

## ARKANSAS AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION ARKANSAS LIVESTOCK & POULTRY COMMISSION ARKANSAS STATE PLANT BOARD



1 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205 | (501) 225-1598 | AAD.ARKANSAS.GOV

August 9, 2017

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 2017

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 July 2017.

With the continued rainfall and high humidity, AFC was able to allow some qualified personnel to assist with wildfire suppression in our western states.

A twenty man crew, made up of AFC personnel, United States Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs, known as the Razorback Crew, traveled from Arkansas to assist with the wildfires in Montana. The Razorback Crew was first sent to assist in the Lodgepole complex, then sent to assist on the Lolo fire.

This type of partnership allows AFC personnel to gain fire behavior and tactical experience, while building strong partnerships and friendships that last a lifetime.

AFC, when possible, allows our personnel to take leave, assist with western fires and gain these partnerships and friendships that they bring back to Arkansas to help suppress wildfires here.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward









# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION July 2017 Activity and Fiscal Report

#### **FIRE PROTECTION**

**Wildfires:** During July a total of 29 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 107 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of July is 134 wildfires for 1709 acres burned.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** An AFC crew from Benton County assisted in a search and rescue for an elderly woman off Carlton Road, approximately four miles west of Decatur.

**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 2017, eight rural fire departments (126 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training.

RFP received one-Freightliner (Valued at \$166,223.00), one-Commercial Freightliner (Valued at \$87,184.00) and two-Chevy Blazers (Valued at \$65,980.00) from the Department of Defense (DOD) for use by Arkansas Firefighters.

There were two DOD vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including one-Freightliner (Valued at \$166,223.00), one- Brush Truck (Valued at \$15,751.00) and two John Deere mowers (Valued at \$600.00).

There was one set of FEPP (Federal Excess Personal Property) equipment issued to a fire department described as:

One-boat (with trailer and motor) (Valued at \$ 15,000.00)

555 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFDs (Valued at \$29,968.43) including: industrial goggles, spotlights, backup lights, military cans, grab hooks, flashlight holders, hand hammers and safety cans.

Rural Fire provided one-interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund in July 2017.

Wheeler FD 2000 Ford F-450 Brush Truck \$15,000.00 Washington Co. D-6

The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven AFC vehicles and four DOD vehicles.

The 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant information packets, including applications, were sent to District Foresters for distribution to Volunteer Fire Departments. The deadline for VFD application submissions are August 25, 2017.

**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 167 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In July, Firewise staff:

- Conducted 2 Initial Firewise presentations
- Participated in National Firewise webinar portal training
- Conducted interviews for Firewise PIO position

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. AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers opened four dumping, one fire related, and seven timber cases. They closed six dumping, three fire related, one equipment theft/vandalism, and five timber cases.

Two Law Enforcement Investigators assisted the Livestock and Poultry Division with a case in Jackson County.

### 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 4,947 landowners owning 907,082 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 284,249 acres.

For July, 19 FSP plans were prepared on 1,750 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 118 rural forestry management plans on 4,963 acres. AFC personnel conducted 4 burns on 177 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 urban forestry staff have been busy getting community pass through grants completed. The largest one is the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council (AUFC) two year \$30,000 agreement. Staff organized and distributed potted trees for AUFC as part of their ReLeaf program. Staff assisted in providing seedlings to 200 landowners that had lost trees due to tornados and wind storms. Staff helped the Little Rock Air Force Base with diagnosis of their sick and dying trees on campus. Staff attended several Tree Board meetings with various communities.

**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.

- Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Update:
  - o An AFC trap located in Ashley County caught two SPB this year. However, this detection should not alarm forest land managers. The beetle has been elusive in Arkansas for over a decade, but an improved lure combination can now detect low level populations. The pine in this area is being closely monitored.
  - Mississippi is currently experiencing major SPB outbreaks on their national forests, i.e., more than 3000 recorded spots. It will be important for states west of the Mississippi River to monitor for any resurgence of SPB activity in the coming years.
- Chandler has conducted several aerial surveys to scout areas for forest disturbances. Fortunately, at this point in the year, it appears that very few issues were noticeable from the air. One wide scale issue that was mapped was jumping oak gall (a tiny wasp that causes white oak leaves to turn brown and defoliate), and it was visible in most oak dominated ecosystems in northern Arkansas and parts of Missouri.

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

Seedling sales began on July 15 for the 2018 planting season. Seedling sales reports for FY17 will begin in August. We contacted all 35 preorder customers to encourage them to convert their preorder to an order; 14 of those customers followed through with an order for a total dollar value of \$28,490. We also had one of large customer's pre-pay \$200,000 for the FY18 crop.

A recap of FY17 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 FY16, FY17 and the variance between the two years.

SEEDLING SALES BY COOLER LOCATION						
	HARDWOOD			PINE		
LOCATION	FY 16	FY 17	VARIANCE	FY16	FY17	VARIANCE
D1 Monticello	48,475	39,550	(8,925)	44,600	39,025	(5,575)
D2 Dierks	34,175	36,900	2,725	341,650	360,675	19,025
D <sub>3</sub> Forrest City	113,425	78,825	(34,600)	4,400	8,850	4,450
D3 Jonesboro	217,375	78,725	(138,650)	23,650	8,100	(15,550)
D3 Stuttgart	12,525	53,025	40,500	1,500	0	(1,500)
D4 El Dorado	5,275	3,700	(1,575)	36,025	189,775	153,750
D4 Stamps	7,000	42,150	35,150	40,600	87,600	47,000
D5 Malvern	8,675	24,950	16,275	326,325	122,150	(204,175)
D6 Clarksville	29,075	3,600	(25,475)	275,175	106,725	(168,450)
D6 Fayetteville	44,450	7,500	(36,950)	69,000	28,475	(40,525)
D7 Greenbrier	21,275	15,050	(6,225)	68,675	6,400	(62,275)
D7 Kensett	170,100	171,000	900	84,425	33,025	(51,400)
D8 Ash Flat	6,150	22,375	16,225	44,800	8,700	(36,100)

D8 Mt. View	975	750	(225)	12,425	31,550	19,125
TOTAL REMOTE	718,950	578,100	(140,850)	1,373,250	1,031,050	(342,200)
Baucum	2,862,750	4,483,600	1,620,850	779,650	1,336,805	557,155
GRAND TOTAL	3,581,700	5,061,700	1,480,000	2,152,900	2,367,855	214,955

Baucum Nursery staff conducted the following cultural practices for the FY18 crop during the month of July. Used shielded sprayer on all hardwood that were planted five rows per bed and applied Roundup herbicide and Barricade pre-emergence herbicide. Made two applications of 46-0-0 fertilizer on all pine and hardwood. Top pruned all hardwood. Plowed tractor tire pads between beds, to keep between rows weed free, prevent grass runners from traveling to adjacent beds, help aerate the soil, and keep sides of bed intact. Chopped, raked and leveled soil between fields with an implement called a Do-all. Sprayed Roundup around Fields to help keep weed seed out of beds. Sprayed all riser lines with round up. Pulled weeds in fields. Prisoners from Arkansas Community Corrections worked two days pulling weeds in the fields as well. Sprayed proline, fungicide in fields to control white powdery mildew. Sprayed post herbicide over the top of all hardwoods for jointed grass control.

The Baucum Nursery staff also cleaned out the cooler in preparation for the upcoming lifting season and with the help of Bluff City staff, took the John Deere 4040 and the old Kabota in for repairs.

**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.

During the month of July, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following. Potted 150 bare root black walnut into three gal pots for future rootstock. Planted 201 potted pine grafts in orchard. Bush hogged production orchards. Weeded rootstock, containerized 3-star loblolly pine trees and all trees in the greenhouse. Moved two tractors to shop for Baucum.

Reforestation Manager and Nursery Manager attended the Southern Forest Nursery Management Cooperative (SFNMC) annual meeting. This year the meeting was held at Myrtle Beach South Carolina. There were about 50 forestry professionals in attendance for presentations and research reports on nursery management. The meeting covers three days with one day dedicated to a field trip. The field trip this year was to ArborGen Nursery in Blenheim, SC. The tour included review of SFNMC herbicide trials and a demonstration of a new PVC irrigation system. This new system will be tested at Baucum next growing season.

**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 responded to three (3) timber harvesting complaints, two through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), the third by a concerned citizen in AFC District 7 Pulaski County. Both complaints from ADEQ where outside the scope of the AFC MOU with the department of ADEQ and where returned back them. The third complaint is in the process of a site visit to determine if it is a valid complaint.

The BMP coordinator provided one (1) training session this month. Conducted one technical logger training session for Foresters, Loggers and Contractors. The training was held in conjunction with the Arkansas Timber Producers Association (ATAP) for Deltic Timber Company. The training was held in Camden, AR. and was attended by 55 participants.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Committee and the Forum planning committee. The Committee is planning a south central forum to be held at De Gray Lake Lodge in November.

The BMP Coordinator has provided training for AFC field personal to help with the verification of potential survey tracts for the BMP Implementation Survey.

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.

FIA completed 106 plots for the month of July. We are 32.5% complete with Inventory 2017.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

### Media Update

• Distributed to statewide media: "Tree Seedlings for 2018 Planting Season Now Available," 7/20.

### **Meetings and Events**

- Assisted with multiple meetings to develop AFC strategy and input for the updated AAD Strategic Plan for the Governor.
- Attended/assisted with interviews for the Firewise Information Officer position, 7/18 and 7/19.
- Attended and presented at AFC Quarterly Board Meeting, 7/21.
- Highlighted State Forester participation at EPA address to Arkansas agriculture leaders, 7/20.

### Website Updates

- Added Minority Landowner Page among forest landowner resources.
- Updated Emerald Ash Borer map and information to help keep Arkansans informed about movement of the pest.
- Worked to update all dates and prices for the opening of 2018 planting season tree seedling orders for Baucum Nursery.

#### General

• Initiated ordering process for Poison Springs State Forest brochures, additional AFC/Firewise bags for handout at upcoming County Fairs, update of Smoke Management Guidelines resource, and assisted with multiple flyers and press release development for Firewise activities and Smokey Bear events.

## **AFC Social Media Update**

- Facebook 16,897 Likes (up from 16,778 Likes in June)
- Twitter 7,027 Followers (up from 7,007 Followers in June)

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

July 2017

	Balance	
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(343,766.17)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(343,766.17)	
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(88,016.11)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(88,016.11)	
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(104,927.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(104,927.00)	
4042001000 FINES	(148.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(148.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(500.00)	
** OR - Rents	(500.00)	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(15,571.07)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Miscellaneous	(15,571.07)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR		Prescribed Burn/Fire
SERVICES	(11,061.76)	Lane
		Trees of
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(1,132.50)	AR
4048019000 RESALES	(12.54)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(12,206.80)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.05)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.05)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(119,787.30)	Oklahoma-COMPACT/Uniform Allow. Reimb.
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(119,787.30)	
4050004000 FED	(004 007 00)	
GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(324,227.63)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(324,227.63)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	10,312.99	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	2,501.36	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	427.15	
** Treasury Charges	13,241.50	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	757,159.98	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	11,689.65	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	117.68	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	54,617.12	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,230.29	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	110,560.59	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
** Salary Expense	1,058,035.31	
5020001000 Postage	1,451.95	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	14,907.02	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	9,733.66	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,957.62	
5020005000 Freight	298.64	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	28,348.89	

E020002000 Pind Comp Online	40.00	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate  ** Printing & Advertising	13.82 13.82	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint		
5030005100 Pest Control Cl 02	5,234.04	
	430.43	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	3,374.13	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	10,385.60	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	8,047.86	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	8,648.94	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	511.57	
** Repairing & Servicing 5040001000 Electricity	36,632.57	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	10,919.38 3,802.66	
5040003100 02 Water & Sewage	37.48	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	886.91	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	11,871.10	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	1,400.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,908.66	
5040013000 Satellite/cable Serv	1,000.00	
** Utilities & Rent	31,826.19	
5050001000 02 Mileage	1,222.62	
5050003100 02 - Meals	830.40	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	4,796.04	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	16.00	
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	3,420.00	
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	174.40	
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	624.38	
** Travel & Subsistence	11,083.84	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	6,968.00	Consulting fees Stewardship/WAWRP
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	1,006.03	
5060011000 Direct Prov Svcs	425.15	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	3,630.62	
** Professional Services & Fees	12,029.80	
5070001000 Surety Perform Bonds	1,265.89	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	103,212.00	Annual Payment
5070007000 Other Insurance	30,310.80	Annual Payment/Building
** Insurance & Bonds	134,788.69	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	1,945.30	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,309.81	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	9,539.58	Baucum Nursery
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	84.89	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
** Other Expenses & Services	13,011.58	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	2,350.23	
5090004000 Tires	4,971.87	
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	16,734.68	
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	6,864.63	
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	862.98	
5090006000 Office Supplies	3,730.40	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	172.80	
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	386.03	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	3,615.79	
5090019000 Food Purchases	781.41	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	65.48	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	540.25	

		Letter
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	266.09	
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	4,888.87	
5090026000 DP Supps	4,153.78	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	14,289.50	
5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	(102.41)	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	38,539.65	
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	23,040.30	Computers, HVAC Systems, Mobile Radios
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	23,040.30	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	149,192.63	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	55,223.45	Urban, SPB, MIT
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	55,223.45	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	148.99	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	148.99	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301 RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	41,023.95	Vehicle-FIA; WINCH; MFG Home
** Capital Outlay	41,023.95	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	98,506.10	
** Depreciation/Amortization	98,506.10	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	5,000.00	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(610,540.16)	
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(56,952.00)	
6061002000 Intra-Agy Xfers Out	27,845.00	
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	63,680.00	
** Transfers In/Out	(570,967.16)	
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	(121.87)	
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	(16,241.27)	
** Prior Year Adjustment	(16,363.14)	
*** BALANCE	0.00	

