



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

10 October 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 September 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 September, 2016.

The AFC continues to train our employees to ensure they are ready for emergency response calls. In September, 2016, 24 AFC employees were trained in the use of chainsaws. The AFC chainsaw instructors are seasoned employees with experience in field use of the equipment and are federally certified as trainers.

The chainsaw class lasts 3 days, and was taught at Poison Springs State Forest (PSSF). PSSF staff assisted with instruction and other activities.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission continues to plan and prepare for wildfire, ice storm and wind storm emergencies to ensure rapid response with highly trained personnel.

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
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

September 2016 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During September a total of 37 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 253 acres burned. The ten year average for the month of September is 120 wildfires for 1765 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator assisted in a search for a missing person between Fox and Oxley in Stone County. This person was found safe.

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 for AFC equipment.

In September 2016, 43 rural fire departments (103 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. RFP received 6 Freightliners and 2 Chevys (valued at \$1,028,840) from the Department of Defense (DOD). There were 3 DOD vehicles and various equipment issued to VFDs including 2 Freightliners and 1 Stewart & Stevenson truck (Valued at \$474,578.00). 73 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (Valued at \$26,079.25).

Rural Fire provided 1 interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in September 2016.

- Lafe VFD 2009 turnkey Freightliner (DOD)- \$10,718.73- Greene County

The RFP shop completed maintenance on sixteen 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 160 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In September Firewise achieved the following:

- Taught five Risk Assessment Trainings
- Conducted three initial presentations
- Visited 15 county and district offices and three offices of emergency management
- Spoke at the AEMC Conference and presented Firewise to 300 attendees
- Worked on 50 Firewise renewals

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 September, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 2 fire, 2 dumping, and 10 timber cases.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission Law Enforcement Team recently completed a 30 hour law enforcement refresher training course at the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETa) in East Camden, Arkansas.

The officers were taught a variety of subjects by the professional law enforcement instructors at ALETa. The training included instruction on subjects such as officer survival, dealing with extremist groups, handcuffing and baton training, defensive tactics, use of force, firearms, and constitutional law.

The training was geared toward the problems that have been encountered around the country. In an effort to keep our officers safe, the Arkansas Forestry Commission ensures that all of its law enforcement personnel have the latest and most up to date training available.

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 4,886 landowners owning 892,601 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,310 Forest Stewards owning 281,905 acres.

5 FSP plans were prepared on 1,812 acres in September. 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 55 rural forestry management plans on 5,266 acres. AFC personnel conducted 23 prescribed burns on 632 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.

AFC Staff presented "selecting native trees for the urban landscape" at the Watershed Learning Center, in Cave Springs, which houses the Illinois River Watershed Partnership. The program was hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists and had over 60 members in attendance. The Master Naturalist program is designed to educate volunteers so they are connected to nature and become more aware of Arkansas's natural resources. The Arkansas Master Naturalist are celebrating their 10th anniversary this year with approximately 450 members.

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.

- AFC personnel placed 283 gypsy moth traps across the state during the summer. All traps were checked and no suspect gypsy moths were found. Gypsy moth is a risk to hardwood forests and detection trapping is the first step in preventing an outbreak. Other agencies in the state also place traps and their results are forthcoming.
- Emerald ash borer (EAB) was discovered in Randolph County this year and the ash wood and hardwood firewood quarantine boundaries were expanded to include several more counties that are at risk. There are now 12 confirmed counties and 33 total counties included in the quarantine. The AR State Plant Board should be contacted for quarantine details.
- Mr. Barton has continued to release EAB biocontrol wasps in two trial sites. The tiny wasps, which only target EAB, may potentially lower EAB abundance in the release sites. Next year, sampling will determine if the wasps have established.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15. Through the end of September there were 200 on line seedling orders resulting in 1,919,450 pine compared with 537,925 last year during the same period. This year we have sold 4,102,600 hardwoods through the end of September compared to 1,610,025 last year.

During September Baucum Nursery staff fertilized all hardwood and pine. Proline fungicide and nutra-plant micronutrients were applied to the pine and hardwood. The Nursery staff top-pruned all pine and selected hardwood. The non-crop fields were bush-hogged. Crop fields were prepared for fumigation by hand weeding. Nursery staff harvested 3,024 lbs. of Sawtooth oak acorns and completed field inventory of all hardwoods. Preparation was continued for the harvest season which included awarding contracts for lifting, acorns, boxes and bags. The maintenance shop was moved to the old pine packing house. Construction of the new pine packing house is now in full swing with the footings and slab being completed in September.

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.

During the month of September the Tree Improvement staff bush-hogged all production orchards in preparation for cone harvest and marked all loblolly and shortleaf pine trees that are to be harvested this fall. The staff did all necessary weeding of crops in greenhouse and containers outside the greenhouse. Stump piles were burned after orchard removal. The staff disked the old production orchard site in preparation for new scion bank. The staff sprayed fence rows at the new test site location for improved cherrybark and improved nuttall oak.

Best Management Practices: Forestry Commission 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 Faulkner County with 4 participants. Participants consisted of, two (2) Consultant Foresters and one (1) landowner, and AFC's BMP coordinator. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of Arkansas' BMP Implementation Reports, AFC's manual "BMPs for

Water Quality Protection”, and a technical assistance summary report of recommendations to the participants.

The BMP Coordinator partnered with the Beaver Watershed Alliance to conduct an Arkansas Forest & Watershed Landowner workshop in NW Arkansas. The workshop offered a tour of two stream restoration sites and a Riparian buffer demonstration project. The indoor session addressed the Anatomy of Successful Watershed Protection, Forest Retention & Forest BMP’s. The workshop was well attended, approximately sixty participants, and very successful in drawing other agencies, associations, and private landowners into a group discussion on the needs of a healthy Managed Forest and Drinking Water Watershed.

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’s natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 41 plots for the month of September. We are 52.6% complete with the current survey.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Distributed “10 Things to Know about Fall Webworm,” to statewide media partners, September 20th.
 - This led to a follow-up television interview with Channel 5 News (Fayetteville/Fort Smith). Chandler Barton, Forest Health Specialist, provided the interview.
- Sent VIP Tour Invitation (9/12) to Congressional staffers and other partners for Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool Workshop Oct 3-7 at Camp Robinson; VIP Tour to take place 10/6.
- Sent Media Tour Invitation (9/29) to television/print media for Prescribed Fire as a Management Tool Workshop Oct 3-7 at Camp Robinson; media tour to take place 10/5.
- Worked with Conway County and Van Buren County firefighters to provide stories to local media on the Razorback Crew (these papers had local ties to firefighters on the Razorback Crew).

Meetings and Events

- Attended Forrest City training to provide AFC IDs and education resources to three new AFC Foresters, 9/20.

Forestry Resources

- Updated Seedling Care and Planting Guidelines Booklet, which provides 25 pages of tips and “how-to” instructions for seedling care. The booklet had to be completely rebuilt in an Adobe Illustrator format, and required a series of edits. This resource is provided at no cost to landowners.
- Created Poison Springs State Forest Use Permit brochure, which provides a tri-fold brochure listing the guidelines for enjoying recreational activities – like hunting and horseback riding – on Poison Springs State Forest. The Use Guide will be printed as a tri-fold and uploaded to the website as a printable document.

- Worked with Barbara Champagne (an extra-help professional) to update the online Timber Buyer Search, Consulting Forester Directory, Forestry Services Provider Directory, and the Forest Industry Directory. These are all free, comprehensive resources for Arkansans to search/identify forestry resources across the state.
- Re-ordered general AFC-all brochure (featuring contact information and a summary of all the responsibilities/offerings of the AFC). Completed updates to contact information and content.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department monthly Newsletter, 9/6.

Rural Fire Show Planning

- Contacted all vendors from previous Fire Shows to return Oct 29 for the 2016 event.
- Worked with Arkansas Fire Academy to distribute Fire Show invitation to contacts at known fire departments across the state.
- Created Rural Fire Show event on Facebook to help bolster publicity efforts.

September AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 14,805 Likes (up from 14,733 in August)
- Twitter – 6,382 Followers (up from 6,323 Followers in August)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

September 2016

.	Balance	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(330,294.21)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(330,294.21)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(64,682.36)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	(4,113.15)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(68,795.51)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(20,825.97)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(62,052.50)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(82,878.47)	
4040008000 Fire Protection Tax	1,694.89	Correction from previous month.
** OR - Taxes	1,694.89	
4042001000 FINES	(150.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(150.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(300.00)	
** OR - Rents	(300.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(10,718.73)	
4047003000		
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATE	(400.00)	Fire Show Donations
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(11,118.73)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR		
SERVICES	(13,137.00)	Prescribed Burns; Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,050.25)	Trees of Arkansas
4048019000 RESALES	(7,162.36)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(21,349.61)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.10)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	

4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000 FED		
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(645,159.11)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(645,159.11)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,908.83	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,844.77	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	850.23	
** Treasury Charges	13,603.83	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	1,163,033.41	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	6,641.59	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	52.34	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	85,075.50	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	120,435.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,446.70	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	168,603.35	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	2,000.00	
** Salary Expense	1,550,287.89	
5020001000 Postage	1,144.00	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,413.80	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	20,365.88	Paid for two months
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,382.71	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	222.64	
5020005000 Freight	50.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	38,579.03	
5030001000 Printing	16,093.89	Jr FF Activity Books
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	16,093.89	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	13,139.25	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	269.78	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	8,091.21	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	7,910.94	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	23,580.95	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	20,359.94	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	73,352.07	
5040001000 Electricity	14,525.11	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	3,423.82	
5040003100 02 Water	88.83	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	540.14	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	5,601.81	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,393.75	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	4,275.02	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent	29,938.48	
5050001000 02 Mileage	655.45	
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,609.36	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,153.60	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	618.92	
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	61.04	
5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00	

5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	7.50	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	235.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	130.00	
5050020200	02Bd Mmbr Trav Lodg	0.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		7,470.87	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	27,080.00	Western
5060001100	Reimb Prof & Adm	0.00	Pilot
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5060006000	Lab Diagnostic Svc	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	7,857.75	Moore Appraisals; Kingwood Forestry Services
** Professional Services & Fees		34,937.75	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080005000	Cash Fund Svc Chg	20.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	457.80	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	770.21	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	8,641.84	Baucum
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	132.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	176.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	0.00	
** Other Expenses & Services		10,197.85	
5090001000	Road Pub Area Mats	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	600.00	
5090004000	Tires	2,378.58	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	21,013.17	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	10,988.48	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	1,607.97	
5090006000	Office Supplies	7,901.43	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	222.46	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	22.72	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	125.97	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	11,118.89	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	131.77	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	347.36	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	820.41	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	1,052.77	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	276.01	
5090026000	DP Supps	4,283.75	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	7,648.97	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	17,085.18	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	22,437.10	Equipment for VFD
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	2,570.98	Trailer; Riding Mower(D6)
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	2,570.98	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		115,204.95	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	24,933.75	Mitigation & Southern Pine Beetle
** Assistance, Grants & Aids		24,933.75	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	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)	91,579.45
** Depreciation/Amortization	91,579.45
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(937,143.81)
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(15,151.14)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(952,294.95)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** BALANCE	0.00