



# ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION **B.8**

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Joe Fox, R.F.  
State Forester

February 7, 2014

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 January 2014

Dear Senator Teague and Representative Baird:

Per Act 434 of the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Section 48, the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to report monthly fiscal and agency activities to the Joint Budget Committee. Please find attached the report for January 2014.

On Friday, January 31, AFC pilot Jake Harrell was flying a regularly scheduled detection route in AFC District 2 (southwest Arkansas). Jake has flown this route many times. Jake's last check-in with AFC Central Dispatch was 1:11 p.m.

Today as I write this letter we are still searching for Jake. AFC is being assisted by many different county, state and federal organizations. I appreciate the many calls of support I have received from Legislators.

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 January 2014 Activity and Fiscal Report

### FIRE PROTECTION

**Wildfires:** During January, a total of 293 wildfires were suppressed for a total of 3,450 acres burned. Ten year average for the month of January is 137 wildfires for 2,487 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. The RFP shop provides maintenance to AFC equipment.

In January, 16 rural fire departments (80 firefighters) were provided wildland fire training. Six Department of Defense (DOD) trucks (\$588,606.00) were picked up from military posts that will be refurbished and provided to fire departments for use as fire trucks, brush trucks, or tankers. 1,550 DOD Recycling Control Point (RCP) firefighter equipment items (\$479,219.76) were issued to rural fire departments such as flashlights, safety glasses, gloves, emergency revolving lights, and boots.

The RFP shop completed maintenance on two 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 January, Firewise staff assisted 26 communities/fire departments with renewal efforts, assisted with three Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and conducted two initial presentations about the Firewise program.

Firewise staff visited 17 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 three county Office of Emergency Management coordinators about Firewise. Firewise staff collaborated with the U.S. Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and Arkansas State Parks on Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Wildland Urban Interface education efforts. Firewise staff provided educational material for Firewise events.

Firewise staff assisted with three media releases, responded to six 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 January, AFC Investigators and district law enforcement officers have opened 3 dumping, 31 fire related and 9 timber theft cases.

AFC Law Enforcement officers made a final check of Poison Springs State Forest to make sure the campsites were left clean after modern gun deer season closed.

## **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 4,500 landowners owning 826,975 acres that are enrolled in FSP. Landowners that implement practices under their FSP management plans become Forest Stewards. Arkansas has 1,276 Forest Stewards owning 277,459 acres.

For January, 21 FSP plans were prepared on 3,961 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 86 rural forestry management plans on 6,749 acres. In addition, AFC personnel conducted prescribed burns on 20 tracts for 802 acres and constructed 83,403 feet of fire lane.

**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 Prevention and Restoration Program (SPB PRP). Through the federal grant program landowners can qualify for incentives that pay \$50 per acre for pre-commercial or first commercial thinning in pine stands. 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.

SPB PRP activity was low in January. With the approaching end to tree planting season, 2011 SPB PRP projects will be completed and the grant closed out.

One of the most common and wide spread exotic shrubs in Arkansas is Chinese privet. This time of year, a drive down almost any road will reveal fence rows, stream and creek bottoms overrun by privet. This shrub was widely planted for hedges and windbreaks in years past. Prolific seed crops were spread by birds to areas far from the source. Many fence posts have a privet bush growing at the base; many fences are completely overgrown as a result of this seed "sowing" by birds.

Dense stands of privet can choke out native species. Even when privet stands are removed, root and stump sprouts often results in even denser stands. Chemical applications may kill the top and roots, but tens of thousands of viable seeds remain in the litter layer waiting to sprout into an extremely dense stand of new shrubs.

Successful control or eradication will require several years of planned activity and constant surveillance for sprouting and encroachment from surrounding areas. AFC educates and works with private landowners on control measures.

**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.

AFC's Champion Tree Program has been brought to the attention of the citizens of Arkansas by Hot Springs artist Linda Palmer through her traveling champion tree art show. Due to the press coverage of this exhibit AFC is being contacted on a regular basis by individuals who are interested in determining if their trees are champions while at the same time learning more about the AFC and the trees that grow in our state. AETN has been working on a documentary of Ms. Palmer's work and the AFC has been closely involved throughout the process and is well covered in the program. The first screening of the AETN documentary "Champion Trees" will be held at the Clinton Presidential Library in February.

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

In January AFC purchased a precision sower which was funded by a grant through the U.S. Forest Service. This planter will allow the exact spacing and depth of seed planted for loblolly and shortleaf pine and small seeded hardwood.

AFC began accepting orders for the 2013-2014 planting season on July 16, 2013. Sales through the end of January resulted in 1,830,100 pine, 1,699,225 oaks and 809,100 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.

During the month of January, AFC tree improvement staff completed inventory of 6 of 8 loblolly and all the shortleaf pine production orchards. These orchards contain almost 1,900 positions. The 2 remaining loblolly pine production orchards are being re-designed to capitalize on replication of highest genetic gain families. All of these production orchards provide seed for planting at Baucum Nursery.

The Reforestation Manager conducted a Tree Improvement and Nursery training session at Malvern for AFC personnel; 27 people attended the meeting.

**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 provided 2 courtesy exams one in Nevada County and in Perry County.

The BMP coordinator responded to one logger complaint in Van Buren County.

The BMP coordinator attended and participated in the Point Remove watershed meeting. The focus is to develop a watershed plan. This would allow the watershed group to participate in 319 grant money.

**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 January, FIA personnel have measured and submitted data on 66 plots.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

Conservation Education programs include presentations to schools and civic organizations, news articles and other media programs. During January, the districts reported participating in 1 radio interview, 33 news articles and 17 presentations to schools or civic organizations.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

January 31, 2014

	<b>Balance</b>	
4020014000 Timber Severance	(253,928.27)	
** SR (3.0) - Taxes	(253,928.27)	
4030002000 Acreage Tax	(511,738.27)	
4031076000 Fire Protect/Supp	0.00	
** SR (1.5) - Taxes	(511,738.27)	
4034001000 Rents	(500.00)	Rental of State Owned Housing
** SR (1.5) - Rents, Royalties, Leas	(500.00)	
4038001000 Timber Sales	(163,425.00)	
4038003000 Seedling Sales	(335,565.00)	
** SR (1.5)- Sales of Agency Produce	(498,990.00)	
4042001000 Fines	(50.00)	
** OR - Fines and Penalties	(50.00)	
4047002000 Other Sales	0.00	
4047099000 Misc Revenue	(9,738.77)	Prescribed Burning, Trees of Arkansas Books
4047099600 NBR - Other	0.00	
** OR - Miscellaneous	(9,738.77)	
4048019000 Resales	(23,348.22)	
** OR - Sales of Goods and Services	(23,348.22)	Firefighting Equipment of Volunteer Fire Depts.
4049003000 Interest Distrib	(0.10)	
** OR - Investment Revenue	(0.10)	Interests
4050001000 NonFed Grants/Reimb	0.00	
4050003000 Oth Refunds/Reimb	(2.67)	
** OR - Grants and Reimbursements	(2.67)	
4050004000 Fed Grants/Reimburse	(416,968.57)	
4050004100 NBR - Grant Rev.	0.00	
** Federal Grants and Reimbursements	(416,968.57)	
4090010000 3% Special Rev Fees	7,617.84	
4090020000 1.5% Spl Rev Fees	17,048.07	
4090030000 Additional Sr Fees	2,466.59	
** Treasury Charges	27,132.50	Special Revenue Treasury Charges
5010001000 00 Regular Salaries	808,728.38	
5010001100 NBR - Personal Svs.	0.00	
5010001600 NBR - Emp Benefits	0.00	
5010002000 01 Extra Help Sal	4,010.69	
5010003000 06 Overtime Salaries	51.41	
5010005000 03 FICA & Medic Exp	57,583.39	
5010006000 03 Ben Ins Exp HAL	117,260.00	

5010006500	Agency Cost of ARCAP	4,574.22	
5010007000	03 Retirement Exp	120,487.14	
5010008000	03 Unemploy Comp Exp	12,439.38	
5010009000	03 Worker Comp Exp	21,203.54	
5010010000	03 Work Comp Prem Tx	4,242.99	
5010011000	16 Fixed Uniform All	1,781.94	
5010014000	02 Fixed Uniform All	0.00	
<b>** Salary Expense</b>		<b>1,152,363.08</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5020001000	Postage	2,601.25	
5020002000	Telecomm Wired	9,358.80	
5020003000	Telecomm Wireless	8,702.21	
5020004000	Network Services Exp	8,726.15	
5020004200	Internet Serv-Tech	222.64	
5020005000	Freight	0.00	
5020006000	NBR Com & Trans Com	0.00	
<b>** Communication &amp; Transp. of Commod</b>		<b>29,611.05</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5030001000	Printing	385.00	
5030001200	LEGAL/MEDICAL COPYIN	17.40	
5030003000	Advertise Clip Svc	304.48	Camden News Publishing Company
5030004000	Film Processing	0.00	
5030004100	NBR Printing & Adv.	0.00	
<b>** Printing &amp; Advertising</b>		<b>706.88</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5030005000	02-Bldg & Grds Maint	10,617.86	
5030005100	Pest Control CI 02	83.93	
5030006000	Pub Facility M&O	0.00	
5030008000	Office Equip Maint	0.00	
5030010000	Pub Safety Eq Maint	6,320.81	
5030011000	Ind Inst Equip Maint	10,100.49	
5030012000	02 - Vehicle Maint	16,103.38	
5030014000	Mar Avi Equip Maint	12,136.25	
5030016000	DP Equip Maint	32.69	
5030018000	Oth Repair Servicing	0.00	
5030021000	NBR - Repair & Serv.	0.00	
<b>** Repairing &amp; Servicing</b>		<b>55,395.41</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5040001000	Electricity	13,580.80	
5040002000	Electric Special Use	0.00	
5040003000	Water & Sewage	7,313.87	
5040003100	02 Water	0.00	
5040004000	Natural Gas Propane	11,059.72	
5040005000	Rent of Facilities	8,392.15	
5040006000	Lease Private Land	0.00	
5040007000	Rent of Office Equip	2,584.52	
5040009000	Rent Transportation	0.00	
5040011000	Other Rent & Leases	3,859.80	
5040012000	NBR -Utilities & Ren	0.00	
5040013000	Satellite/cable Serv	0.00	
<b>** Utilities &amp; Rent</b>		<b>46,790.86</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5050001000	02 Mileage	120.54	
5050003100	02 - Meals	869.81	
5050003200	02 - Lodging	1,700.97	

5050004100	09 - Meals	0.00	
5050004200	09 - Lodging	0.00	
5050005000	02 Common Carrier	1,182.10	
5050006000	09 Common Carrier	359.69	
5050009000	02 Ground Transport	0.00	
5050011000	02 Parking Fees	9.00	
5050012000	09 Parking Fees	0.00	
5050013000	02 Other Travel Exp	0.00	
5050017000	02 Conf Seminar Fees	1,899.00	
5050018000	09 Conf Seminar Fees	966.50	
5050019100	Board Member Expense	0.00	
5050021000	02 NonStateEmp Trav	0.00	
5050025000	02 Gas Purch-Travel	0.00	
5050027000	09 Ag Sponsored Conf	0.00	
<b>** Travel &amp; Subsistence</b>		<b>7,107.61</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5060001000	Professional Adm Fee	10,533.60	
5060002000	Eng & Architect Fees	0.00	
5060016000	NBR ProSvs,Fees C110	0.00	
5080015000	Misc. Technical Serv	3,137.00	
<b>** Professional Services &amp; Fees</b>		<b>13,670.60</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5070002000	Vehicle Insurance	0.00	
5070003000	Bld Contents Ins	26,538.00	
5070007000	Other Insurance	(26,538.00)	
<b>** Insurance &amp; Bonds</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
5080006000	Assoc Member Dues	19,725.00	
5080009000	Janitorial Service	1,357.05	
5080011000	02-Contract Food Ser	650.00	
5080013000	Security Services	(430.70)	
5080014000	Trash Pickup Service	848.33	
5080016000	Temp Employ Svc	14,282.74	
5080019000	Veh Lic Title Fees	0.00	
5080020000	Enforce Invest Exp	0.00	
5080022000	Other Expenses Svc	0.00	
5080029000	NBR - Other Exp, Svs	0.00	
5120011000	Loans to Individuals	22,044.31	
<b>** Other Expenses &amp; Services</b>		<b>58,476.73</b>	<b>Refurbishment Costs Billed to Volunteer Fire Depts. General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5090002000	Natural Res Supps	0.00	
5090003000	Special Purpose Supp	0.00	
5090004000	Tires	6,060.33	
5090005000	02 Gasoline Purchase	24,442.22	
5090005100	02 Diesel Fuel Purchase	6,937.69	
5090005200	02 Aviation Fuel	691.22	
5090006000	Office Supplies	8,894.42	
5090007000	Educ Supplies Mats	1,068.23	
5090011000	Photo Supps Mats	913.81	
5090013000	02-Pub Safe,Mil Sups	54.42	
5090014000	Drugs & Medicines	8.72	
5090015000	Health Lab Supps	0.00	
5090016000	Shop Indust Supps	9,739.84	
5090018000	Subscriptions Pubs	0.00	
5090019000	Food Purchases	237.22	
5090020000	02-Clothing,Rel Item	0.00	

5090022000	02-Kit,Jan,House Sup	2,588.99	
5090023000	Seed Fert Cont Agent	99,885.59	
5090025000	Agri Hort WL Supps	42,646.91	
5090026000	DP Supps	4,020.59	
5090027000	Software/Licenses	0.00	
5090030000	Other Comm Mat Supp	0.00	
5090036000	NBR - Comm, Mat, Sup	0.00	
5900004000	LVA Exp (Modified)	0.00	
5901070000	LVA Exp Full	0.00	
<b>** Commodities, Materials &amp; Supplies</b>		<b>208,190.20</b>	<b>General Operation &amp; Federal Programs</b>
5100001000	04 Assist Grants Aid	28,651.00	
5100008000	NBR Asst Grants, Aid	(33,003.69)	
<b>** Assistance, Grants &amp; Aids</b>		<b>(4,352.69)</b>	
5110002000	02 Other Refunds	0.00	
<b>** Refunds, Taxes &amp; Claims</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
6080001300	RefExpSlesTaxRebate	0.00	
<b>** Refunds</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
5900003000	Capital Outlay	43,273.00	
<b>** Capital Outlay</b>		<b>43,273.00</b>	
5901020000	Depr Expense (Full)	141,183.56	
<b>** Depreciation/Amortization</b>		<b>141,183.56</b>	
6100002000	GainLoss FA(Full)	0.00	
<b>** Gain/Loss on Fixed Assets</b>		<b>0.00</b>	
6060003000	Inter-Agy Xfers In	(174,000.00)	
6060003100	INTER XFER IN		
REBATE		0.00	
6060004500	IntraAgy GR Tran-In	(710,000.00)	<b>General Revenue Distribution</b>
6060006800	FS Adj Op Trans In	0.00	
6060007200	M & R Transfers In	(377.98)	
6061002000	Intra-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061003000	Inter-Agy Xfers Out	0.00	
6061004100	GR RECLAIM XFER		
OUT		0.00	
6061004299	NBR Fed Rev XFR Out	33,003.69	
6061006800	FS Adj Op Trans Out	0.00	
6061007300	Surety Prem. Tr. Out	0.00	
6061007500	WC Ad. Cost Tr. Out	2,811.49	
6061008400	Claims Com. Tr. Out	0.00	
<b>** Transfers In/Out</b>		<b>(848,562.80)</b>	
6990001000	Prior Yr Warr Outlaw	0.00	
6990002000	Prior Yr Warr Cancel	465.08	
6990003000	Prior Yr Ref to Exp	0.00	
<b>** Prior Year Adjustment</b>		<b>465.08</b>	
<b>*** BALANCE</b>		<b>0.00</b>	