



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

3821 West Roosevelt Road Little Rock, AR 72204-6396

(501) 296-1940 fax: (501) 296-1949

Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Larry Teague
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Duncan Baird
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for February 2013

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Baird:

Per Act 252 of the 2012 Fiscal Session, Section 50, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Joint Budget Committee. Please find attached the report for February 2013.

Besides protecting Arkansas's forests from wildfires and insect outbreaks, AFC works with landowners to manage a sustainable forest. So far this year, AFC's Baucum Nursery has provided 2.85 million pine seedlings and 3.94 hardwood seedlings to private landowners for reforestation efforts. See section on Baucum Nursery.

During February, AFC foresters and rangers have worked with private landowners to reforest 91 tracts for 3,626 acres. AFC foresters assisted private landowners with forestry management recommendations on 85 tracts for 8,100 acres. See section on Forest Stewardship Program/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs.

I am proud of AFC's work in protecting and conserving Arkansas's forests that provide ecological, environmental, recreational and economic benefits for our citizens.

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
Mr. Kim Arnall



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION February 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During February, a total of 28 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 101 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of February is 131 fires for 2,011 acres burned.

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. RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

In February, twenty- four rural fire departments were provided wildland fire training. Through the Volunteer Fire Assistance federal grant program seventeen rural fire departments were issued \$1,000.00 grant checks (\$17,000) to assist with the purchase of wildland firefighting and personal protective equipment. Ten fire trucks and two 2,000 gallon tanks for tanker trucks were issued to rural fire departments. Fifteen Department of Defense 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. Three boats/trailers and one electric generator were picked up to fill requests by fire departments. RFP provided two rural fire departments loans through the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund for a total of \$29,964.75.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on six 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 in certified Firewise communities. Certified communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In February, Firewise staff assisted five communities/fire departments with renewal efforts. Firewise staff made seven initial presentations about the Firewise Program to fire departments, conducted four Risk Assessment trainings and assisted in one Wildland Firefighting training. Firewise staff created and printed an educational brochure for Arkansas Firewise. Firewise staff worked with six fire departments to provide Firewise program education, assist with recognition efforts and complete paperwork for Firewise grants. Firewise staff held two recognition events for new Firewise fire departments. At this time, 115 fire departments in 32 counties have completed recognition paperwork for 2012.

In addition, Firewise staff visited five AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area. Firewise staff prepared three media releases and responded to two media calls about fire prevention.

Law Enforcement: Forestry Commission has the authority to enforce the State's laws pertaining to unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and equipment theft and vandalism. Forestry Commission aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. In February, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 10 unlawful dumping, 4 fire related, 1 logging equipment vandalism and 2 timber theft cases.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: Forestry Commission works with a diverse group of partners and professionals to conserve, protect, and enhance Arkansas's forest. 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 4,484 landowners owning 823,587 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,267 Forest Stewards owning 277,219 acres.

For February, 23 FSP plans were prepared on 3,178 acres. A landowner that enrolled 230 acres in FSP was certified as a Forest Steward. 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 62 rural forestry forest management plans on 4,922 acres. In addition, AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 2 tracts for 42 acres and constructed 111,239 feet of fire lanes.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. There were 386 tracts totaling 21,550 acres that were planted by private landowners during the last year's planting season (December 2011- April 2012). In February, 70 tracts totaling 2,819 acres were planted in trees.

Forest Health: AFC offers cost-share incentives to landowners for thinning and restoration work in pine stands as part of a comprehensive federal SPB Prevention Program. This program is well-received by landowners. For February, 6 projects on 220 acres were completed.

Often new infestations of tree-killing insects and diseases are first found in campgrounds and parks. The cause is people accidentally spreading these invasive species when they bring firewood along with them. Some invasive species have killed entire species of native trees such as the chestnut oak and Ozark chinkapin. AFC has partnered with DontMoveFirewood.org and others to educate the public on the

hazards of moving firewood. Five billboards advertising this effort were placed along Arkansas interstates for a 4 week period. After 4 weeks the advertisements will be moved to different locations.

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. During the last 2 months the Urban Forestry Program staff conducted six pruning workshops. Attendees to the workshops included AFC District 7 personnel, master gardeners from Baxter, Faulkner and Garland Counties, maintenance employees from Hendrix and UCA colleges and Conway Public Schools, and maintenance employees from Texarkana and De Queen. Over 300 people participated in these workshops so that trees in communities and on campuses will be healthier and safer.

Baucum Nursery: AFC's Baucum Nursery grows hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts. This year's Baucum Nursery inventory consists of 3,771,500 loblolly and shortleaf pine seedlings and 6,050,925 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Baucum Nursery seedling sales to date are 2,859,275 pine and 3,947,953 hardwood seedlings (as of 2-22-13 sales report).

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.

During February, the BMP coordinator provided one technical logger training session, one technical forester training program, and provided one in-house training for new hired rangers (dozer operators). BMP coordinator responded to 2 timber harvesting complaints. The BMP coordinator continues to provide onsite supervision for Central Arkansas Water's BMP fire break/roads project. The BMP coordinator continues to work on a Forest Service grant that will provide funds to design and implement a BMP demonstration on the Poison Springs State Forest. BMP coordinator presented reports at the Arkansas Forestry Association Forest Practices Committee meeting and the Sustainable Forestry Committee 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 February, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 60 plots.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS): On February 5-7, 2013, AFC hosted the annual Southern Group of State Foresters GIS Task Force meeting. Members present included GIS professionals from 11 state forestry agencies in the Forest Service Southern Region. Guests included GIS application development professionals and Forest Service program managers. The purpose of the meeting was to learn what other states are doing with technology to address their state's forestry needs and federal

requirements. Topics discussed were wildfire potential assessment, wildfire tactical tools, mobile phone solutions for wildfire and forest management, and natural disaster and forest pest damage evaluation.

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 February, the districts reported 16 news articles and 89 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 5 tree planting events with communities or schools and provided 3 exhibits at public events.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

		February 28, 2013	
4020014000	TIMBER SEVERANCE	(251,831.99)	
** SR (3.0)	- Taxes	(251,831.99)	
4030002000	ACREAGE TAX	(14,415.78)	
4031076000	FIRE PROTECT/SUPP	0.00	
** SR (1.5)	- Taxes	(14,415.78)	
4034001000	RENTS	(400.00)	
** SR (1.5)	- Rents, Royalties, Leas	(400.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
4038001000	TIMBER SALES	0.00	
4038003000	SEEDLING SALES	(40,457.40)	
** SR (1.5)	- Sales of Agency Produce	(40,457.40)	
4042001000	FINES	(162.50)	
** OR	- Fines and Penalties	(162.50)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
4047099000	MISC REVENUE	(7,439.49)	
** OR	- Miscellaneous	(7,439.49)	
4050001000	NONFED GRANTS/REIMB	(5,660.60)	
4050003000	OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	0.00	
** OR	- Grants and Reimbursements	(5,660.60)	
4050004000	FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(117,169.00)	
**	Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(117,169.00)	
4090010000	3% SPECIAL REV FEES	7,554.97	
4090020000	1.5% SPL REV FEES	736.76	
4090030000	ADDITIONAL SR FEES	829.17	
**	Treasury Charges	9,120.90	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	736,548.27	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	3,524.33	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	52,521.04	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,030.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,090.92	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	104,308.15	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0.00	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	0.00	
5010010000	03 Work Comp Prem Tx	4,438.13	

5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	952.00	
5010014000 02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
** Salary Expense	1,014,412.84	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000 Postage	5,670.10	
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	23,653.30	
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	4,362.44	
5020004000 Network Services Exp	5,153.85	
5020004200 Internet Serv-Tech	0.00	
5020005000 Freight	500.00	
** Communication & Transp. of Commod	39,339.69	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000 Printing	(39.58)	
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	19.51	
5030002000 Bind Copy Collate	0.00	
5030003000 Advertise Clip Svc	6,390.53	
** Printing & Advertising	6,370.46	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	6,433.59	
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	0.00	
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	276.65	
5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	4,012.40	
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	10,363.33	
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	14,850.76	
5030013000 Auto Collision Rep	0.00	
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	(133.90)	
5030016000 DP Equip Maint	0.00	
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
** Repairing & Servicing	35,802.83	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000 Electricity	12,077.96	
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,807.25	
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	6,357.77	
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	4,979.76	
5040006000 Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	1,348.36	
5040009000 Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	3,859.80	
** Utilities & Rent	30,520.90	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000 02 Mileage	205.72	
5050003000 02 Meals & Lodging	0.00	
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,542.00	
5050003200 02 - Lodging	3,463.72	
5050004100 09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200 09 - Lodging	564.30	
5050005000 02 Common Carrier	50.00	
5050006000 09 Common Carrier	50.00	
5050009000 02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050010000 09 Ground Transport	292.13	
5050011000 02 Parking Fees	42.00	
5050012000 09 Parking Fees	60.00	
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	60.00	

5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	163.75	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	1,185.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	103.32	
5050025000	02 GAS PURCH-TRAVEL	0.00	
** Travel & Subsistence		7,781.94	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	10,768.00	Stewardship plans
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	841.20	DOT & pre-employment drug tests
** Professional Services & Fees		11,609.20	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	19,300.00	
5080007000	Tuition & Course Mat	0.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	341.78	
5080011000	02-CONTRACT FOOD		
SER		0.00	
5080013000	Security Services	632.43	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	992.06	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	10,623.19	
5080018000	Salv Demolish Remove	0.00	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	38.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	110.00	
** Other Expenses & Services		32,037.46	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	174.79	
5090004000	Tires	2,181.14	
5090005000	02 GASOLINE PURCH	48,839.17	
5090005200	02 AVIATION FUEL	248.96	
5090006000	Office Supplies	7,160.18	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	142.36	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	(302.93)	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe, Mil Sups	12.94	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	0.00	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	47.88	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	5,063.15	
5090017000	Animal Purch NonCap	0.00	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	100.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	236.14	
5090022000	02-Kit, Jan, House Sup	1,412.07	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	61,116.19	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	20,808.60	
5090026000	DP Supps	3,926.95	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	19.35	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies		151,186.94	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
5110010000	Real Property Tax	523.07	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims		523.07	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5900003000	Capital Outlay	15,252.00	
** Capital Outlay		15,252.00	DFA auto purchase on behalf of agency
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(535,762.36)	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(22.50)	

6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(15,252.00)
6061004299 NBR Fed Rev XFR Out	13,925.64
** Transfers In/Out	(537,111.22)
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