a regularly scheduled wildfire detection route in AFC District 2 (southwest Arkansas). Jake lost his life as the result of a plane crash.

On Friday, January 30, 2015, AFC unveiled Jake's name on AFC's Fallen Firefighter Memorial. AFC has lost 5 firefighters in the line of duty.

To better report locations of AFC's detection planes, AFC installed a satellite tracking system in each AFC plane that provides a position report every 2 minutes to AFC's Dispatch Center. In addition, each AFC plane has an emergency locator transmitter with internal GPS.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox

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



## **ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION**

### **January 2015 Activity and Fiscal Report**

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During January, a total of 231 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 3,200 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of January is 155 wildfires for 2,765 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 January, 29 rural fire departments (93 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were 4 Department of Defense (DOD) generators (valued at \$102,107.00) picked up from military posts. 16 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$24,510.00) were received for redistribution to VFD's including fire nozzles and pumps.

Rural Fire provided 4 interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in January.

- Stony Point- 1992 Freightliner w/2000 gal tank - \$14,945.53- Perry Co.
- Waldron-1973 Fire Truck w/2000 gal tank- \$12,000.00- Scott Co.
- Gassville- 1992 Freightliner w/2000 gal tank- \$13,691.37-Baxter Co.
- Pyatt Rural Fire – 1984 Ford Pierce C8000 Pumper- \$7,000.00- Marion Co.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on twelve 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 January, Firewise staff assisted 20 communities with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted one community with a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, conducted nine initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented two risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff presented a program at the Petit Jean Mountain Property Owners' Association meeting.

Firewise staff visited 17 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 25 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff met with three county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for five Firewise events.

Firewise staff worked with the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial, attended the annual Fire School in Joplin (AR), and worked with the Arkansas Fire Boat School committee. Firewise staff assisted with

annual AFC fire shelter training. Firewise staff assisted with three media releases and updated Facebook site and [www.arkansasfirewise.com](http://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 January, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 5 dumping, 15 fire related and 8 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 4,696 landowners owning 865,000 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,307 Forest Stewards owning 281,978 acres.

For January, 20 FSP plans were prepared on 3,197 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 53 rural forestry management plans on 3,950 acres. AFC personnel constructed 128,972 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 28 prescribed burns on 1,718 acres.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In January, 13 tracts totaling 572 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.

Trees have been proven to dramatically reduce the exposure of damaging sunrays and therefore increasing the amount of time one can spend outside without getting sunburned. Many playgrounds around the state are found in very sunny locations with little to no shade. Sun damage to the skin during childhood is the leading cause of skin cancer in adults. S.T.O.P. is the acronym for Shade Trees on Playgrounds. The STOP program was established eleven years ago.

Through STOP the teachers are provided information to help teach the kids about trees and to help them put together programs to present to parents and members of the community. The children learn about how shade can help stop skin cancer as well as how trees provide clean air and water, buffering for wind and noise, wildlife habitat, food, wood for homes and provide places to enjoy the outdoors.

AFC provides five hardwood shade trees such as oak and maple for the children to plant. AFC personnel assist with the tree planting ceremonies.

Over 2,000 students at nine schools participated in the STOP program. Tree planting ceremonies were held at: Hermitage, Mansfield, McCrory, Jonesboro, Poyen, Hector, Greers Ferry, Midland and Yellville.

**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 January are 1,334,175 pine; 1,741,175 oak and 840,875 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 presented an update of the recently completed cone harvest and the seedling sales by cooler report to AFC staff at the January meeting. This report lists by species all seedlings that were picked up at all remote cooler locations as well as those picked up at Baucum Nursery.

**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.

The Tree Improvement staff processed controlled cross cones and counted seed for storage. These seed will be used to plant the next progeny tests. General orchard maintenance is also done this time of year, which this year primarily involved pruning top grafts. These top grafts were made in the top of 5 year old trees to replace previous clones selected for orchard production. In order to take advantage of new progeny test data and a more aggressive orchard design; some clones were dropped from the newest orchards and the best clones are replicated many more times in the new design as compared with the old design. These top grafts provide the desired clone for orchard production with a 5 year jump start to their production of cones. That is the reason the old tree is not cut down and a newly grafted seedling planted in its place. The limbs below the top graft will gradually be removed which will leave only the newly desired clone for cone production.

**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 complaint. After field inspection neither complaint was found valid.

The BMP Coordinator provided reports at the Arkansas Forestry Association (AFA) BMP Task Force Committee meeting.

The BMP Coordinator attended Arkansas Timber Producers Association In-Woods Expo planning meeting. The In-Woods Expo will be held June 18-20, 2015.

The BMP Coordinator applied for a federal grant that, if approved, will allow the AFC to provide specific BMP technical and non-technical training and conduct a state wide BMP implementation survey which uses satellite imagery to locate harvest sites for potential tracts to survey.

**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 January, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 87 plots.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) coordinated the Smokey Bear Birthday Celebration at a birthday event in El Dorado. Winning poster students were in attendance, as was Smokey Bear.

PIC coordinated events for the Jake Harrell Memorial Service at the AFC headquarters, commemorating the addition of his name to the AFC Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.

- Coordinated full media presence at the event. Provided full support, briefings, and event interviews; coordinated additional interviews with State Forester and AFC Law Enforcement.

PIC distributed release covering total wildfire activity over Martin Luther King Weekend.

- Provided two radio interviews as follow-up to release.
- Coordinated with media for 2 television interviews during the high wildfire activity
- Coordinated with several counties for specific county-level information for these releases (Benton, Miller, and Grant County).
- Social media response was excellent through that weekend with around 14,000 unique views per post in some cases.

PIC worked with Central Arkansas Water (CAW) to develop forestry talking points to promote forest management in watershed areas.

AFC hosted Southern Group State Forester (SGSF) Communications meeting for strategy and planning.

- Attendees from various Southern States attended, including: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Florida, Georgia, and Oklahoma.

PIC participated in AFC 101 Class for new hires.

PIC attended annual Fire School (hosted for U.S. Forest Service crews in west Arkansas, local AFC crews, local VFDs, and AFC Executive Staff). Guest cooperators included Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, Office of Emergency Management Coordinators, and others.

AFC Social Media Update:

- Facebook - 12,272 Followers
- Twitter – 4,591

AFC districts reported participating in 19 news articles, 15 presentations to school and civic groups, and 1 festival or event exhibit.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January 31, 2015

	Balance	
4000014000 Timber Severance	(316,778.30)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(316,778.30)	
4000002000 Acreage Tax	(495,510.25)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(495,510.25)	
4034001000 Rents	(200.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(200.00)	
4037001000 Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Miscellaneous	0.00	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(147,542.00)	
4038002000 Seedling Sales	(64,795.75)	
** SR (1.5) - Sales of Agency Produce	(212,337.75)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4041001000 Fines	(357.50)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(357.50)	
4041002100 NBR License & Permits	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047000000 Contributions/Donats	0.00	
4047000000 Misc Revenue	(6,219.62)	Trees of AR books, Prescribe Bum, Fire Lane
4047000000 NBR - Other	0.00	
4000000000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(6,219.62)	
4048010000 Resales	(7,996.49)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(7,996.49)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.09)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.09)	Interests
4050000000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4050000000 NBR Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4057000000 Utility Reimb	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(1,489,247.68)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(1,489,247.68)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	9,503.35	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	10,537.86	
4090030000 Additional SR Fees	1,336.08	
** Treasury Charges	21,377.29	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	798,589.36	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Sys.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	2,172.18	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.00	
5010008000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	56,719.27	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,567.29	



5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	117,988.75	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	16,626.99	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
**	Salary Expense	1,115,143.84	
5020001000	Postage	1,123.53	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	14,823.95	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	370.31	
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,545.73	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	222.64	
5020005000	Freight	0.00	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	18,086.16	
5030001000	Printing	(1,039.82)	Sales Tax Refund, Trees of AR
5030001100	02 Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000	Advertise Ollp Svr	228.66	Camden News Publishing
5030004000	Film Processing	0.00	
**	Printing & Advertising	(811.16)	
5030005000	02 Bldg & Crds Maint	9,443.54	
5030006100	Pest Control Cl 02	329.18	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,425.06	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	9,023.25	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	9,839.52	
5030014000	Mar Airt Equip Maint	4,603.80	Aircraft Maintenance
5030015000	Research Equip Maint	7,095.90	Axiom Datalogger
5030016000	CP Equip Maint	484.50	
5030017000	Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
**	Repairing & Servicing	44,244.75	
5040001000	Electricity	12,425.19	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,490.68	
5040003100	02 Water	45.14	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	8,548.92	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	6,311.15	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,184.25	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv.	0.00	
**	Utilities & Rent	30,005.33	
5050001000	02 Mileage	313.05	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	230.37	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	921.81	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	838.77	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	34.88	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,776.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	35.00	

5050019100 Board Member Expense	669.56	
5050021000 02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050024000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence	5,819.44	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	4,100.00	Stewardship Plans
5060001400 02 WC Admin Fee Exp	799.06	
5060016000 NBR Provs & Fees	0.00	
5060016000 Misc. Technical Serv	1,169.75	
** Professional Services & Fees	6,068.81	
5070001000 Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000 Other Insurance	19,717.00	Aircraft Insurance for 1 year
5070010000 NBR - Ins & Bonds	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds	19,717.00	
5080005000 Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080008000 Janitorial Service	0.00	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	(185.53)	Refund
5080011000 02-Contract Food Ser	1,811.02	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	982.46	
5080016000 Temp Emplpy Svc	8,469.89	
5080018000 Veh Lic Title Fees	113.00	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	154.00	
5080026000 NBR - Other Exp. Svc	0.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	37,412.47	Loans to RFDs
** Other Expenses & Services	48,757.31	
5090002000 Natural Res Supp	3,973.05	Seeding Bags
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	370.57	Plaques
5090004000 Tires	1,500.64	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purchase	15,169.01	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	3,610.70	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	469.21	
5090006000 Office Supplies	6,191.87	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	839.69	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	97.42	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mkt Sups	798.75	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	6,801.87	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	257.73	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,608.24	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	62,099.60	
5090025000 Agri Hort VL Supps	26,457.86	
5090026000 DP Supps	2,023.88	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	185.30	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	39,362.29	Radios; Smokey Bear Suits
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	39,362.29	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	211,179.97	



5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	63,902.42	Grants to RFDs, Landowners for SPB
5100005000 02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	63,902.42	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	2,120.00	
5110015000 NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	2,120.00	
5000001300 Refund Sales Tax Rebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	522,760.94	Digital 100w Repeaters; Land Acquisition
** Capital Outlay	522,760.94	
5901000000 Dep Expense (Full)	132,292.83	
** Depreciation/Amortization	132,292.83	
5100002000 Gain/Loss FA(Full)	0.00	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
5000003500 Inter-Agy Xfers In	(200,000.00)	
5000004000 Intra-Agy GR Tran-In	(832,344.84)	
5000008000 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
5000008500 FA Transfers In	2,592.82	
5000007200 M & R Transfers In	(45,422.01)	
5000008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00	
5001003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
5001004100 GR RECLAIM XFER	0.00	
OUT	0.00	
5001008500 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
5001008500 FA Transfers Out	(2,592.82)	
5001008000 PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(1,077,766.85)	
5900001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
5900002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
5900003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
*** BALANCE	0.00	