



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

June 5, 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 May 2015

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Branscum:

Per Act 890 of the 90th General Assembly, Regular Session, 2015, Section 47, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for May 2015.

The AFC Rural Fire Protection Program provides fire boats to rural fire departments. On May 29-30, the Arkansas Fire Boat Committee, the AFC and partners like the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission conducted the 12th annual fire boat school for departments that have fire boats. Thirty-three fire boats participated with 270 students from 17 counties and one crew from the state of Mississippi. The availability of fire boats has been important for emergency calls during the recent high water problems in several Arkansas counties.

In May, the AFC provided personnel and dozers to stabilize the Red River levee west of Lewisville. The AFC helped with storm damage by removing trees from roads in several counties.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A blue ink signature of Joe S. Fox, written in a cursive style.

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

May 2015 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During May, a total of 11 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 144 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of May is 37 wildfires for 349 acres burned.

Storm Damage Assistance: The AFC Montgomery County Ranger was requested by the county judge to assist with storm damage in the Albert Pike area.

An AFC Crawford County crew helped clean up storm damage in Rudy.

An AFC Sevier County dozer crew cleared the way to allow electrical power companies access to power lines and towed utility power trucks to and from very wet pole sites.

Eleven AFC personnel from Nevada, Lafayette, Miller, Hempstead and Columbia counties worked 3 days with 5 dozers stabilizing the Red River levee west of Lewisville.

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 May, 75 rural fire departments (202 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. RFP received 2 Freightliners from Department of Defense (DOD) (valued at \$332,446.00) for redistribution to VFDs. There were 10 Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles, generators and water tank (valued at \$368,631.00) issued to VFDs. One hundred fifteen (115) DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$48,848.63) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as floodlights and navigational lights.

Rural Fire provided 1 interest free loan through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in May for \$13,657.80 to Upper White Oak Lake (Ouachita County) for a Brush Truck (that was refurbished by Tucker Prison) with water slip in unit.

Through a federal grant, RFP issued 2 wildfire suppression kits (one kit includes 6 PPE coveralls, 2 leaf blowers, 2 back pack pumps and 8 fire rakes) to the following VFDs: Mt. Nebo VFD (Yell County) and Point Cedar VFD (Hot Spring County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on four AFC vehicles and equipment.

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 May, Firewise staff assisted 16 communities with Firewise renewal efforts, conducted three initial presentations about the Firewise program, assisted with two Firewise education open houses and presented one risk assessment training. Firewise staff held a Firewise recognition ceremony for East Camden (Ouachita County).

Firewise staff visited 15 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 30 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff met with six county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for 20 Firewise events. Firewise staff provided five media releases.

Firewise staff assisted with the River Valley Fire Academy in Russellville, the Arkansas Fire Boat School, two AFC two red card and fire shelter trainings.

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 May, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 6 dumping and 10 timber theft cases.

AFC law enforcement officers attended the Arkansas Forestry Association Protection Committee meeting, taught two classes at River Valley Fire Academy, and attended the Bullet Proof Mind Class at the Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute.

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 4,758 landowners owning 869,558 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,299 Forest Stewards owning 280,476 acres.

For May, 17 FSP plans were prepared on 3,959 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 17 rural forestry management plans on 1,056 acres. AFC personnel conducted 1 prescribed burn on 140 acres.

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.

On May 13, as part of a tornado relief project, the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC) in partnership with The Cellular Connection and Alliance for Community Trees sponsored a tree planting at

Vilonia's Soccer and Softball Complex Park. Twelve trees- 10 feet tall- were planted. Personnel from Verizon and The Cellular Connection were on hand to help as well as numerous employees from the AFC and members of the community. The trees and planting supplies were made possible with funding awarded to the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council from The Cellular Connection. Vilonia Fire Department, city of Vilonia and AUFC provided for lunch.

Forest Health: To monitor for the presence of southern pine beetle (SPB), the Forest Health Specialist set-up 17 SPB traps across five counties in the southern half of the state. Traps were left in the field for four weeks. No SPB were captured. This does not mean that SPB are completely absent in Arkansas, but it does assure that an SPB outbreak is very unlikely.

The wet conditions over the past several months have caused some atypical forest health issues. For example, many fungal pathogens benefit from frequent rain. Needle cast and needle rust have been found in various pine stands. Both cause unsightly browning of needles but they do not affect new growth, so therefore, tree mortality is not expected.

May/June beetles have caused heavy defoliation on oak trees in White, Faulkner, and surrounding counties. These are the brownish-black beetles that can be found flying to your porch light. Trees growing singly in yards are most affected. Consuming oak crowns is an unusual behavior for this insect, though observations suggest that they more abundant this year than normal. The beetle also causes defoliation of pecan, and in this case may require control.

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

All the shortleaf and loblolly pine, sweetgum, sugarberry, hackberry and part of the American elm crops were planted with the new precision seed planter. Bluff City Tree Improvement personnel assisted with the planting.

Baucum Nursery personnel met with an Arkansas Democrat Gazette reporter in preparation for an article about Baucum Nursery. The article is planned for printing Sunday, July 12. The reporter toured all on-going nursery operations.

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 AFC Reforestation Manager assisted with a tornado relief- tree planting project at Vilonia.

AFC Reforestation Manager, Reforestation Foreman and Tree Improvement Technician attended the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Cooperative Contact meeting at Texas A & M, College Station. The meeting provided Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program members a short course on the latest developments in tree improvement and WGFTIP programs.

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 a BMP courtesy exam with two landowners in Saline County.

The BMP Coordinator conducted one technical logger training session in Waldron for 30 participants that included foresters, loggers and contractors.

The BMP Coordinator represented AFC at the Arkansas Timber Producers Association's In-Woods Expo planning meeting. The AFC will provide communications and security, display AFC firefighting equipment, and provide information on BMP's for timber harvesting.

The BMP Coordinator attended the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water Forum. The first day was a field trip that addressed stream bank reclamation, stream crossings and riparian buffer establishment with hardwood trees. The second day consisted of sessions that covered water utility and forestry community topics. State Forester Joe Fox was one of the speakers. The afternoon discussion was on working partnerships within the different represented utility company watersheds. The Forum was attended by 50 participants.

The BMP Coordinator participated in the Southern Group of State Foresters water managers meeting to discuss the WOTUS clarification.

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 May, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 48 plots.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) assisted with the 12th annual -2015 Arkansas Fire Boat School (AFBS).

- The PIC was responsible for all media invites and circulation of news and photos about attending fire boat crews, weekend-long social media updates including photos and videos highlights of AFC involvement at AFBS, and that of statewide volunteer fire departments to statewide media.
- The PIC was responsible for internal information circulation between partner agencies, volunteers, and instructors, developed full briefing packet for attendees, circulate full meeting notes for each school planning session, assisted in registration, develop all forms for attendees including grading sheets, radio operator scripts, full site maps for Lake DeGray and the Caddo River, and briefing notes for students to follow and prepare for training.
- The AFBS received excellent training event media coverage from television media including: KATV 7, KARK 4, and Fox 16; and great newspaper coverage including: Arkansas Democrat Gazette, and county papers including Malvern, Mount Ida, and Hot Springs.
- Final count of AFBS participation was 33 boats, across 17 Arkansas counties and a crew from the state of Mississippi and 270 participants.

PIC was responsible for the technology equipment used by presenters at the May 6th Agriculture Board meeting.

PIC Generated full newspaper coverage and distributed photos for AFC and partner agencies of the Conway County Safety Day event near Morrilton.

PIC attended Rural Life Conference with personnel from AFC Firewise and Urban Forestry Programs.

PIC attended Memorial Tree Planting in Des Arc, generated press release and circulated photos.

PIC assisted with Basic Wildland Fire Class (week-long course) at River Valley Fire Academy at Arkansas Tech.

PIC assisted in media efforts for upcoming Arkansas Timbers Producers Association's In Woods Expo event in June.

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

Social Media Update:

- Facebook - 12,355 Likes (up from 12,257 likes in April)
- Twitter – 4,945 Followers (up from 4,885 followers in April)

AFC districts reported participating in 14 Arbor Day and community tree plantings, 9 news articles, 40 presentations to school and civic groups, and 11 festivals or event exhibits.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

May 31, 2015

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(271,946.14)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(271,946.14)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(148,410.45)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(148,410.45)	
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	(163,229.79)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(259,357.10)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(422,586.89)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	(240.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(240.00)	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(5,835.25)	Fire trucks and misc fire equipment
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(47.50)	AR Grown revenue correction
4047099600 NBR - Other	12,481.00	Seedling sale moved to correct GL
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	6,598.25	

4047001600	Payment for Services	(23,360.80)	Prescribed Burns; Fire Lane
4048001000	Sales Copies Pubs	(849.00)	Trees of Arkansas
4048019000	Resales	(59,954.86)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services		(84,164.66)	
4049003000	Interest Distrib	(0.09)	
** OR - Investment Revenue		(0.09)	Interests
4050003000	Oth Refunds/Reimb	(127.15)	Cell phone refund
4050003999	NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements		(127.15)	
4050004000	Fed Grants/Reimburse	(180,632.71)	
4050004100	NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
4057003000	Utility Reimbur	(101.06)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements		(180,733.77)	
4090010000	3% Special Rev Fees	8,158.39	
4090020000	1.5% Spl Rev Fees	7,755.22	
4090030000	Additional SR Fees	1,060.90	
** Treasury Charges		16,974.51	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	1,202,862.51	
5010001100	NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600	NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	10,183.97	
5010003000	06 Overtime Salaries	1,411.09	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	88,335.45	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,612.73	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	176,778.63	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000	03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0.00	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
5010014000	02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense		1,602,664.38	
5020001000	Postage	936.67	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	14,122.25	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	19,635.70	
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,195.45	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020004300	02 Server &Email Svc	456.39	
5020005000	Freight	1,432.11	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod		37,889.89	
5030001000	Printing	1,827.41	
5030001100	02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	81.38	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	420.39	Camden Publishing
5030004000	Film Processing	85.29	
** Printing & Advertising		2,414.47	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	43,732.13	
5030005100	Pest Control Cl 02	507.73	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	71.94	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	17,948.95	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	17,127.61	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	20,487.79	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	44,465.17	Aircraft Maintenance

5030015000	Research Equip Maint	0.00	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030017000	Software Maintenance	0.00	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing		144,341.32	
5040001000	Electricity	11,235.55	
5040002000	Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	6,759.80	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	3,787.95	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	1,975.00	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,838.45	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		25,686.75	
5050001000	02 Mileage	269.64	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,247.32	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	7,143.37	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	388.20	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	170.36	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	59.88	
5050011100	02 Validated Parking	9.46	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	149.09	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	250.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	370.00	
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	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		10,057.32	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	49,293.00	Western Pilot; Stewardship Plans
5060001400	02 WC Admin Fee Exp	0.00	
5060006000	Lab Diagnostic Svc	580.64	
5060016000	NBR Prosvs & Fees	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	1,307.70	
** Professional Services & Fees		51,181.34	
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	224.65	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	781.35	

5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	18,355.77	
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	0.00	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	76.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	0.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	77,833.65	Loans to RFDs
** Other Expenses & Services		97,764.02	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	4,264.15	
5090004000	Tires	5,351.04	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purch	28,605.20	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purch	8,913.14	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	177.11	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,766.46	
5090006100	02 Furnish/Accessory	1,044.31	IT equip correction to correct GL
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	0.00	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	14.22	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,805.65	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	156.72	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,316.01	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	19,065.52	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	0.00	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,402.00	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	1,391.40	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	2,393.20	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	14,557.47	ATV trailers, computers, mowers, HVAC Equip
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	14,557.47	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		122,781.07	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	14,866.80	
5100005000	02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		14,866.80	
5110001000	Refund of Taxes	0.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	10.56	
5110008000	License & Permits	210.00	ADEQ fuel tank permits
5110010000	Real Property Tax	0.00	
5110015000	NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		220.56	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301	RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds		0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	41,960.07	Truck bed, Fire Protection Equip, Mower
** Capital Outlay		41,960.07	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	119,614.75	
** Depreciation/Amortization		119,614.75	
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	(912,271.44)	

6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00
6060006850	FA Transfers In	0.00
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(10,000.00)
6060008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00
6060030500	Inter xfer in CI 04	0.00
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004100	GR Reclaim Xfer Out	0.00
6061004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00
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		(922,271.44)
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