



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

November 9, 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 October 2016

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Dear Senator Sample and Representative Branscum:

Per Act 59 of the 89<sup>th</sup> 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 October, 2016.

The AFC hosted the annual Rural Fire Show in Greenbrier, AR this month. This event is hosted as a "thank you" to firefighters across Arkansas that work all year to make communities safer.

The AFC accepts donations from many vendors as well as partners to offer a large supply of information, equipment and food for those who attend. This year, 380 Fire fighters, 110 Fire Departments, 18 Vendors with 42 representatives and 41 State employees attended the event for a total of 463 in attendance. 31 fire departments won door prizes such as a chainsaw and various tools and equipment to emphasize our appreciation of their hard work.

The AFC continues to work with our firefighting partners in the state to provide Arkansans with quality protection from wildfires and many other concerns.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox", is written over a faint, larger signature.

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther  
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION October 2016 Activity and Fiscal Report

### FIRE PROTECTION

**Wildfires:** During October a total of 129 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 883 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of October is 111 wildfires for 1340 acres burned.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** Seven AFC personnel assisted in a search and rescue for a 68 year old lady. She had been tracking a deer away from her property in the southern part of Madison County and got lost in the woods. She was found safe.

An AFC crew from Newton County was dispatched to an area along the Buffalo River to help carry out a lady that had fallen.

**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 October 2016, 37 rural fire departments (110 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. RFP received 7 Freightliners (valued at \$781,997.00) from Department of Defense (DOD). There were 11 Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and equipment issued to VFDs including 5 Freightliners, 5 Generators and 1 GMC Pickup (Valued at \$780,203.08). 249 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (Valued at \$7,639.71) including: flash lights and strap/rescue cutters.

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

- Crockett's Bluff VFD      Foam Skid Unit    \$7,762.50    Arkansas County

The RFP shop completed maintenance on 21 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 157 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In October Firewise achieved the following:

- Taught three Risk Assessment Trainings.
- Conducted three initial presentations.
- Visited 20 county and district offices and three offices of emergency management.
- Worked at the Hot Spring County Flu Clinic and Ecofest.



- Attended the annual Burn School, and the annual Fire Show.

**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 October, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened 5 dumping, 2 equipment theft/vandalism, 17 fires, and 4 timber cases.

Investigators attended 2 District Meetings and the Smith Tree Farm tour in IZARD County presented by the Arkansas Forestry Association.

Breath alcohol tests were completed in Districts 6, 7 and 8.

All of the Law Enforcement Investigators took and passed the annual walk test.

## **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 4,897 landowners owning 895,116 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,311 Forest Stewards owning 284,420 acres.

For October, 11 FSP plans were prepared on 1,410 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 37 rural forestry management plans on 2,612 acres. AFC personnel conducted 21 prescribed burns on 1,039 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.

The City of Fayetteville recently completed their urban forestry grant project which was funded through a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The funding was used to place sod with native plants between trees in medians along College Avenue and Garland Avenue.

There are several benefits to this type of project. First and foremost, the trees will be much healthier growing in a more natural setting without the competition of grass and the protection from weed eaters and lawn mowers. The City did a cost comparison of using sod verses native plantings. Over a ten year period the City will save over \$18,000 in maintenance fees and it will be much safer for employees who will not have to mow. The plants selected beautify the medians and are a source of food for pollinators. An article and pictures are available on the City's website at <http://www.fayetteville-ar.gov/339/Urban-Forestry>.

Another grant project involving street trees was with the City of Morrilton. In the past, the City had planted a selection of crape myrtles that had become a problem for parking and walking in the downtown area. The new species selected for the pedestrian areas will grow more upright and provide more shade. In addition some flowering species were selected to add more color in the spring. A total of 30 new trees are now growing in the downtown area. The trees were planted for the City's Arbor Day celebration. This was a joint effort between the AFC, the Tree City Board and Main Street Morrilton.

**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.

- During the first week of October, Chandler visited the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi to view their ongoing control efforts of the southern pine beetle. This is the westernmost outbreak of SPB in recent history (the beetle has not caused outbreaks west of the Mississippi River for nearly two decades). The efforts in MS are a prime example for how Arkansas will respond to SPB if (or when) it returns as a damaging pest in our pine forests.
- The AFC Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program provides cost-share incentives for landowners that need to thin their young, dense pine forests. Thinning pine stands can prevent forest health issues like bark beetles and ensure a higher return on investment when the stand matures. However, when pine pulpwood markets are less than ideal, landowners may be tempted to wait to thin. This program encourages thinning at the most appropriate time. In 2016, the program provided over \$115,000 of incentives for projects on over 1,500 acres.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15. Through October 28, there were 282 on line seedling orders. Seedling sales through October 28 resulted in 2,200,850 pine compared with 650,050 this time last year and 4,261,275 hardwoods compared to 1,891,600 this time last year.

During the month of October Baucum Nursery staff:

- Harvested seed from Sawtooth Oak and Chinese chestnut
- Constructed netting for collection of Improved Cherrybark Oak acorns
- Removed irrigation pipe from the fields and transferred to areas that were prepared for Methyl bromide treatment.
- Bush hogged around cherrybark oak progeny test.

**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 October Bluff City Tree Improvement staff:

- Completed cone harvest.
- Moved progeny test trees from greenhouse to shade house to harden off for planting this fall/winter.
- Did additional site prep at Dr. Parkes' hardwood test site.



**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 Columbia County with 5 participants. Participants consisted of, one Consultant Forester, one AFC County Forester, 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 received a timber harvesting complaint through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. The complaint site was located in Columbia County and found valid. The BMP Coordinator conducted a field visit which included a landowner representative, a Consultant Forester, two ADEQ Field Inspectors, and the AFC County Forester. Recommendations and a date for the close out inspection were given to mitigate the water quality impairments.

The BMP coordinator participated in one of five Unpaved Roads Program Trainings. The trainings are led by The Nature Conservancy for County Judges, County Highway Department Road Superintendents, and other Agencies. The training was well attended with approximately 50 participants.

**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 crew completed 44 plots during the month of October.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Media Update**

- Circulated News Release: Arkansas State Plant Board Expands Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine, on 10/3 (the AFC partners with the ASPB on implementation of and education about the EAB Quarantine and managing EAB landowner questions).
- Circulated news release: AFC Rural Fire Program Invites Arkansas Firefighters to Annual Fire Show October 29, on 10/4.
- Hosted Media Tour and VIP Tour for Prescribed Burn School, Oct 4-6.
  - Media Tour: THV 11 News sent a crew, which generated a feature story about Prescribed Burn School, focusing on the training and the benefits of prescribed fire as a management tool, which ran Oct. 5. The Arkansas Democrat Gazette sent a reporter, which generated feature story about the benefits of prescribed burning, Arkansas wildfire history, and training components included at Prescribed Burn School.
  - VIP Tour: Attendees included - Ben Gilmore, Congressman Westerman's office; Ron Chastain, Senator Boozman's office, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director Jeff Crowe; Sheila Annable, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) Preparedness Division Director; The Nature Conservancy Director Scott Simon; Arkansas Agriculture Deputy Secretary Cynthia Edwards; Arkansas State Plant Board Director Terry

Walker; Jessica Cox, NRCS-Fort Smith; Steve Drillette, National Weather Service – Little Rock; and Jane Hurley, Central Arkansas Water.

- Coordinated an interview with THV 11 News concerning Wildfire Danger, Oct 10; Joe Fox and I were interviewed.
- Distributed final reminder/invitation to Rural Fire Show through Constant Contact, Oct. 24.

### **Meetings and Events**

- Attended/photographed/presented at Prescribed Burn School at Camp Robinson (Little Rock), Oct. 4-7.
- Attended and presented at AFC Quarterly Board Meeting at Monticello, Oct. 14.
- Attended District 4 Meeting in Camden, Oct. 20 (to discuss new Arkansas Agriculture Department Media Policy and the Jr. Wildland Firefighter Guide).
- Attended Public Information Officer Meeting at the Capitol, Oct. 21.
- Attended District 1 Meeting in Monticello, Oct. 24 (to discuss new Arkansas Agriculture Department Media Policy and the Jr. Wildland Firefighter Guide).
- Attended Tree Farm Tour, coordinated by the Arkansas Forestry Association, Oct. 27.
- Attended Rural Fire Show, Oct. 29
- Attended District 7 Meeting in Conway Oct. 31 (to discuss new Arkansas Agriculture Department Media Policy and the Jr. Wildland Firefighter Guide).

### **Forestry Resources**

- Continued edits/development of Poison Springs State Forest Guide, 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 also uploaded to the website as a printable document.
- Completed partial re-order of Smokey supplies, specific to the requests/needs of District Offices.

### **General**

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department monthly Newsletter, 10/6.

### **October AFC Social Media Update**

- Facebook – 14,939 Likes (up from 14,805 in September)
- Twitter – 6,470 Followers (up from 6,382 Followers in September)



# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 2016

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(407,774.12)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(407,774.12)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(234,864.77)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	(590.19)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(235,454.96)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(4,765.43)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(31,190.25)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(35,955.68)	
4040008000 FIRE PROTECTION TAX	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 FINES	(250.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(250.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(300.00)	
** OR - Rents	(300.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(9,000.00)	2000 Gallon Tankers
4047003000		
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATE	(500.00)	Fire Show Donations
4047021000 OPERATING		
DONATIONS	(100.00)	Fire Show Donation Correction
6200003000 Other Donations	(36,000.00)	DoD Freightliner Tractor Truck
** OR - Miscellaneous	(45,600.00)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR		
SERVICES	(25,194.84)	Prescribed Burn/Fire
		Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(512.00)	Trees of
4048019000 RESALES	(49,642.01)	AR
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(75,348.85)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.11)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.11)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(115.95)	Cell Phone Overpayment
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(115.95)	
4050004000 FED		
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(412,585.18)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(412,585.18)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	12,233.23	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	4,986.81	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	1,148.00	
** Treasury Charges	18,368.04	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	792,837.95	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	8,954.48	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,449.22	

5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,068.85	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	120,435.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,400.25	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	112,472.11	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	2,457.17	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>	<b>1,100,475.03</b>	
5020001000 Postage	418.96	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	12,575.78	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	7,912.62	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	2,285.11	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	62.47	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>	<b>23,254.94</b>	
5030001000 Printing	222.92	
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	300.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	470.84	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>	<b>993.76</b>	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	27,867.99	Finishing new Saline County Workcenter
5030005100 Pest Control Cl 02	2,630.88	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	5,232.54	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	20,244.64	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	14,644.13	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	56,453.56	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	100.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>	<b>127,173.74</b>	
5040001000 Electricity	9,273.53	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,650.23	
5040003100 02 Water	28.11	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	1,329.96	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	6,808.97	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	1,290.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,762.89	Copiers & Stamps
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	43.20	
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>23,186.89</b>	
5050001000 02 Mileage	217.15	
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,174.72	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,031.39	
5050004100 09 - Meals	36.35	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	2,774.72	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000 02 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL	8.00	



5050012000 09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	0.00	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	2,921.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	0.00	
5050020200 02Bd Mmbr Trav Lodg	0.00	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	937.44	
5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub Cl 02	0.00	
5050024000 NBR Travel/Sub Cl 09	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>12,100.77</b>	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	47,950.00	Western Pilot
5060001100 Reimb Prof & Adm	0.00	
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,352.81	
5060006000 Lab Diagnostic Svc	0.00	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	203.00	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>49,505.81</b>	
5070001000 Surety Perform Bonds	0.00	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
5080001000 M&R Service Fees	0.00	
5080005000 Cash Fund Svc Chg	0.00	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	19,540.00	Southern Forestry Nursery Coop Southern Group
5080009000 Janitorial Service	912.10	
5080010000 Laundry Uniform Svc	8.00	
5080011000 02-CONTRACT FOOD SER	0.00	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,428.20	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	18,539.06	Baucum Nursery & Bluff City
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	36.00	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	60,300.00	Fire Protection Equipment
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>100,829.36</b>	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0.00	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	86.99	
5090004000 Tires	9,990.97	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	28,002.45	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	16,602.62	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	4,819.88	
5090006000 Office Supplies	7,693.05	
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	443.36	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	38.53	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	2,742.82	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	6,356.26	
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000 Food Purchases	1,813.14	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	416.85	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,270.88	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	19,363.49	

5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	8,553.10	
5090026000 DP Supps	1,915.65	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	45,207.31	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	56,942.57	Two Way Radios
		Landscape rake( Bluff City)
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	56,942.57	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	269,202.49	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	52,087.46	FireWise & SPB Grants
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	52,087.46	
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	550.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	550.00	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	64,195.00	DoD Donated Truck
		is included in this number
** Capital Outlay	64,195.00	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	91,824.33	
** Depreciation/Amortization	91,824.33	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	598.33	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	598.33	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00	
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(943,079.44)	
6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	(29,499.01)	
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100 GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(972,578.45)	
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	48.45	
** Prior Year Adjustment	48.45	
*** BALANCE	0.00	