



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

August 8, 2016

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 July 2016

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 July 2016.

The AFC, with help from the Assistant State Forester for Management and the Best Management Practice Coordinator, is providing documentation for a new "Water Partnership Landscape Scale Restoration Grant". This project will focus on enhancing public surface water supplies through strategic and well-targeted forest conservation, restoration, and management. Forests play a critical role in providing an abundant supply of clean water for millions of Arkansans.

The regional grant from the U.S. Forest Service enhances non-traditional partnerships with the water utility/management sector as a promising and realistic solution to drinking water issues. State partners include Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas. The funding for AFC's grant is \$146,930.00.

As you can see from above, the AFC works with other states, as well as other state agencies, to achieve benefits that will directly affect Arkansans.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

July 2016 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During July a total of 68 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 332 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of July is 132 wildfires for 1707 acres burned.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists rural volunteer fire departments (VFDs) 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 July 2016, 41 rural fire departments (134 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. RFP received 5 Freightliners from Department of Defense (DOD) (Valued at \$831,115). There were other Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and equipment issued to VFDs including 2 Freightliners (Valued at \$332,446.00) and 1 Tech Sun boat trailer. 134 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (Valued at \$21,948.94) including: military cans and spill boom containers.

Rural Fire provided 2 interest free loans via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in July 2016.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------|
| • Mountain Springs VFD | 1998 Ferrara Pumper | \$15,000 | Lonoke |
| • Pine Snag-Lobo VFD | Tank, Paint, Pump & Engine | \$13,594.48 | Cleburne |

The RFP shop completed maintenance on eight AFC vehicles and pieces of 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 154 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In July Firewise staff assisted six communities with Firewise renewal efforts, conducted one initial presentation about the Firewise program, assisted one community with mitigation efforts and attended the Fire Fighters Fire Chiefs Convention, sharing Firewise and fire safety information.

Staff attended Office Personal Management training and the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting. Staff traveled to Holiday Island to visit the Firewise project and took photos for a story about the success of that project.

Firewise staff visited four AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 45 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 10 Firewise events and assisted with five media releases. Staff sent reminder letters to all Firewise participants and updated the Firewise database. Staff also updated the Facebook site at 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 July, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 1 timber theft, 3 fire, 1 equipment theft/vandalism, and 3 dumping cases.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator attended the Basic Police Training at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in East Camden and graduated July 29th.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator assisted with County Ranger Training in Districts 3, 6, 7, and 8. Another Law Enforcement Investigator assisted with County Ranger Training in Districts 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8, all classes are certified through the Office of Law Enforcement Standards.

Two AFC Law Enforcement Investigators attended a meeting to plan and organize the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting for 2017.

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 4,872 landowners owning 891,927 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,323 Forest Stewards owning 284,112 acres.

For July, four FSP plans were prepared on 450 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 64 rural forestry management plans on 2,352 acres. AFC personnel conducted 9 prescribed burns on 151 acres.

Urban Forestry Assistance: Urban Forestry Program staff assists communities, government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, arborists and landowners by providing them with training and education regarding the management of community forests as well as individual trees.

AFC held a Tree Board Workshop in Conway in which participants learned how to develop tree ordinances and public tree maintenance programs. Partners included the Arkansas Urban Forestry

Council, Conway Tree Board, University of Arkansas Extension Service, Arbor Day Foundation, and Arkansas Forestry Association. Community tree board members, foresters and arborists attended.

AFC partnered with the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, and the Watershed Conservation Resource Center to hold a workshop entitled “Landwise Win-Win” in Washington and Benton Counties. Financial support for the workshop came from the Walton Family Foundation and Beaver Water District.

The workshop was intended for regional decision-makers, elected officials, planners, developers, engineers, realtors, and architects. Participants heard from regional conservation and planning professionals about the unique services and partnerships that can help achieve “win-win” outcomes for the growing region of Northwest Arkansas. A peer panel provided participants an opportunity to engage with their colleagues in a dynamic discussion about the challenges and benefits of balancing growth and conservation in the area.

Forest Health: The Forest Health Specialist, Chandler Barton, assists AFC personnel statewide in efforts to maintain healthy, productive forest ecosystems by preventing, detecting, monitoring, and suppressing damaging insects and diseases. AFC offers technical assistance to landowners who encounter forest health issues.

- Chandler has confirmed the presence of sassafras affected by laurel wilt disease in two new Arkansas counties. The disease, spread by an invasive beetle, threatens to kill sassafras trees across the state. It was first found in Bradley County in December 2015, and it is now found in Union and Cleveland Counties.
- Frequent summer rainfall strengthens Arkansas’s forests. Generally speaking, droughts have a tendency to cause multiple forest health issues; therefore, this year we should expect less large-scale forest dieback such as pines killed by engraver beetle outbreaks. However, fungal pathogens could appear more prevalent.
- Fall webworm is returning to northern parts of Arkansas. Last year, these web making caterpillars caused unsightly damages to various hardwoods. Homeowners are encouraged to remove by hand or chemically treat the webs before they become too abundant in September and October.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15 for the 2017 planting season. Seedling sales reports for FY17 will begin in August. A recap of FY16 seedling sales by cooler location is listed in the chart below. The chart includes volume of hardwood and pine seedlings sold by cooler location for FY15, FY16 and the variance between the two years.

LOCATION	HARDWOOD		VARIANCE	PINE		VARIANCE
	FY 15	FY 16		FY15	FY16	
D1 Monticello	52,100	48,475	(3,625)	118,350	44,600	(73,750)
D2 Dierks	27,375	34,175	6,800	344,150	341,650	(2,500)
D3 Forrest City	29,750	113,425	83,675	10,300	4,400	(5,900)
D3 Jonesboro	27,575	217,375	189,800	18,350	23,650	5,300
D3 Stuttgart	6,425	12,525	6,100	2500	1,500	(1,000)
D4 El Dorado	113,850	5,275	(108,575)	28,500	36,025	7,525
D4 Stamps	23,150	7,000	(16,150)	25,300	40,600	15,300
D5 Malvern	25,425	8,675	(16,750)	276,950	326,325	49,375
D6 Clarksville	18,100	29,075	10,975	201,900	275,175	73,275
D6 Fayetteville	19,050	44,450	25,400	62,325	69,000	6,675
D7 Greenbrier	32,400	21,275	(11,125)	12,925	68,675	55,750
D7 Kensett	137,725	170,100	32,375	200,475	84,425	(116,050)
D8 Ash Flat	5,700	6,150	450	43,175	44,800	1,625
D8 Mt. View	1,800	975	(825)	136,850	12,425	(124,425)
TOTAL REMOTE	520,425	718,950	198,525	1,482,050	1,373,250	(108,800)
Baucum	2,527,875	2,862,750	334,875	440,850	779,650	338,800
GRAND TOTAL	3,048,300	3,581,700	533,400	1,922,900	2,152,900	230,000

The following cultural practices were completed at Baucum Nursery in July. Made two applications of 46-0-0 fertilizer on all seedlings. Top-pruned all fall sown hardwoods as well as all 2-year old seedlings. Made one application of Poast and Resolute herbicide for grass control in both pine and hardwoods. Made one application of Goaltender and Cobra herbicides on Pine seedlings. Applied Glyphosate herbicide to patches of nut-grass in layout areas of fields 2, 4 and 7. Plowed middles in all cropped areas. Disked in wood chips in Field 4 and part of 7. Hand weeding was done in all fields. Bush-hogged all non-cropped areas on nursery. Picked up limbs and glass from storm damage. Repaired roof cap on front of office which was also damaged during the storm.

Reforestation Manager, Nursery Manager and Reforestation Foreman attended the Auburn Nursery Coop (Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative) annual contact meeting in conjunction with the Southern Forest & Conservation Nursery Management Association which meets every two years. This year the meeting was held at Lake Charles LA. There were about 100 forestry professionals in attendance for presentations and research reports on nursery management issues. The field trip this year was to Campbell Global bare root nursery in Jasper TX and International Forest Company containerized nursery in Evans LA.

Baucum hosted 3 all day customer service and seedling journal trainings for districts and cooler locations. All AFC personnel that are responsible for remote cooler inventory attended along with many other supervisors and support personnel. The purpose for this training was to better inform all AFC employees of required procedures for handling seedlings as well as to instill many improved customer service procedures. The training was done by the Baucum Nursery Administrative Assistant and a tour of the nursery was conducted by Nursery Reforestation Foreman. The tour was designed to educate AFC employees about the functions at Baucum as well as to show cooler operators how things are done

logistically at Baucum Nursery so that they might be able to apply some of those techniques at their cooler. Deputy State Forester, Assistant State Forester and Reforestation Manager assisted with the training as needed.

Baucum hosted a preconstruction meeting for a new pine packing house. The 3,600 sq. ft. building is scheduled for completion by November 23, 2016, pending any potential weather delays.

Tree Improvement: AFC's tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method AFC employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. AFC Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

The following activities were completed by the tree improvement staff at Bluff City in July: Fertilized orchards 1718, 1719, 1720 and 1721, bush hogged orchards 1715, 1718 and 1719, prepared identification tags for orchard 1721, applied fertilizer in greenhouses and weeded pots in greenhouses and aerial application of insecticides on all production orchards was performed.

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 (1) technical logger training session for Foresters, Loggers and Contractors. The BMP training was held in Russellville, Arkansas, and was attended by 48 participants. The workshop was held in conjunction with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association (ATPA).

The BMP Coordinator conducted one courtesy exam in Pope County with 4 participants. Participants consisted of, one (1) Industry Forester, and AFC's State Forester, Assistant State Forester, and BMP coordinator. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of, AFC's manual "BMPs for Water Quality Protection", and recommendation to the participant.

The BMP coordinator received one complaint this month which after inspection was found not a valid complaint.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Committee. The Committee is planning to have a panel discussion at the annual AFA meeting and the Annual Water utilities meeting in the fall 2016.

The BMP coordinator assisted the Assistant State Forester for Management in providing documentation for a new Arkansas Forestry Commission "Water Partnership LSR Grant". This project will focus on enhancing public surface water supplies through strategic and well-targeted forest conservation, restoration, and management. Forests play a critical role in providing an abundant supply of clean water for millions of Arkansans. Enhancing non-traditional partnerships with the water utility/management sector is a promising and realistic solution to drinking water issues. The state partners include Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, and Arkansas. The funding for AFC's grant is \$146,930.00.

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.

The FIA team completed 51 plots for the month of July.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Distributed "AFC Provides Tree Care Tips Following Storms" to statewide media partners, July 16
- Provided KARN Radio Interview concerning Arkansas wildfire danger and wildfire behavior predictions for August-September, July 26

Meetings and Events

- Attended website planning meeting with the Information Network of Arkansas, (website content management system switchover to begin now; final updated website to be released in Nov.)
- Began preparation for Southern Group of State Foresters, 2017 meeting with preliminary planning documents and pre-planning meeting, including:
 - Preparation of Chain of Command Chart with designated personnel serving in various positions
 - Preparation of Roles and Responsibilities spreadsheet, with specific tasks allocated to personnel, on timelines based on documents provided from previous host state (Alabama).
 - Arranged/attended pre-planning meeting and site visit at Crystal Bridges Museum, July 25
 - Arranged/presented at pre-planning meeting with 45+ AFC personnel at Rogers Embassy Suites and Convention Center, July 26
- Attended/presented at Arkansas Forestry Commission Commissioner Orientation, July 28
- Attended/presented at Arkansas Forestry Commission Commissioner's Meeting, July 29
- Distributed forestry material/provided forestry resources as part of the Arkansas Agriculture Department booth at the Magic Springs Agriculture Day, July 30

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department monthly Newsletter, July 6

July AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 14,733 Likes (up from 14,671 in June)
- Twitter – 6,270 Followers (up from 6,194 Followers in June)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 2016

	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(326,974.73)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(326,974.73)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(146,324.53)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(146,324.53)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(77,817.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(77,817.00)	
4042001000 FINES	(285.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(285.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(400.00)	
** OR - Rents	(400.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(28,594.48)	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(28,594.48)	
4047001600 Payment for Services	(7,088.75)	Prescribed Burns; Fire Lane
4048001000 Sales Copies Pubs	(312.75)	Trees of Arkansas
4048019000 Resales	(1,810.62)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(9,212.12)	
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.24)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.24)	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(101,607.30)	Oklahoma Fire Assistance
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(101,607.30)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(523,663.19)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(523,663.19)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,809.23	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	3,892.52	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	913.46	
** Treasury Charges	14,615.21	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	779,516.15	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,345.93	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,031.56	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	55,839.58	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,248.66	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	107,486.56	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
** Salary Expense	1,071,728.44	
5020001000 Postage	1,943.98	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,032.23	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,674.26	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,434.69	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	28,085.16	
5030001000 Printing	142.40	Shopper's Guide of Camden Inc
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	20.88	

** Printing & Advertising		163.28	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	9,333.03	Gravel, Clay, & Powers
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	83.93	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	2,101.23	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	9,801.49	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	11,964.23	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	72.61	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	210.42	
** Repairing & Servicing		33,566.94	
5040001000	Electricity	11,028.26	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	3,570.10	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	648.78	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	14,129.76	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,982.15	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	1,350.00	
** Utilities & Rent		32,709.05	
5050001000	02 Mileage	362.88	
5050003100	02 - Meals	745.38	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	1,623.41	
5050004100	09 - Meals	328.53	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	738.76	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	37.50	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	494.98	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,500.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		5,831.44	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	560.00	
5060001100	Reimb Prof & Adm	0.00	
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,802.91	
5060006000	Lab Diagnostic Svc	60.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	4,367.40	
** Professional Services & Fees		6,790.31	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	1,103.58	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	92,000.00	Annual Payment
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	27,611.32	Annual Payment
** Insurance & Bonds		120,714.90	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD SER	853.32	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	1,706.60	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	5,261.85	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	220.00	
** Other Expenses & Services		8,041.77	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	133.29	
5090004000	Tires	2,345.25	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	11,398.81	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	8,913.11	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	165.41	
5090006000	Office Supplies	5,052.16	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	0.00	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	301.01	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	3,224.60	
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,570.11	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	32.35	

5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	796.01
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	1,576.82
5090026000 DP Supps	2,887.53
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	44,681.64
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	83,078.10
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	55,299.80
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	55,299.80
5900003000 Capital Outlay	3,823.75
** Capital Outlay	3,823.75
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	101,285.82
** Depreciation/Amortization	101,285.82
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(675,000.00)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	25,000.00
** Transfers In/Out	(650,000.00)
*** BALANCE	0.00