



ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

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B.1

Joe Fox, R.F.
State Forester

April 10, 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 March 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 March 2013.

Former AFC Firewise Coordinator Matt Simpson was laid to rest on April 9, 2013 with full fireman honors at his service. Many members of the firefighting community from across Arkansas attended Matt's funeral.

Arkansas's Firewise program led the nation in number of active Firewise communities during Matt Simpson's tenure with the AFC. Arkansas still leads the nation today.

Before leaving the AFC to take a full-time fire chief position at Lake Hamilton Fire Department, Matt assisted the National Fire Protection Association with production of an educational Firewise DVD that focused on ways fire departments across the nation can use their limited resources to protect their community from a wildfire.

AFC and Arkansas's fire service community will miss Matt Simpson.

Respectfully yours,

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black 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

March 2013 Activity and Fiscal Report

FIRE PROTECTION

Wildfires: During March, a total of 210 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 3,458 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of March is 333 fires for 7,080 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 March, one hundred five rural fire departments (304 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Seventeen fire trucks and four generators were issued to rural fire departments. Nine 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. Four more electric generators were picked up to fill requests by fire departments. RFP provided three rural fire departments loans through the Revolving Fund for a total of \$29,949.00 (Martin Creek- Sharp County, Williams Junction- Perry County, and Wheeler- Washington County).

The RFP shop completed maintenance on seven 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 115 active Firewise communities in 2012. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

In March, Firewise staff assisted three communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, conducted four initial presentations about the Firewise program to fire departments, conducted one risk assessment training and taught one 8-hour Wildland Firefighting class. Eight different fire departments were represented at the Wildland Firefighting class and were provided with Firewise educational materials. Firewise staff held recognitions for two new Firewise communities and assisted with paperwork for two Firewise grants.

Firewise staff visited eight AFC county and district offices to discuss Firewise programs in their area and met with 15 fire chiefs and one 9-1-1 director to educate them on Firewise.

Firewise staff collaborated with the National Park Service to educate the public on a prescribed burn in the Buffalo National Wilderness area. Firewise staff attended the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management county fire coordinators meeting and presented the Firewise program.

Firewise staff prepared three media releases and responded to two media calls about fire prevention.

Firewise staff assisted with the Mid America Center Museum's Keep on Truckin education day and the Hot Springs Village Firewise day.

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 March, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers worked 8 unlawful dumping, 18 fire related, and 3 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 March, 11 FSP plans were prepared on 668 acres. A landowner that enrolled 290 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 45 rural forestry forest management plans on 4,076 acres. In addition, AFC personnel assisted or conducted prescribed burns on 105 tracts for 5,894 acres and constructed 124,861 feet of fire lanes.

AFC assists landowners with reforestation projects. In March, 82 tracts totaling 3,855 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 March, 3 projects on 172 acres were completed.

Southern Pine Beetle training was conducted in Districts 1, 2 and 5 for 27 field personnel. AFC personnel were provided training on SPB identification, life cycle, detection, and control and landowner notification.

In response to the state of Mississippi outbreak of 2012, 6 SPB pheromone traps were placed in March in Desha & Chicot Counties in southeast Arkansas. These traps utilized a special chemical booster in addition to the standard pheromone lure to enhance attraction. These traps were placed at least ¼ mile away from any pine trees to avoid initiating SPB spots.

A forest health meeting was held for the Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association. Major emphasis was on SPB with attention to Ips and invasive species. Approximately 90 people were in attendance.

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.

U&CF partnered with the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council to hold the Arkansas ReLeaf project in Vilonia. The goal of this Arkansas ReLeaf Project was to assist the Community of Vilonia and surrounding Faulkner County in recovering from tree loss caused by tornado damage. Citizens who were impacted by the storm were eligible to receive free trees and hot dogs at the Veterans' Memorial in Vilonia. The fire department and a local business cooked the hot dogs and provided additional food and drinks. Many people were lined up to receive their tree and they were all given away within an hour. A mix of shade trees such as willow oak, red maple, redbud and blackgum were available to help shade homes. The day before the give-away 9 large shade trees were planted at the City Ball Park.

Past projects have included helping the communities of Vilonia, Scotland, Arkadelphia, College Station, Haskell, Sardis, Cherry Hill, Clinton and Mena who were impacted by storms as well.

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 6,071,775 hardwood seedlings of a variety of species. Baucum Nursery seedling sales to date are 3,282,250 pine and 4,118,902 hardwood seedlings (as of 3-29-13 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 March, the BMP coordinator conducted two courtesy exams, participated and made a presentation at the Arkansas Rivers Clean-up meeting in Conway. BMP coordinator attended and participated in an Arkansas Rural Water Association meeting.

BMP coordinator completed a second draft of the BMP program- five year strategic plan. Input for the BMP strategic plan included stakeholder agencies and organizations.

BMP coordinator is providing onsite supervision for the Central Arkansas Water, BMP fire break/roads project. BMP Coordinator continues to work on the USDA Forest Service competitive grant that will provide funds for AFC to design and implement a BMP demonstration area on the Poison Springs State Forest.

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 March, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 63 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 March, the districts reported 9 news articles and 35 presentations to schools or civic organizations, 19 tree planting events with communities or schools and provided 4 exhibits at public events.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 Timber Severance	(255,404.15)	
** Sr (3.0) - Taxes	(255,404.15)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(7,944.96)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	(682.80)	
** Sr (1.5) - Taxes	(8,627.76)	
4034001000 Rents	(300.00)	
** Sr (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(300.00)	Rental of State-owned housing
4038001000 Timber Sales	(307,802.04)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(81,763.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(389,565.04)	
4042001000 Fines	(345.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(345.00)	Fines for illegal burning, dumping
4047002000 Other Sales	(42,215.00)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan collections
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(13,876.50)	Prescribed burns
4047099700 Restitution	(1,819.09)	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(57,910.59)	
4048019000 Resales	(66,982.29)	Rural Fire Revolving Loan resales
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(66,982.29)	
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.04)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.04)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(114,355.01)	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(114,355.01)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	7,662.13	

4090020000	1.5% Spl Rev Fees	7,023.14	
4090030000	Additional Sr Fees	1,468.55	
**	Treasury Charges	16,153.82	Fees charged by Treasury on Special Revenue
5010001000	00 Regular Salaries	753,329.16	
5010002000	01 Extra Help Sal	4,209.34	
5010005000	03 FICA & Medic Exp	53,800.71	
5010006000	03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	108,810.00	
5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,147.94	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	107,050.38	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	400.00	
5010014000	02 Fixed Uniform All	152.00	
**	Salary Expense	1,031,899.53	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5020001000	Postage	1,093.38	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	14,444.43	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	2,123.63	
5020004000	Network Services Exp	2,043.66	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	111.32	
5020005000	Freight	20.79	
**	Communication & Transp. of Commod	19,837.21	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030001000	Printing	1,746.68	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	8,929.04	
**	Printing & Advertising	10,675.72	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	2,862.69	
5030006000	Pub Facility M&O	199.10	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	5,772.85	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	8,679.14	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	8,762.81	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	11,209.71	
**	Repairing & Servicing	37,486.30	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5040001000	Electricity	13,223.30	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	1,907.74	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	4,431.07	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	750.00	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	90.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	1,723.34	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	3,859.80	
**	Utilities & Rent	25,985.25	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5050001000	02 Mileage	567.00	
5050003100	02 - Meals	1,891.43	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	3,784.62	
5050004100	09 - Meals	119.55	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	512.82	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	13.50	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	699.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	180.00	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	485.86	
**	Travel & Subsistence	8,253.78	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	41,650.00	

5080015000 Misc. Technical Serv	847.66	
** Professional Services & Fees	42,497.66	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	125.00	
5080009000 Janitorial Service	450.28	
5080013000 Security Services	2,160.75	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	422.21	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	17,028.43	
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	29.75	
5080020000 Enforce Invest Exp	44.00	
5120011000 Loans to Individuals	55,537.65	Payment for Equipment Rural Fire Revolving Loan
** Other Expenses & Services	75,798.07	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5090004000 Tires	29.63	
5090005000 02 Gasoline Purch	76,270.33	
5090005100 02 Diesel Fuel Purch	17,415.16	
5090005200 02 Aviation Fuel	215.44	
5090006000 Office Supplies	4,523.01	
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	10.00	
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	32.46	
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	4,027.43	
5090019000 Food Purchases	938.19	
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	558.93	
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	662.05	
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	30,393.26	Baucum nursery
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	737.22	Baucum nursery
5090026000 DP Supps	3,919.96	
5090027000 Software/Licenses	2,956.51	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	142,689.58	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	37,662.00	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	37,662.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5110002000 02 Other Refunds	3,840.00	
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	3,840.00	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5900003000 Capital Outlay	153,785.41	
** Capital Outlay	153,785.41	General operations of agency and Federal programs
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	137,617.97	
** Depreciation/Amortization	137,617.97	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(798,068.07)	
** Transfers In/Out	(798,068.07)	
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	

Hall of the House of Representatives

89th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2013

Amendment Form

DRAFT

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1154

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION - DISBURSING OFFICER
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. ___ to House Bill No. 1154

Amend House Bill No. 1154 as engrossed, H4/9/13 (version: 04/09/2013 02:46:30 PM):

Insert an additional section immediately following SECTION 81 of the bill to read as follows:

"

SECTION 82. APPROPRIATION - SAFE HAVEN PROGRAM GRANT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the following:

(A) for a grant for personal services, operating expenses, and programmatic materials for the Safe Haven Program, in a sum not to exceed.....\$100,000."

AND

Appropriately renumber the SECTION numbers of the bill.

DRAFT

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative <NA>

By: Senator Bledsoe

JKG/JKG - 04-11-2013 13:59:53

JKG149

Chief Clerk