



ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

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



WES WARD
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

January 5, 2018

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jim Dotson
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for December 2017

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Dotson:

Per Section 42 of Act 841 of the 2017 Regular Session, the Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for December 2017.

During December, AFC crews suppressed 150 wildfires for a total of 1504 acres burned. At the peak of fire activity, 70 active Burn Bans (mid-month) were issued in the state of Arkansas. All Burn Bans were lifted by December 26 as much needed rains around the holidays gave Arkansas a break from the high fire danger around the state.

In 2017, 1,566 wildfires burned 27,549 acres in Arkansas. This is the highest wildfire frequency year since 2012 when 2,148 wildfires burned 34,434 acres. Overall, wildfires were larger in 2017 with an average size of 17.6 acres compared to a 10-year average of 15.5 acres. The highest wildfire frequency month was November when 316 wildfires burned 5,858 acres.

No one was injured to our knowledge. We are proud of all at AFC.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward





ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION December 2017 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During December, a total of 150 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 1504 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of December is 61 wildfires for 753 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: An AFC crew assisted in a search and rescue for a man in the Glencoe area in Fulton County.

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 December:

- 47 rural fire departments (155 firefighters), were provided wildland fire training, including eight-AFC personnel in attendance.
- RFP received five service trucks (valued at \$70,215.20), one Chevy brush truck (valued at \$14,690.00), one generator with trailer (valued at \$20,039.00) and one International dump truck (valued at \$86,051.00).
- There were four Department of Defense (DOD) vehicles and other equipment issued to VFDs including three Freightliners (valued at \$403,278.00) and one International dump truck (valued at \$86,051.00).
- 55 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items were received for redistribution to VFDs (valued at \$9,175.20), including combat boots and ballpoint pens.
- RFP provided one interest free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund.
Crawfordsville VFD \$5,975.46 '02 Freightliner Crittenden Co. (Minority) D-3
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on five AFC vehicles, including completion of repair work on a 710A Champion Road Grader for Poison Springs State Forest and one DOD vehicle.
- 2017 Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WFVF) Grant update: the requisition for PPE was sent to the purchasing office for bids and the requisition for leaf blowers was submitted as well. We are currently waiting on bids for the remaining items from vendors.

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 175 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in December:

- Delivered National Program Recognition plaques and signage to five new Firewise sites

- Attended a Fire Chiefs meeting in Perry County to deliver initial informational presentation
- Attended NFPA Webinar training for national Firewise program information updates
- Assisted a new community in creating their Community Wide Protection Plan (CWPP) and completing their Firewise application

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 two dumping, eight fire related and one timber theft cases. They closed two fire related, five timber theft and two dumping cases.

An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator participated in “Shop with a Cop” program in Waldron.
An AFC Law Enforcement Investigator participated in “Shop with a Cop” program in Clinton.

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 4,758 landowners owning 869,558 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,299 Forest Stewards owning 280,476 acres.

For December, six FSP plans were prepared on 512 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 38 rural forestry management plans on 3,402 acres. AFC personnel conducted one prescribed burn on 189 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.

Urban forestry has been implementing programs and planning more progress for the future. Urban Forestry Staff attended trainings including grants training and Project Learning Tree (PLT). The PLT training was highly inspirational and will be implemented in programs in the future. Urban Forestry has been working at receiving and reviewing all of the Tree City USA applications before they are sent to the Arbor Day Foundation.

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.

Ips Pine Engraver Beetles:

- 102 spots of Ips bark beetle infested trees were identified in areas of Clark, Pike, Dallas, Hot Spring and Ouachita Counties. The spots were found during an aerial survey by the forest health specialist. Most spots were only six to fifteen trees in size.
- A press release was made in December to make the public aware of the early indications of an outbreak.
- Cold temperatures effectively halt outbreak expansion. It is unknown at this time if the outbreak will continue to grow when warmer weather returns.
- Forest landowners are encouraged to survey their property and consider salvage operations if a spot is found.

The 2017 Arkansas Forest Health Highlights are now available on the AFC website. This document lists all the major forest health events that occurred in our state. Find it at the following web address:

<http://www.aad.arkansas.gov/foresthealth>

Reforestation: 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.

On December 13, Joe Fox and Doug Akin brought Inoussa Zaki from the fiscal office of The Arkansas Agriculture Department to Baucum Nursery for a tour.

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

- Seedling sales began on July 15
- Through January 1st, there were
 - 552 on line orders and 119 traditional orders
 - Total sales of 1,143,250 pine and 5,023,900 hardwood
- Comparatively, in the same period in FY 17, there were
 - 427 on line orders and 105 traditional orders
 - Total sales of 2,286,500 pine and 4,925,800 hardwood

During the month of December, Baucum Nursery staff completed the following:

- Harvested (lifted) 1,010,472 hardwood seedlings
- Shipped 6,900 containerized pine seedlings
- Shipped 480,950 hardwood seedlings
- Harvested 167 Lbs. of Improved Cherrybark oak from on-site orchard
- Spread sawdust in field 4 to assist in bed stabilization and more uniform germination in the spring
- Re-painted lines in cooler for organization by species
- Received the following seed from suppliers
 - 352 pounds of Cherrybark oak
 - 2,032 pounds of Cow oak
 - 2,000 pounds of Northern Red oak
 - 8,112 pounds of Nuttall oak
 - 2,046 pounds of Overcup oak
 - 3,475 pounds of Bitter Pecan
 - 2,062 pounds of Water oak

- 5,126 pounds of Willow oak

Tree Improvement:

Reforestation Manager completed measurements in the following progeny tests.

- 15 year old loblolly pine test at Malvern; 2,240 trees measured for height and diameter.
- 11 year old improved Cherrybark oak test at Baucum Nursery; 1,560 trees measured for height and diameter.
- 10 year old improved Cherrybark oak test at Baucum Nursery; 750 trees measured for height and diameter.

During the month of December, the Bluff City Tree Improvement staff completed the following:

- Continued pruning orchards
- Winterized greenhouses and orchard water lines
- Processed control cross cones
 - Completed seed extraction in nine of the 25 crosses
- Began inventory of orchard 1718 in order to replace LSG-1604 with LSG-1358 as directed by Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Cooperative.

Best Management Practices: Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) provides Best Management Practices (BMP's) training to loggers and timber companies, conducts courtesy exams prior or during timber harvest operations and addresses logging complaints.

The BMP coordinator responded to one (1) timber harvesting complaint, through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The complaint was found not valid. The BMP Coordinator responded to the complaint by a site visit and followed up with a report back to the ADEQ. The BMP Coordinator continues to work in the field on BMP ground surveys, collecting data on 145 logging sites randomly selected out of the 200 needed. We hope to complete the survey by the end of February 2018, with data analysis and final report published by May 2018.

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 53 plots for the month of December. The 2017 Inventory is now 80% complete.

COMMUNICATIONS

Media Update

- Provided continuous wildfire danger updates via social media posts, radio interviews, and interviews with local newspapers throughout December. At the peak of media interest, we had 70 active Burn Bans mid-month. All Burn Bans were finally lifted by December 26.
- In December, the Arkansas Agriculture Department (AAD) distributed 12 press releases as part of a 12 Days of Arkansas Agriculture campaign. This campaign highlighted different agencies and

programs within the AAD. Press releases, social media posts, and an exclusive hash tag (#12DaysofARAgriculture) were all part of this effort. Efforts and programs within the AFC were highlighted in the following 4 releases:

- “Poison Springs State Forest,” 12/4
- “Pest Experts Protect Arkansas’s Crops from Insects and Diseases,” 12/5
- “Firewise Program Mitigates Wildfire Danger,” 12/11
- “Stewardship Program Helps Landowners Manage Forests,” 12/15
- Distributed to statewide media: “Landowners in Five-County Area May be at Risk of Ips Beetle Outbreak,” 12/15.
 - This release lead to feature stories in local papers, and a radio interview with Chandler Barton.
- Provided minor input and edits for an op-ed from The Nature Conservancy about fire-funding at the federal level, which was published in the Dem Gaz, 12/15.
- The winter edition of Arkansas Wild magazine published a feature story about AFC’s Stewardship Family of the Year – Larry and Shirley Aikman of Yell County – as a result of a press release distributed by the AFC earlier in the Fall.

Meetings and Events

- Provided document draft and coordinated meeting for row crop industry partners regarding Smoke Management Guidelines for Row Crops, 12/14.

General

- Included forestry updates in Arkansas Agriculture Department Newsletter, 12/7.
- Organized Southern Group of State Foresters Communications Committee Monthly Call, 12/6.
- Nominated Rusty Cowart (Garland County) for a national Smokey Bear Award for his role in developing the Jr. Wildland Firefighter Guide, 12/15.

AFC Social Media Update (we had a big increase, due to Wildfire Danger and active Burn Bans)

- Facebook – 18,205, Likes (up from 17,886 Likes in November)
- Twitter – 7,340 Followers (up from 7,268 Followers in November)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 2017

	Balance
4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(374,765.16)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(374,765.16)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(345,414.68)
4031076000 FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(345,414.68)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(174,593.14)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(172,120.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(346,713.14)
4042001000 FINES	(268.00)

** OR - Fines and Penalties	(268.00)	
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(500.00)	
4044003000 OTHER RENT	0.00	
** OR - Rents	(500.00)	
4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	0.00	
4047002000 OTHER SALES	(2,980.65)	Recycling Sales
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0.00	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(34,300.00)	2 Gooseneck Trailers; OSHK Trailer
** OR - Miscellaneous	(37,280.65)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(3,975.00)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(202.00)	Trees of AR
4048019000 RESALES	(37,617.16)	Fire Equipment
4053001200 NBR SALE OF GDS & SV	0.00	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(41,794.16)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.19)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.19)	
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	(338.10)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(338.10)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(153,846.27)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(153,846.27)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	11,242.95	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	10,724.63	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	732.26	
** Treasury Charges	22,699.84	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	793,459.91	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	22,255.05	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	0.22	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	58,366.07	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,860.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,328.67	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	117,731.43	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
** Salary Expense	1,115,801.35	
5020001000 Postage	860.33	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	5,613.98	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	143.73	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,902.80	
5020005000 Freight	193.47	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	8,714.31	
5030001000 Printing	(1.67)	Rebate
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	(131.21)	Correction
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	75.65	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	(57.23)	
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,169.51	
5030005100 Pest Control Cl 02	471.74	

5030007000	Hauling & Moving Exp	0.00
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,143.19
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	16,965.09
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	27,951.55
5030013000	Auto Collision Rep	0.00
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	47,211.00
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	536.55
** Repairing & Servicing		108,448.63
5040001000	Electricity	8,501.25
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,797.84
5040003100	02 Water	0.00
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	4,755.25
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	3,564.50
5040006000	Lease Private Land	180.00
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,679.99
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	203.32
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00
** Utilities & Rent		21,682.15
5050001000	02 Mileage	858.71
5050003100	02 - Meals	706.79
5050003200	02 - Lodging	2,119.98
5050004100	09 - Meals	613.80
5050004200	09 - Lodging	3,617.41
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,751.40
5050006000	09 Common Carrier	400.00
5050010000	09 Ground Transport	53.52
5050011000	02 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	9.00
5050011100	02 VALIDATED PARKING	120.00
5050012000	09 PRKNG FEES TRAVEL	51.44
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	29.25
5050014000	09 Other Travel Exp	607.00
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	405.00
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	345.00
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00
5050020400	02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	0.00
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00
** Travel & Subsistence		11,688.30
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	1,756.00
5060001400	02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	0.00
5060011000	Direct Prov Svcs	0.00
5060016000	NBR PROSVS & FEES	0.00
5080015000	02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	164.00
** Professional Services & Fees		1,920.00
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	0.00
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00
5080001000	M&R Service Fees	56.88
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00
5080008000	Air Observe Crop Svc	4,774.00
5080009000	Janitorial Service	575.10
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD	
SER		0.00
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	845.67

Consulting for WAWRP/STEW/SPST

5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	8,646.64	Baucum Nursery
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	283.23	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	132.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
**	Other Expenses & Services	15,313.52	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	462.96	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	(612.52)	Correction made
5090004000	Tires	8,443.88	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	23,268.85	
5090005100	02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	27,453.42	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	20,346.20	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,862.04	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	195.60	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	0.00	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	5,640.78	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	1,593.64	
5090019000	Food Purchases	479.08	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	379.97	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,082.63	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	146,381.33	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	4,141.80	
5090026000	DP Supps	902.21	
5090026300	02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	0.00	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	1,174.55	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	130.86	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	19.18	
5090037000	Equip Fire Vehicles	9,926.26	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	575.57	Correction for camera being purchased with P-Card
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	575.57	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	257,423.86	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	15,650.00	
5100005100	02-SPONSORSHIPS	0.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	15,650.00	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	6,830.00	
5110008000	License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	0.00	
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	6,830.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
6080001301	RefExpUseTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	42,396.21	Grill Guard for Truck; Taxes for Firewise Truck; D4 Septic Tank
**	Capital Outlay	42,396.21	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	102,888.72	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	102,888.72	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
5130030300	Inter fedxout-warr04	0.00	
6060004200	InterAgy FedRev X In	0.00	
6060004299	NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(723,949.03)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060009000	Motor Veh Tfr In	0.00	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	80,000.00	

6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00
6061004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-Out	0.00
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	0.00
** Transfers In/Out	(643,949.03)
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00
** Prior Year Adjustment	0.00
*** BALANCE	0.00