



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

January 7, 2015

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 2014

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Jean:

Per Act 59 of the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 2014 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 2014.

Arkansas's forests cover approximately 19 million acres or 56 per cent of the State. Since 1978, forestland has increased by more than 1.5 million acres. A large part of the increase in forestland acres is due to private non-industrial landowners converting less productive cropland and pastureland to forestland. To assist with these reforestation efforts, AFC's foresters provide written forest management recommendations to the private landowners. Our Baucum Nursery grows a wide variety and large quantity of tree seedlings for sale to the private landowners. During calendar year 2014, AFC foresters prepared 680 plans on 48,641 acres and tree planting was completed on 183 tracts for 8,948 acres.

Our AFC foresters and rangers are very involved in protecting and helping to maintain Arkansas as "The Natural State."

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe S. Fox".

Joe S. Fox

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



## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION December 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

### FIRE PROTECTION

**Wildfires:** During December, a total of 14 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 194 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of December is 76 wildfires for 1,165 acres burned.

**Search and Rescue Assistance:** An AFC Benton County crew was called to assist in a search and rescue for a missing child 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 December, 28 rural fire departments (69 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. There were 4 Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (valued at \$542,148.00) picked up from military posts. 87 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) items (valued at \$14,126.36) were received for redistribution to VFD's such as air horns, and tire pressure gauges.

RFP provided 2 interest free loans through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund to Waldron VFD (Scott County) for \$12,000 for a 1973 Fire Truck with 2000 gallon tank and Gassville VFD (Baxter County) for \$13,691.37 for a 1992 Freightliner with 2000 gallon tank.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on three 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 139 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In December, Firewise staff assisted 42 communities with Firewise renewal efforts, assisted Hasty, Rock Haven, Cave Creek, Vendor, Curtis, East Camden, and Mt. Judea with Community Wildfire Protection Plans, conducted three initial presentations about the Firewise program, and presented three risk assessment trainings. Firewise staff presented an educational program at Wilmot School.

Firewise staff visited 13 AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 22 fire chiefs to provide information on Firewise. Firewise staff talked with four county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff provided educational material for nine Firewise events.

Firewise staff attended Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial meeting. Firewise staff assisted with 17 media releases and updated Facebook site and [www.arkansasfirewise.com](http://www.arkansasfirewise.com).

**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 4 dumping, 3 fire related and 5 timber theft cases.

AFC law enforcement officers patrolled Poison Springs State Forest camp sites during modern gun deer season.

AFC law enforcement officers assisted with the “Shop with a Cop” program.

## **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 4,687 landowners owning 863,020 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,309 Forest Stewards owning 282,195 acres.

For December, 7 FSP plans were prepared on 405 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 65 rural forestry management plans on 5,443 acres. AFC personnel constructed 40,414 feet of fire lane. AFC personnel conducted 9 prescribed burns on 382 acres.

**Forest Health:** The emerald ash borer quarantine rules were made permanent by the State Plant Board on December 18<sup>th</sup>. AFC and the Plant Board agreed to keep the rules established by the emergency quarantine in September.

The Forest Health section on the AFC website has been updated. The Forest Health website now includes the highlights for 2014 and a section dedicated to invasive pests. Soon, an electronic library of fact sheets for common forest insects and diseases will be available.

**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.

A group of certified arborists and urban foresters were trained for emergency weather damage, disaster response and recovery operations in the cities of Fayetteville and Springdale. Eighteen arborists from six states participated in a mock disaster exercise and were instructed on how to assist communities with debris removal and salvaged trees following severe weather in Arkansas and the Southeast. The event was conducted by the Arkansas Forestry Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

The team conducted the exercise to test and demonstrate its deployment capabilities following a mock snowstorm in late fall. The exercise was implemented in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, the Washington County Emergency Management, the cities of Fayetteville and Springdale, and personnel from state forestry agencies from across the South.

These professionals are becoming qualified to serve on the Urban Forest Strike Teams. The teams move in to evaluate publicly owned trees when a storm creates damage in a community. Their goal is to help reduce risk to people. They also collect data about the amount of remaining debris, which can be used in applying for federal disaster aid. Strike teams benefit communities by saving them time and money for unnecessary tree removal. The Urban Forest Strike Teams also help identify trees that can be safely pruned instead of removed. Crews in hard hats and safety vests were canvassing streets, trails and parks in these two communities, practicing mock post-disaster scenarios. The exercise and data collected during the exercise was provided to the communities.

The mock disaster exercise was implemented to test Urban Forest Strike Team deployment protocol & AFC procedures; refresh Team Leaders and Task Specialists in the rapid tree risk assessment procedure used by the UFST; test new field data collection procedures; and, test deployment under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The Washington County Emergency Management and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management learned about the professional role Urban Forest Strike Teams can play during recovery efforts and the type of assistance communities can receive.

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

Seedling sales for FY15 began on July 15. Sales through the end of December are 959,800 pine; 1,223,550 oak and 723,200 other hardwood.

The field inventory in the nursery beds is complete. Baucum Nursery is estimating 2,345,000 pine seedlings, 2,779,800 oak seedlings, and 1,177,900 other hardwood seedlings. The field inventory includes seedlings sold. Not included in these numbers, the AFC is growing 1.2 million hardwood seedlings under contract for a customer.

At the first of December the Baucum Nursery Manager started the bare root seedling harvest early by lifting approximately half a million seedlings for one of AFC's key account customers. Lifting season officially began on Monday, December 29 and will continue until around the first of March, or when everything has been harvested.

The AFC Reforestation Manager conducted tree improvement and nursery training for landowners in a workshop sponsored by Arkansas Forestry Association and AFC in Sheridan with about 45 landowners and forestry professionals in attendance.

**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.

The total shortleaf pine cone harvest was 881.75 bushels with 395.375 bushels of advanced generation shortleaf and 486.375 bushels of improved shortleaf; compared with only 10 bushels of advanced gen

shortleaf and 0 improved shortleaf last year. Shortleaf cones were not sold; they are all needed for AFC seed inventory and for the shortleaf restoration program.

The Reforestation Manager measured 4 progeny tests that were due before the end of the year. One progeny test was a 15 year shortleaf located near Fayetteville. Washington County Forester and crew did an excellent job of assisting with the data collection. The other 3 tests were close enough to Bluff City that the Reforestation Manager used the new hire at Bluff City Tree Improvement Complex to assist with data collection, and allowed time for general training about that part of tree improvement. There are 3 progeny tests left to measure, which are due before spring. Two 20 year old loblolly pine progeny tests are at Malvern and one 15 year old sweetgum progeny test is at Lonoke.

**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 attended and participated in the Lake Conway-Point Remove watershed meeting.

The BMP coordinator attended the second planning meeting for the Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water facilitated by Kitty Weisman, and lead by Darcia Routh, with Arkansas Department of Health, and John Pennington director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance (BMA). The committee is composed of a diverse group of watershed managers and foresters. One goal of the group is to host a collaborative forum in March or April, 2015, with presentations on various topics that pertain to drinking water and forested watersheds.

The BMP coordinator continues to work with the Southern Group State Foresters (SGSF) Water Resources Committee and SGSF Liaison State Forester Joe Fox. Highlights this quarter are Policy Updates on the EPA Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) recently unanimously called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to withdraw from its proposed Waters of the U.S. rule. The resolution was approved at the NASDA annual meeting.

**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 December, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 73 plots.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Public Information Coordinator (PIC) coordinated AFC Champion Tree Presentation and Program at Dardanelle Forestry Education Day.

- Three field personnel accompanied the PIC to Council Oaks Park for the presentation.
- 40 children were present from Gifted and Talented program in Dover.
- Champion Tree measurement process, Yell County Champion Tree stories, and forestry value to Arkansas were primary focus.

PIC assisted with communication plans for a prescribed burn planned with partners at Petit Jean State Park.



PIC arranged for in-depth article in February (2015) issue of 501 Life Magazine (Conway) about Conway County AFC Crew's involvement in western detail during 2014 wildfire season.

PIC assisted new AFC Entomologist with updating Forest Health pages and links on website, including new Pest Fact Sheets.

PIC assisted AFC Urban Forestry Team with updates to website, including new Storm Preparedness page.

PIC attended Sheridan Landowner Workshop with partners at Arkansas Forestry Association.

- o 8 AFC personnel accompanied representing the local AFC office, Baucum Nursery, and Forest Stewardship programs.

AFC districts reported participating in 24 news articles, 5 presentations to school and civic groups, and 17 festivals or event exhibits.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2014

	<b>Balance</b>	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(340,510.91)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(340,510.91)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(720,644.72)	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(720,644.72)	
4034001000 Rents	(600.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(600.00)	
4037001000 Miscellaneous Income	93.50	Correction from previous month
** SR (1.5) - Miscellaneous	93.50	
4038001000 Timber Sales	0.00	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(236,503.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(236,503.00)	
4040017000 NBR - Other Taxes	0.00	
** OR - Taxes	0.00	
4042001000 Fines	(259.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(259.00)	
4043002100 NBR License & Permit	0.00	
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0.00	
4044004000 NBR - Rent	0.00	
** OR - Rents	0.00	
4047002000 Other Sales	(9,000.00)	Firefighting Equipment VFD (same as 4048019000)
4047001200 NBR Misc. Rev.	0.00	
4047003000 Contributions/Donate	100.00	Fire show donation check (Insufficient Funds)
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(34,968.32)	Trees of AR, Prescribed Burn, Fire Lane, and Etc...
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
6200003000 Other Donations	(70,832.00)	DOD Excess Truck-Donated
** OR - Miscellaneous	(114,700.32)	
4048019000 Resales	(19,572.49)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(19,572.49)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.10)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	Interests
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	0.00	
4050003999 NBR-Oth Grants/Reimb	0.00	



4057003000	Utility Reimbur	0.00	
**	OR - Grants and Reimbursements	0.00	
4050004000	Fed Grants/Reimburse	(411,834.98)	
4050004100	NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
**	Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(411,834.98)	
4090010000	3% Special Rev Fees	10,215.32	
4090020000	1.5% Spl Rev Fees	16,188.61	
4090030000	Additional SR Fees	1,760.27	
**	Treasury Charges	28,164.20	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	796,151.33	
5010001100	NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600	NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	3,505.10	
5010003000	06 Overtime Salaries	0.21	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,069.31	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	118,080.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,343.20	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	117,673.87	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	800.00	
**	Salary Expense	1,097,623.02	
5020001000	Postage	2,269.66	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	15,053.67	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	9,549.95	
5020004000	Network Services Exp	1,644.62	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000	Freight	24.11	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	28,653.33	
5030001000	Printing	52,340.57	Trees of AR Printing Expenses
5030001100	02-Print-AgenPub	0.00	
5030002000	Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	1,155.00	Ad in MFA Magazine
5030004000	Film Processing	0.00	
**	Printing & Advertising	53,495.57	
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	11,114.09	
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	100.74	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	6,616.92	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	20,059.75	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	25,268.95	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	13,395.00	Aircraft Maintenance
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030017000	Software Maintenance	34.98	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
**	Repairing & Servicing	76,590.43	
5040001000	Electricity	12,839.77	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,867.62	
5040003100	02 Water	63.91	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	5,945.76	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	7,944.76	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	190.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,305.69	



5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	0.00	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>**</b>	<b>Utilities &amp; Rent</b>	<b>31,157.51</b>	
5050001000	02 Mileage	183.47	
5050002000	09 Mileage	0.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	2,079.48	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	4,199.61	
5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	794.20	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Prkng Fees Travel	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	351.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	175.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	319.20	
5050023000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0.00	
5050024000	NBR Travel/Sub CI 09	0.00	
<b>**</b>	<b>Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>	<b>8,101.96</b>	
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	36,066.66	Forest Stewardship Consultants and Prescribed Fire School (TNC)
5060001400	02 WC Admin Fee Exp	0.00	
5060016000	NBR Prosvs & Fees	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	2,565.30	
<b>**</b>	<b>Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>	<b>38,631.96</b>	
5070001000	Surety Perform Bonds	668.20	
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	0.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	0.00	
5070010000	NBR - Ins. & Bonds	0.00	
<b>**</b>	<b>Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>	<b>668.20</b>	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	0.00	
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	492.60	
5080010000	Laundry Uniform Svc	237.88	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	0.00	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	754.07	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	17,477.54	November & December Payments
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	48.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	44.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	49,308.04	Loans to Rural Fire Departments
<b>**</b>	<b>Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>	<b>68,362.13</b>	
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	4,318.53	Smokey Bear educational material
5090004000	Tires	2,168.77	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	19,719.31	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	14,208.66	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	1,071.81	
5090006000	Office Supplies	6,686.52	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,329.44	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	0.00	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	199.14	



5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	28.24	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	7,813.35	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	1,568.89	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	380.49	
5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,189.09	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	65,580.89	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	20,116.51	
5090026000	DP Supps	4,969.44	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	1,350.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	8,195.93	Districts 2 and 8 heating systems
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	8,195.93	
**	Commodities, Materials & Supplies	170,090.94	
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	23,085.50	
5100005000	02 Assist Grants Aid	0.00	
**	Assistance, Grants & Aids	23,085.50	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110015000	NBR Ref Taxes Claims	0.00	
**	Refunds, Taxes & Claims	0.00	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
**	Refunds	0.00	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	612,962.14	Land acquisition, mobile radios and repeaters,
**	Capital Outlay	612,962.14	donated DOD truck, and dozer
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	131,057.22	
**	Depreciation/Amortization	131,057.22	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
**	Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	0.00	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(580,922.74)	
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	0.00	
6060008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr In	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR Reclaim Xfer Out	0.00	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061008000	PY Rev/Fees Xfr Out	0.00	
**	Transfers In/Out	(580,922.74)	
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	
***	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	