



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

January 9, 2016

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 December 2016

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Act 59 of the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 2015 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 December 2016.

Arkansas's largest Champion Tree, with a Bigness Index of 668.07, is the Bald Cypress. In December, a group of AFC officials and a THV 11 media crew hiked to the tree to re-measure it, as the most recent numbers were from 2004. The group found the tree to be healthy and still growing, having expanded by 7.2 inches in circumference, and six feet in height.

The Arkansas Champion Tree Program highlights the importance of Arkansas forests and engages Arkansans in tree health. The THV 11 Champion Tree feature story helped to personalize forests through the Bald Cypress in the Lower White River Wildlife Refuge, and highlighted the role that AFC foresters and officials play in maintaining forest health and educational forestry programs.

As you can see, we at the AFC enjoy working with Arkansas's forests, public and media partners to ensure Arkansans understand the beauty and wonders of healthy Arkansas forests.

Respectfully yours,

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 December 2016 Activity and Fiscal Report

### FIRE PROTECTION

**Wildfires:** During December a total of 75 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1,105 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 December 2016, 15 rural fire departments (269 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. RFP received 3 Freightliners (valued at \$498,669.00) from Department of Defense (DOD). There was one Department of Defense (DOD) vehicle and equipment issued to VFDs including one Freightliner (valued at \$166,223.00). 93 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFD's (valued at \$2,357.55) including: Work Gloves. FEPP (Federal Excess Personal Property) equipment received include two boats, two trailers and three motors (valued at \$47,842.89), two bumper jacks and one transmission jack (valued at \$1,699.98) for shop use. One FEPP boat (with trailer and two motors) was issued to VFD's (valued at \$47,120.91).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on 10 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 160 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In December Firewise achieved the following:

1. Conducted two Initial Presentations and four risk assessment trainings
2. Visited 20 communities for annual Firewise visits and new visits
3. Finished paperwork for a total of 166 new and renewal Firewise communities for 2016
4. Set goals for Firewise 2017

**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 December, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened three dumping, 12 fires, and six timber cases.

AFC Law Enforcement Investigators and Law Enforcement Officers assisted other agencies in Waldron, Mountain View, and Clinton with the Shop with a Cop Programs.



## **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 4,917 landowners owning 901,819 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,313 Forest Stewards owning 284,560 acres.

For December, eight FSP plans were prepared on 1,918 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 21 rural forestry management plans on 2,045 acres. AFC personnel conducted eight prescribed burns on 252 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 Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) recently completed their urban forestry grant project which was funded through a grant from the USDA Forest Service. The BWA achieved the project goals of their grant by developing a work plan to meet with elected officials, city staff, and community volunteers in cities that did not currently participate in the Tree City USA program. The plan includes educational programming to help the communities learn more about the benefits of urban forestry. It involves outreach and education to community volunteers, leaders, and decision makers. BWA also distributed educational messaging to 11,200 landowning families, established seven urban forestry demonstration sites, and conducted 12 forums that convey forest and urban forest management principles. Five educational programs were provided to the public over a six-month timeframe. The meetings focused on the impact of water quality from anticipated land use changes in the Beaver Lake Watershed. The communities of Elkins, Huntsville, Greenland, Winslow, St. Paul, Goshen and Fayetteville all benefited from the grant. Goshen and Winslow passed tree ordinances and developed tree boards. The Community of Winslow will be awarded Tree City USA this year.

**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.

- The Forest Health Specialist is promoting the use of the Southern Forest Health website. This website, created by Southern Regional Extension Forestry, offers up-to-date information on many forest pests, both invasive and troublesome native pests. This includes insects, fungi, and plants. The website offers webinars on subjects important to southeastern forests.  
[www.southernforesthealth.net](http://www.southernforesthealth.net)



- Every year since 2003, the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program has provided cost-share incentives for practices that prevent bark beetle outbreaks. AFC county foresters signup and monitor landowner projects. Thinning is a proven method to lessen forest health issues and increase long-term economic value. The story map provided by the U.S. Forest Service can be found at the following web-address:  
<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=64cda6d74a5749efbe300fe83806d442>

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

Seedling sales began on July 15. Through December 23, there were 420 on line orders and 87 traditional orders for total sales of 2,306,720 pine and 4,750,175 hardwood. Comparatively, in the same period in 2015, there were 418 on line orders and 67 traditional orders for total sales of 1,113,500 pine and 2,684,950 hardwood.

Lifting of seedlings began on December 12. A total of 756,075 seedlings were lifted and packed during the month of December. 548,900 total bare root seedlings were shipped. Baucum received 4,000 containerized shortleaf, 3,000 containerized 3-star loblolly and shipped 1,250 containerized seedlings. They also received 12,266 lbs. of various oak seed.

**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 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.

In December the Tree Improvement staff did a complete inventory of orchard 1713 which included making I.D. tags. Applied gopher bait in orchards 1718, 1719, 1720 and 1721. Organized grafts to be planted in production orchards and breeding orchards. Bush hogged future water oak orchard site and isolation strips around orchards. Two members of the Tree Improvement staff attended 4-wheeler and UTV training classes.

Reforestation Manager gave a presentation to the Ouachita Chapter of the Society of American Foresters on December 1. The presentation covered tree improvement and seedling production with emphasis on hardwoods.

Reforestation Manager and Nursery Manager hosted a tour of Baucum Nursery for the National Champion Forestry Team for both 4-H and FFA on December 2. The tour was coordinated through Tamara Walkingstick and Kyle Cunningham from the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.

**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 Cleburne County with three participants. Participants consisted of two Landowners and the AFC's BMP coordinator. The exam addressed the Arkansas Forestry Commission's BMP Program. The BMP Coordinator provided copies of Arkansas'

BMP Implementation Reports, AFC's manual "BMPs for Water Quality Protection", the water quality complaint process and MOU with ADEQ.

The BMP coordinator represented the Department of Agriculture at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Review of the Assessment of Methodology for the 2018 303 (d) listing cycle. This workgroup is made up of 30 educated and informed individuals invited to provide input. During our first meeting we discussed the Assessment Methodology, General Standards and Biological Integrity. The second meeting we discussed Specific Standards, Turbidity and Dissolved Oxygen (other than continuous data). The group will continue to work into 2017.

**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 50 plots for the month of December. We are 67% complete with the 2016 survey.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Arkansas Forestry Commission Communications Update: December, 2016**

#### **Media Update**

- Coordinated story for the Hot Springs Sentinel Record (newspaper) discussing wildfire preparedness in the Hot Springs area, as a result of partners including the AFC, city fire department, volunteer fire departments, and residents, Dec. 8.
- Helped to circulate and feature on social media: Congressman Bruce Westerman of Arkansas is the recipient of the 2016 Bernard L. Orell Award for leadership in forest policy, from the National Association of State Foresters, Dec. 9.
- Arranged for feature story on KTHV 11 news (with reporter Meredith Mitchell) of the re-measuring of Arkansas's largest Champion Tree. A group of AFC officials hiked into the White River Wildlife Refuge with KTHV 11 media crew and provided multiple interviews about the value of Champion Trees, program details, and the measurement process for Big Trees, Dec. 15.

#### **Meetings and Events**

- Attended Arkansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Hot Springs, Nov 30-Dec 1.
- Provided AFC overview presentation to Pine Bluff Rotary Club (also included County Forester Trey Franks), Dec. 1.
- Attended annual Wilson BBQ event, (this is a casual networking event, with forest industry attendees and state leaders in attendance), Dec 13
- Attended Information Network of Arkansas meeting to discuss future website updates from the AFC/AAD, Dec. 14.



- Attended and photographed the annual Tree Farm Luncheon (hosted by the Arkansas Forestry Association to honor the involvement of partners – mainly including the AFC – in Tree Farm Inspections), Dec 16.

## General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department monthly Newsletter.

## AFC Social Media Update

- Facebook – 15,864 Likes (up from 15,530 in November)
- Twitter – 6,637 Followers (up from 6,578 Followers in November)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 2016

.	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(338,167.57)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(338,167.57)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(441,049.65)	
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(441,049.65)	
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(174,280.44)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(217,878.19)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(392,158.63)	
4040008000 FIRE PROTECTION TAX	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 FINES	(187.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(187.00)	
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(200.00)	
** OR - Rents	(200.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0.00	
4047003000		
CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATE	0.00	
4047021000 OPERATING		
DONATIONS	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	0.00	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(18,782.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(448.50)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(26,387.98)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(45,618.48)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.11)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.11)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(232.93)	



<b>** OR - Grants and Reimbursements</b>		(232.93)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE		(43,954.22)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.		0.00	
<b>** Federal Grants and Reimbursements</b>		(43,954.22)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES		10,145.03	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES		12,683.10	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES		1,521.87	
<b>** Treasury Charges</b>		24,350.00	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries		773,651.02	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.		0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits		0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal		6,838.90	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries		1,285.41	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp		55,820.14	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL		120,435.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP		4,316.67	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp		110,417.27	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp		0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All		1,600.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>		1,074,364.41	
5020001000 Postage		1,051.93	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired		6,673.57	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless		10,039.31	
5020004000 Network Services Exp		10,250.61	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech		111.32	
5020005000 Freight		590.50	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com		0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>		28,717.24	
5030001000 Printing		535.19	Firewise Oval Stickers
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub		0.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate		9.04	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc		435.96	Camden News
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.		0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>		980.19	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint		21,624.43	Demolition, Asbestos Removal, Gravel-BN
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02		488.26	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint		0.00	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint		12,827.85	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint		19,460.53	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint		18,803.72	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint		19,404.14	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint		203.09	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.		0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>		92,812.02	
5040001000 Electricity		10,261.48	
5040003000 Water & Sewage		8,932.71	Bluff City/Dave Bowling paid \$5,000 in advance and there was a bad water leak and timer that brought about a \$2,066.68 bill.
5040003100 02 Water		0.00	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane		2,758.05	



5040005000	Rent of Facilities	7,959.20	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,317.41	Copiers & Stamp machines for various offices
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	130.00	PO Box and PO Box Renewal
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>		<b>32,448.85</b>	
5050001000	02 Mileage	409.21	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,364.45	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	5,505.11	
5050004100	09 - Meals	197.19	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,393.58	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	33.61	
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		36.00	
5050012000	09 PRKNG FEES		
TRAVEL		0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	56.56	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,610.07	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,049.80	
5050020200	02Bd Mmbr Trav Lodg	0.00	
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	0.00	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>11,655.58</b>	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	32,568.39	Prescribed Fire Workshop; Baucum
5060001100	Reimb Prof & Adm	0.00	
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00	
5060006000	Lab Diagnostic Svc	0.00	
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00	
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	190.00	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>32,758.39</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	325.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	457.80	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	0.00	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	702.19	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	9,152.55	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	12.61	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	66.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	49,050.00	Fire Protection Equipment
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>		<b>59,766.15</b>	
5090001000	Road Pub Area Mats	0.00	



5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	5,434.55	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	16,698.32	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	9,687.67	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	7,545.59	
5090006000	Office Supplies	6,131.72	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	39.57	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	918.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	8,972.79	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	4,349.56	
5090019000	Food Purchases	155.69	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	528.64	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,162.27	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	62,298.23	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	1,786.19	
5090026000	DP Supps	2,762.14	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	545.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	27,890.35	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	2,808.48	Computers
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	2,808.48	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	162,523.24	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	32,100.66	SPB; Firewise
5100005100	02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
5100008000	NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	32,100.66	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	225.00	Seedling Refunds
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	225.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	35,760.39	Cargo Trailer- Baucum, Land Purchase, Generator
**	Capital Outlay	35,760.39	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	91,242.99	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	91,242.99	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
6060004200	InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00	
6060004299	NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(822,180.39)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(18,164.53)	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	8,750.00	Harrell Settlement/Claim
6061004100	GR RECLAIM XFER OUT	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
**	Transfers In/Out	(831,594.92)	
6990001000	Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	



** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00	
*** BALANCE	0.00	