



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

November 7, 2013

The Honorable Bill Sample
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable John C. Edwards
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for October 2013

Dear Senator Sample and Representative Edwards:

Per Act 434 of the 89th General Assembly, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Arkansas Legislative Council. Please find attached the report for October 2013.

Since 1997, on the last Saturday in October, the Arkansas Forestry Commission has held a Firefighter Appreciation Fire Show at AFC's Rural Fire Protection facility in Greenbrier. The purpose of the show is to recognize the valuable services provided by Arkansas's fire departments. This year over 600 fire department personnel were in attendance to enjoy a BBQ lunch and visit with fire equipment vendors and organizations that provide services to fire departments. Door prizes were awarded to firefighters with the grand prize of a new Hurst "Jaws of Life" equipment set going to the Hardin volunteer fire department in Jefferson County.

We appreciate the partnership AFC has with all the fire departments in Arkansas.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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

Joe S. Fox

cc: DFA Director Richard A. Weiss
Secretary of Agriculture Butch Calhoun



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION October 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During October, a total of 16 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 100 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of October is 104 wildfires for 1,297 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: AFC personnel from Benton, Carroll, and Madison Counties assisted in a search and rescue for an airplane that crashed north of St. Paul in Madison 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 October, 36 rural fire departments (84 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Twenty-nine Department of Defense (DOD) trucks were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 9,832 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items were issued to rural fire departments such as flashlights, safety glasses, gloves, emergency revolving lights, and boots.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on five AFC vehicles and dozers.

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 119 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In October, Firewise staff assisted 65 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted four initial presentations about the Firewise program, five community presentations, one risk assessment training, and conducted six Firewise recognition ceremonies. Firewise staff assisted with the Hot Spring County Health clinic and handed out Firewise information to approximately 2,000 in attendance. Firewise staff attended the Arkansas Fire Academy fire station grand opening and the Arkansas Digital Government Summit. Firewise staff assisted with the Firefighter Appreciation Fire Show in Greenbrier.

Firewise staff visited 13 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 15 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with four county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff worked with the Fire Fighters Memorial Board Committee and the Arkansas Fire Boat Committee.

Firewise staff prepared six media releases, responded to 10 media calls about fire prevention and fire danger and updated the Firewise website and Facebook site.

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 equipment theft and vandalism. AFC aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In October, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 2 fire related, 8 unlawful dumping, 1 logging equipment related and 5 timber theft cases.

AFC Law Enforcement officers attended the Attorney General Office Law Enforcement Summit. AFC Law Enforcement officers completed all AFC county ranger training and firearms qualifications. An AFC Law Enforcement officer spoke at an Arkansas Forestry Association landowner tree farm tour on woodland security and AFC law enforcement authority dealing with rural dumping, fire investigation, timber theft, equipment theft and vandalism.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The 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 a non-industrial private forest landowner interested in managing their property for wildlife, recreation, soil and water conservation, agro-forestry, aesthetics, and/or timber production to have a comprehensive multiple use forest management plan prepared. Private consulting or AFC foresters working in conjunction with private consulting or AGFC private lands wildlife biologists, and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals collaboratively develop the multi-resource management plan for the landowner.

Arkansas has 4,627 landowners owning 849,817 acres enrolled in the FSP. For October, 13 FSP plans were prepared on 1,749 acres. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become certified Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,256 active Forest Stewards owning 283,647 acres.

In addition to the FSP, AFC personnel provide technical assistance through the rural forestry program to landowners enrolled in USDA tree planting and forest management programs such as: the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Wetland Reserve Program. For October, AFC foresters prepared 60 rural forestry program forest management plans on 4,697 acres. In addition, AFC personnel constructed 72,266 feet of fire lanes and conducted 12 prescribed burns on 317 acres.

Forest Health: AFC offers cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work in pine stands as part of a comprehensive federal Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Prevention Program. Federal grant FY 2013 funds have been released to landowners and loggers. Fifty-six projects on 2,215 acres were enrolled. Loggers qualify for an incentive of \$1,000 per tract to harvest timber on tracts 10-20 acres in size. This logger incentive helps cover the cost of moving equipment, logging and haul cost for small tracts.

In October, private landowners were reimbursed for 10 SPB Prevention Program projects covering 353 acres and 3 logger incentives were paid.

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 Arkansas Urban Forestry Council in partnership with AFC and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) held a half-day workshop for individuals interested in becoming certified arborists, accumulating CEU's or in learning more about urban tree management. There were 17 attendees at the workshop. Fourteen attendees turned in evaluation forms and based on the results of the attendance and evaluations we are encouraged to offer this again next year with additional topics.

In the afternoon we gave the ISA arborist certification with six individuals taking the exam. Becoming a certified arborist adds professionalism for individuals who are in the consulting and tree care profession. Some communities now require that tree services are certified in order to work on public property. The AFC has seven personnel who are certified and there are over 75 certified arborists in the state.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. Field inventory in the nursery beds was completed in October. With a field inventory confidence interval of greater than 95%, we estimate 4,630,000 pine and 4,887,200 hardwood seedlings are available for sale this year. AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of October have resulted in 989,250 pine, 875,075 oaks and 523,025 other hardwoods.

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.

AFC completed the pine cone harvest at the Bluff City Tree Improvement Complex in October. This year's harvest resulted in 435 bushels of loblolly pine cones and 10 bushels of shortleaf pine cones to be used for seedling production at AFC's Baucum Nursery. In addition, AFC sold 346 bushels of loblolly pine cones to industry nurseries for approximately \$41,000.

AFC began compiling data from AFC progeny tests in October. Progeny test are established to compare the offspring of different parents. There are a total of 10 tests that are scheduled to be measured this year with a total of 19,936 trees. We have completed measuring 5 of those tests for a total of 9,280 trees.

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 two logger complaints.

The BMP coordinator was asked by the Oklahoma State Forestry Service to provide a technical logger training session for foresters, loggers and contractors in Stillwell, Oklahoma. The training was well attended with approximately 50 participants.

The BMP coordinator participated and made a presentation at the Four State BMP Conference (Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana) which was held in Longview, Texas on October 22 and 23. The Conference covered a board range of forestry water quality topics with speakers from across the Southeast region. The conference participants represented EPA, various states' Department of Environmental Quality, Natural Resource Commission, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, municipal watershed managers, US Forest Service, forest industry, and state forestry agencies in the four state region.

BMP Coordinator continues to participate at a multi-agency unpaved roads working group meeting that seeks to address the challenges and environmental concerns facing the 69,000 miles of rural roads in Arkansas. The group has finalized a draft of the unpaved program, and selected board members which the AFC and the Arkansas Forestry Association will both have a seat at the table. The AFC BMP coordinator will continue to participate and provide guidance for projects and training.

The BMP coordinator continues to participate with the Cooperative Extension Service working group to develop a landowner guide "Arkansas Watershed Stewards" and provide training and resources to watershed groups.

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.

For October, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 17 plots.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. With the loss of Conservation Education staff, the State Forester and other staff conducted media and civic organization presentations that are not included in the district reporting. During October, the districts reported participating in 12 fairs or festivals, 26 news articles, 155 presentations to schools or civic organizations, and 4 radio or television interviews.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

October 31, 2013

4020014000 Timber Severance	(344,179.16)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(344,179.16)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(170,624.85)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(170,624.85)	
4034001000 Rents	(300.00)	
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(300.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(37,187.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(37,187.00)	
4042001000 Fines	(120.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(120.00)	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(18,351.75)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(18,351.75)	
4048019000 Resales	(33,735.48)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(33,735.48)	Firefighting Equipment to Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.04)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.04)	Interests

4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb	(6,000.00)	The Nature
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(1,586.41)	Conservancy
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(7,586.41)	Misc. Reimbursement
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	0.00	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	10,325.37	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	3,121.68	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	1,344.71	
** Treasury Charges	14,791.76	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	805,475.10	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	6,405.70	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	4.60	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,736.34	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,358.64	
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	119,639.77	
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	10,478.58	
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	17,861.18	
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,140,019.91	General Operation & Federal Programs
5020001000 Postage	1,006.37	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,492.03	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	8,301.25	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,469.54	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	5.00	
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	18,274.19	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030001000 Printing	589.25	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	0.00	
5030004000 Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100 NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
** Printing & Advertising	589.25	General Operation & Federal Programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	19,188.40	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	162.05	
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	3.16	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	2,200.22	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	34,357.72	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	12,499.92	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	35,039.10	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	103,450.57	General Operation & Federal Programs
5040001000 Electricity	10,335.12	

5040002000	Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	3,069.83	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	923.90	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	6,765.00	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,897.36	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	257.52	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
** Utilities & Rent		23,248.73	General Operation & Federal Programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	1,006.81	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,018.50	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	3,677.97	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	2,367.40	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	232.75	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	5.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,510.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	150.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	1,228.08	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-		
TRAVEL		18.40	
** Travel & Subsistence		12,214.91	General Operation & Federal Programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	62,288.43	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees CI10	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	448.75	
** Professional Services & Fees		62,737.18	General Operation & Federal Programs
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
** Insurance & Bonds		0.00	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	8,890.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	471.76	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	15,049.37	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	10.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	110.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	4.71	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	41,649.69	
** Other Expenses & Services		66,185.53	Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts. General Operation & Federal Programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	6,664.53	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	61.77	
5090004000	Tires	12,294.08	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	41,361.27	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	28,999.35	

5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	9,195.70	
5090006000	Office Supplies	4,765.21	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	340.85	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	285.05	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	106.75	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	31.49	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	270.62	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	5,895.91	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	68.56	
5090019000	Food Purchases	768.30	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	44.68	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	1,245.86	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	2,442.95	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	2,670.79	
5090026000	DP Supps	4,166.81	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	8,383.67	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	8,383.67	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	138,447.87	General Operation & Federal Programs
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	2,281.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	2,281.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	229,353.10	
**	Capital Outlay	229,353.10	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	141,173.67	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	141,173.67	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	1,176.87	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	1,176.87	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	(228,504.00)	
6060003100	Inter Xfer In Rebate	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(1,050,499.12)	General Revenue Distribution
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR Reclaim Xfer Out	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	1,557.53	
**	Transfers In/Out	(1,277,445.59)	
6990001000	Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	(2,479.85)	
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	0.00	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
**	Prior Year Adjustment	(2,479.85)	
***	BALANCE	0.00	