



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

H.5

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Cecile Bledsoe
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol

The Honorable Jeff Wardlaw
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol

Re: Arkansas Forestry Commission monthly activity report for April 2021

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw:

Per Section 33 of Act 544 of the 2019 General 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 April 2021.

Urban & Community Forestry began a new "Free Tree Friday" campaign of statewide drive-through seedling giveaways to be held on Fridays in April, culminating on National Arbor Day.

Approximately 4,000 seedlings were handed out at eighteen events during the Free Tree Friday campaign. Eager Arkansans lined up for their turn to receive a seedling or seedlings to plant on their property.

This was a first time for the event and with the great turnout, the Urban & Community Forestry will try to incorporate Free Tree Friday every April.

Free Tree Friday was without doubt a great opportunity to meet and talk with Arkansans about the importance of trees in the Urban setting.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION

Joe S. Fox
State Forester

cc: DFA Director Larry Walther
Secretary of Agriculture Wes Ward



FORESTRY DIVISION

**Arkansas Department of Agriculture (Department)
Forestry Division (Division)
April 2021 Activity and Fiscal Report**

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Wildfires: During April a total of 134 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 3,301 acres burned. Ten-year average for the month of April is 88 wildfires 1,481 acres burned.

Search and Rescue Assistance: Forestry Division crew in Yell County assisted on a search and rescue for a plane crash just north of Bluffton on Dutch Creek Mountain. The ground crew found the plane the next morning. Forestry Division crew in Perry County assisted on a search and rescue for a man lost in the woods along the Saline and Perry County Line. The man was located safe and sound.

Rural Fire Protection: Rural Fire Protection (RFP) assists fire departments (FDs) with organization, training and equipment. RFP provides interest-free loans, secures firefighting and emergency service equipment from the federal government and administers a federal grant to assist approximately 925 fire departments. The RFP shop provides maintenance and refurbishment to federal property destined for FD's and repairs Department of Agriculture equipment as well.

April 2021

- There were eight Wildland Fire Suppression training classes conducted with seventy-four FDs (two hundred fourteen firefighters), including one Forestry personnel and seven minority departments in attendance.
- One freightliner, one generator and one ATV were issued this month (original acquisition cost (o.a.c. \$92,464.88).
- RFP received four hundred eighteen items from the Department of Defense (DOD) Recycling Control Point (RCP) to include battery chargers, spine boards, socket head screws, fire hose racks and other tools (o.a.c. \$446,659.22).
- RFP received one freightliner, one brush truck, one van and two generators (o.a.c. \$277,041.00).
- The RFP shop completed maintenance on four Forestry vehicles and one FD vehicle (labor savings of \$12,818.00).

- RFP provided one interest-free loan via the Rural Fire Revolving Loan Fund:
 - Beaverfork FD (D7, Faulkner Co.) - \$15,000.00 –2021 Dodge Ram 2500 4WD Crew Cab Truck
- Sugar Grove Fire Association, Inc. (Logan Co.) picked up a water skid unit - \$10,100 (old contract). Smyrna Fire Department (Madison Co.) picked up a pump/engine - \$3,200
- The drivers made several trips out of state to Bragg, NC, Virginia, Red River, TX, Connecticut and several in state trips for FEPP removal.
- All items are in for Wildland Kits. Kits for all districts have been distributed.

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 is one of the top states with 96 active Firewise communities. Recognized communities display Firewise signs at the city limits.

Firewise achieved the following in **April**:

- Delivered two initial program presentation to interested fire departments.
- Hosted a booth at Jasper (Current Firewise Community) Information Fair.
- Ordered informational printed materials for convention season, new/updated Risk Assessment Forms for Fire Department use and gathered Smokey Educational Materials order for each of the seven districts, Firewise, Rural Fire and Little Rock office use. (Project Smokey orders to be placed in May (office use) and June (field use) respectively.)
- Firewise efforts by personnel across the state include: eight grant presentations, 27 Fire Chief Visits, one Firewise Project Assist, five Fire Prevention Presentations to Schools and/or Civic Groups, eleven Literature Distributions, two Landowner Assists and three Media Releases/Media Relations events

Law Enforcement: The department has the authority to enforce the laws of the State of Arkansas, but primarily focuses on unlawful dumping, timber theft, forest fires, and forestry equipment theft and vandalism. The department aggressively seeks prosecution of violators to deter such crimes. The department investigators and district law enforcement officers opened three fire cases and ten timber theft cases. They closed one dumping case and one fire case.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest Stewardship/Rural Forestry Assistance Programs: The Forestry Division 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 Division foresters, private consulting or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) private lands

wildlife biologists, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service soil and water professionals. Arkansas has 298,053 acres of private land actively enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Certified Forest Stewards. There are 1,275 Forest Stewards owning 286,554 acres in the State.

During the month of April, five Forest Stewardship management plans were prepared for 515 acres. In addition, Forestry Division 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 the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program. Forestry Division personnel prepared 57 forest management practice plans on 3,243 acres and conducted 53 prescribed burns on 3,163 acres.

Urban & Community Forestry Assistance: Urban & Community Forestry Program staff provide assistance and training to communities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, developers and homeowners on urban tree care, inventory and management.

In April:

- Urban & Community Forestry initiated a new “Free Tree Fridays” campaign of statewide drive-through seedling giveaways held on Fridays in April, which culminated on National Arbor Day. A total of 18 giveaways were held, with 4,000 seedlings distributed.
- School programs celebrating Earth Day and/or Arbor Day were held at various locations across the state, with trees planted and/or seedlings distributed at each one.
- Urban Forestry gave a presentation to the Garland County Master Gardeners on Free Tree Fridays and other Urban & Community Forestry programs.
- The Pulaski County Forester delivered a Nuttall oak tree to the Governor’s mansion to be planted in honor of Arkansans lost to COVID-19.
- Two new Champion trees were named – silver maple and mountain silverbell.
- Nearly all Tree City USA recognition materials have now been delivered to the 2020 communities recognized by Arbor Day Foundation.
- Urban Forestry Coordinator and County Rep. met with the Berryville mayor to provide recommendations on urban trees affected by a \$200,000 town square construction project.

Reforestation: The Forestry Division’s tree improvement program strives to provide landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed. One method The Division employs to achieve this objective is by establishing the highest genetic gain material in our newest pine and hardwood seed orchards. The Division’s Baucum Nursery then makes available to landowners the improved varieties of pine and hardwood, which are the net result of the tree improvement program.

Baucum Nursery: Produces hardwood and pine seedlings for reforestation and afforestation efforts.

Regular season seedling sales began on July 16.

- 2021 (Total through 4-30-21)
 - 987 total orders
 - Total sales of 889,950 pine and 4,185,276 hardwood
- 2020 Comparatively
 - 661 total orders
 - Total sales of 744,850 pine and 6,014,577 hardwood
- Lifted and packed the following:
 - 755,625 pine
 - 4,730,425 hardwood
 - 66,100 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 100,775 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine
 - Total seedlings packed = 5,652,925
- Shipped the following:
 - 764,350 pine
 - 3,999,275 hardwood
 - 55,500 Containerized 3-star loblolly pine
 - 92,900 Containerized Advanced Gen shortleaf pine

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

- Bob Newton (District- 4) continued to repair equipment.
- Applied pre-emergence herbicide to all planted beds.
- Continued setting up irrigation on planted fields.
- Completed spring soil fumigation treatment.

Tree Improvement: The Division's tree improvement program provides landowners with the highest possible genetic gain in pine and hardwood seed.

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

- Staff attended the online Executive Meeting for the Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Program (WGFTIP).
- Prepared rootstock for grafting Burr Oak, Cedar Elm, Cypress and Shumard Oak for improved Urban Forestry seed orchards.
- Delivered potted trees to Jonesboro for urban program.

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

BMP achieved the following April:

- Conducted three visits to Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sale site in Perry County.
- Assisted Nevada County Sheriff's office with referral to ADA LE with timber theft case.
- Assisted landowner with oil spill cleanup on a logging site.
- Attended Drinking Water Group virtual meeting.
- Met with Domtar Forester on review of in-harvesting logging site.
- Delivered BMP Handbooks to AGFC.
- In -woods training for three loggers in Perry County.

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA): Forestry Division 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's natural resource trends through time.

FIA completed 72 plots for the month of April. We are now 36% done with the 2021 inventory.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

4020014000 TIMBER SEVERANCE	(322,151.25)
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(322,151.25)
4030002000 ACREAGE TAX	(134,899.92)
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(134,899.92)
4038001000 TIMBER SALES	(46,084.96)
4038003000 SEEDLING SALES	(34,106.00)
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produced G	(80,190.96)
4042001000 FINES	(100.00)
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(100.00)
4043002100 NBR LICENSE & PERMIT	0
** OR - Licenses and Permits	0
4044002000 FACILITIES RENT	(700.00)
** OR - Rents	(700.00)

4046002000 NON-OP DONATIONS	(1,940.00)	Fire Show Funds
4047002000 OTHER SALES	0	
4047021000 OPERATING DONATIONS	0	
4047041000 VOLUME REBATES	0	
4047099000 MISC REVENUE	0	
6200003000 Other Donations	(9,999.00)	Donated Generator w/ Trailer
** OR - Miscellaneous	(11,939.00)	
4047001600 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(30,644.81)	Prescribed Burn/Fire Lane
4048001000 SALE COPIES PUBS	(291.25)	
4048019000 RESALES	(27,041.40)	Fire Equipment
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(57,977.46)	
4049003000 INTEREST DISTRIB	(0.10)	Trees of AR
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	
4050002000 GRANTSUBGRANT REFUND	0	Misc Refund from Auditor of State
4050003000 OTH REFUNDS/REIMB	(13.17)	
4057003000 UTILITY REIMBUR	0	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(13.17)	
4050004000 FED GRANTS/REIMBURSE	(930,582.16)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(930,582.16)	
4090010000 3% SPECIAL REV FEES	9,664.54	
4090020000 1.5% SPL REV FEES	13,594.81	
4090030000 ADDITIONAL SR FEES	775.31	
** Treasury Charges	24,034.66	
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	790,206.05	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0	

5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	20,599.19
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	1,166.06
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,588.99
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	130,050.00
5010006500 Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,549.08
5010007000 03 Retirement Exp	121,223.04
5010008000 03 Unemploy Comp Exp	0
5010009000 03 Worker Comp Exp	23,441.20
5010010000 03 Work Comp Prem Tx	0
5010011000 16 Fixed Uniform All	7,604.96
** Salary Expense	1,156,428.57
5020001000 Postage	1,106.85
5020002000 Telecomm Wired	7,199.71
5020003000 Telecomm Wireless	0
5020004000 Network Services Exp	1,462.45
5020005000 Freight	109.62
5020006000 NBR Com & Trans Com	0
** Communication & Transp. of Commoditi	9,878.63
5030001000 Printing	53.86
5030001100 02-Print-AgenPub	711.12
5030001200 LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	0
5030004000 Film Processing	0
** Printing & Advertising	764.98
5030005000 02-Bldg & Grds Maint	8,113.90
5030005100 Pest Control CI 02	517.23
5030006000 Pub Facility M&O	60.00
5030007000 Hauling & Moving Exp	0
5030008000 Office Equip Maint	0

Business Cards

Wrong GL Code was used will be error corrected.

5030010000 Pub Safety Eq Maint	11,180.43
5030011000 Ind Inst Equip Maint	39,887.65
5030011100 02 Farm Equip/Repair	1,379.30
5030012000 02 - Vehicle Maint	29,756.01
5030014000 Mar Avi Equip Maint	14,379.98
5030015000 Research Equip Maint	0
5030017000 Software Maintenance	0
5030018000 Oth Repair Servicing	0
5030021000 NBR - Repair & Serv.	1,241.41
** Repairing & Servicing	106,515.91
5040001000 Electricity	9,619.21
5040003000 Water & Sewage	1,481.72
5040004000 Natural Gas Propane	3,988.88
5040005000 Rent of Facilities	2,200.00
5040006000 Lease Private Land	1,125.00
5040007000 Rent of Office Equip	2,232.75
5040010000 Rent IndMarine Equip	0
5040011000 Other Rent & Leases	1,267.41
5040012000 NBR -Utilities & Ren	94.11
** Utilities & Rent	22,009.08
5050001000 02 Mileage	433.44
5050003100 02 - Meals	1,183.28
5050003200 02 - Lodging	1,714.80
5050004100 09 - Meals	121.75
5050004200 09 - Lodging	200.24
5050013000 02 Other Travel Exp	0
5050017000 02 Conf Seminar Fees	79.00
5050018000 09 Conf Seminar Fees	717.00
5050020400 02BdMbr Trvl Mileage	52.92

5050023000 NBR Travel/Sub CI 02	0	
** Travel & Subsistence	4,502.43	
5060001000 Professional Adm Fee	6,900.00	Forest Action Plan; Stewardship
5060001400 02 WC ADMIN FEE EXP	3,324.72	
5060005000 Medical Fees	0	
5060016000 NBR PROSVS & FEES	0	
5080015000 02 MiscTech SrvNonIT	1,050.00	
** Professional Services & Fees	11,274.72	
5070002000 Vehicle Insurance	0	
5070003000 Bld Contents Ins	0	
5070007000 Other Insurance	5,477.00	Another aircraft added to policy.
5070010000 NBR - Ins. & Bonds	(42,026.02)	
** Insurance & Bonds	(36,549.02)	
5080006000 Assoc Member Dues	0	
5080007000 Tuition & Course Mat	320.00	Drone Instruction
5080008000 Air Observe Crop Svc	0	
5080013000 Security Services	0	
5080014000 Trash Pickup Service	1,258.96	
5080016000 Temp Employ Svc	1,730.07	Baucum Nursery
5080019000 Veh Lic Title Fees	281.29	
5080020500 02 NONEMPL BCKGRD CK	0	
5080022000 Other Expenses Svc	7,420.44	So. Central Elec. Replacement ; Work at Baucum
5080029000 NBR - Other Exp, Svs	4,198.31	
5080031000 02 Empl Screen Cost	0	
** Other Expenses & Services	15,209.07	
5090001000 Road Pub Area Mats	0	
5090002000 Natural Res Supps	0	
5090003000 Special Purpose Supp	0	

5090004000 Tires	18,568.80
5090005000 02 GASOLINE PURCH	2,194.84
5090005100 02 DIESEL FUEL PURCH	438.77
5090005200 02 AVIATION FUEL	5,718.88
5090006000 Office Supplies	5,926.57
5090006100 02 Furnish/Accessory	324.97
5090007000 Educ Supplies Mats	722.07
5090011000 Photo Supps Mats	0
5090011100 02 Audio Vis Eqp/Sup	0
5090012000 Architect Draft Supp	554.80
5090013000 02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	158.27
5090014000 Drugs & Medicines	0
5090015000 Health Lab Supps	0
5090016000 Shop Indust Supps	26,517.20
5090017000 02 Anim/Livest Pur/S	0
5090018000 Subscriptions Pubs	1,482.88
5090019000 Food Purchases	866.97
5090020000 02-Clothing,Rel Item	881.22
5090022000 02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,441.54
5090023000 Seed Fert Cont Agent	3,914.24
5090025000 Agri Hort WL Supps	10,877.50
5090026000 DP Supps	2,194.84
5090026100 02 Cartrdg,Toner,Ink	2,406.09
5090026200 02 CD,Dsk,Stor Media	0
5090026300 02 Dsktop,Laptop,PDA	763.49
5090026400 02 Printr,Plot,Scanr	950.66
5090027000 Software/Licenses	2,402.25
5090030000 Other Comm Mat Supp	0

5090036000 NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	592.50	
5090037000 Equip Fire Vehicles	27,318.81	Refurbish Freightliners; 12V Comm. Batteries
5900004000 LVA Exp (Modified)	14,038.75	
5901070000 LVA Exp Full	14,038.75	Drone; Laptop; Camera; Mower
5901080000 LVA EXP NBR(F)	0	
** Commodities, Materials & Supplies	146,295.66	
5100001000 04 Assist Grants Aid	184,824.00	VFA; MIT; SPB
5100005100 02-SPONSORSHIPS	0	
5100008000 NBR Asst Grants, Aid	0	
** Assistance, Grants & Aids	184,824.00	
5110002000 02 Other Refund/Reim	0	
5110008000 License & Permits	0.00	
5110010000 Real Property Tax	44.52	Ouachita County
** Refunds, Taxes & Claims	44.52	
6080001300 RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
** Refunds	0.00	
5900003000 Capital Outlay	41,421.89	Dodge Truck; Tractor; Donated Generator
** Capital Outlay	41,421.89	
5901020000 Depr Expense (Full)	149,049.19	
** Depreciation/Amortization	149,049.19	
6100002000 GainLoss FA(Full)	1,819.44	
** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets	1,819.44	
5130030300 Inter fedxout-warr04	6,040.33	
5130030500 Inter X out-warr 04	0	
6060003000 Inter-Agy Xfers In	0	
6060004200 InterAgy FedRev X In	0	
6060004299 NBR Fed Rev XFER In	0	
6060004500 IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(755,500.00)	

6060006800 FS Adj Op Trans In	0
6060007200 M & R Transfers In	0
6060009000 Motor Veh Tfr In	(23,450.00)
6061003000 Inter-Agy Xfers Out	333,211.72
6061004501 InterAgy GR Tran-Out	0
6061006800 FS Adj Op Trans Out	0
6061009000 Motor Veh Tfr Out	27,731.00
** Transfers In/Out	(411,966.95)
6092000000 Ins Settle/Restitute	0
** Insurance Proceeds	0
6990001000 Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0
6990002000 Prior Yr Warr Cancel	165.33
6990003000 Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0
** Prior Year Adjustment	165.33
*** BALANCE	0.00