



# State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

## Arkansas 2019



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2018 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$403,490
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$245,476
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$73,500
State Fire Assistance	\$1,350,995
Urban and Community Forestry	\$207,500
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$304,614
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,585,575</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

### Program Goals

- The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of Arkansas, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of forestlands and rural communities.
- The overarching goal is to maintain or improve the health, ecological viability, and economic productivity of urban and rural forests, as well as to protect the forests and citizens of the state. State implemented forestry programs leverage cost efficiencies through the use of partnerships in program delivery, increase forestland value and resiliency, and do so in a voluntary and non-regulatory manner.

### Key Issues

- Population growth, conversion of forests to other uses, and development patterns continue to complicate forest management.

### Forest Facts and Accomplishments

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2018 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	2,915,918	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	2,360
Acres of Forest Land	19,039,798	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	31,414
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,983,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	16,551
Number of NIPF Landowners	345,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	142
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,177,500	State Fire Communities Assisted	0
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,287,233	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,030
Number of Rural Fire Departments	925	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	361
Cities and Towns	502	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	45
Forest Based Employment	28,057	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,084,049
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	3	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	18,828
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	23,155,988		

## Program Highlights

### **Cooperative Fire Protection**

The AFC, with partners, funded, organized and provided instruction for the annual Arkansas Prescribed Fire Academy. Through the years, hundreds of individuals have attended this week long class, which has raised the professionalism of prescribed burning in the state. The AFC similarly participates in the annual Arkansas River Valley Wildland Fire Academy with an average annual attendance of over 300 students from all wildland fire agencies attending National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses. This participation assures that AFC firefighters meet NWCG standards.

The AFC Aviation Department has fifteen fixed wing aircraft. All of these aircraft are centrally located at the Malvern Municipal Airport. Thirteen aircraft are single engine airplanes which are used primarily for fire detection. These aircraft are also used for forestry related surveys such as insect/disease infestation, storm damage and Best Management Practices (BMP) flights. Two AFC aircraft are twin engine aircraft that are used primarily for an Air Attack platform that flies with the Single Engine Air Tankers. With the help of grant funds, digital radios were purchased and have been programmed and installed in each aircraft.

AFC training instructors conducted 90 eight-hour Wildland Fire Suppression Training classes for 1,893 firefighters representing 720 volunteer fire departments. Fire departments are provided information on state and federal grants and assistance and meet with fire equipment vendors.

The FEPP and DOD Fire Fighter Program assisted AR in acquiring and placing 106 firefighting vehicles and financed \$190,663.04 spread across 18 interest-free loans to rural communities for firefighting equipment. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program awarded 67 Wildland Wildfire Volunteer Fire (WVVF) grant-related wildland firefighting suppression kits at a value of \$3,000.00 each.

AR continues to be the leader in Firewise Communities with 177 at the end of 2018.

### **Forest Health Protection**

No southern pine beetle (SPB) activity was detected in 2018, and 26 SPB were captured in Ashley County during the spring SPB trapping survey. Risk of southern pine beetle outbreaks remains extremely low. The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program continues to provide incentives to landowners for thinning dense pine stands. In 2018, cost share was provided for 43 projects that accomplished work on 2,130 acres.

AFC used the tablet-based aerial survey tool known as DMSM, Digital Mobile Sketch-Mapper, to aerially survey for Ips bark beetles, walkingstick insects, and various other forest disturbances. Ips bark beetle

activity was limited to central Arkansas with a greater density of infestations near Arkadelphia. Though SPB is not a current problem in AR, aerial survey will be considered an important tool for SPB management when the beetle becomes more abundant. New in 2018, AFC integrated an unmanned aerial system, or drone, into the forest health monitoring process.

### **Forest Inventory and Analysis**

A valuable economic tool for Arkansas is its only continuous statewide forest inventory. The Forest Inventory and Analysis program is regularly used as a source to justify economic development and as a gauge to evaluate forest health.

### **Forest Legacy**

Using non-federal funds, the Arkansas Forestry Commission purchased 361 acres of the Hot Springs Forest project, fee simple, for \$822,000 and designated the acres as Forest Legacy property. The Hot Springs Forest is located in West Central Arkansas and is now part of the State Forest. The Arkansas Forestry Commission will manage the 361 acres to protect the water quantity/quality of the forested recharge area, and to promote wildlife habitat, public recreation, and timber production.

Arkansas submitted two fee simple project proposals for the FY 2020 funding request cycle: the Pine Flatwoods Recovery Initiative – Tenmile Creek (638 acres); and the Hot Springs Forest (904 acres).

### **Forest Stewardship**

The AFC worked with consulting foresters to write and implement 178 Forest Stewardship Plans on 31,414 acres. Of that acreage, 16,551 acres were considered to be priority acres based on Arkansas's Forest Action Plan. There are 390,283 acres of Arkansas forestland currently covered by the Arkansas Forest Stewardship Program, with 208,367 of these acres considered to be in important forest resource areas. A total of 1,612 landowners received assistance through the Stewardship Program. AFC also hosted a series of BMP workshops for landowners in addition to the routine number of logger training sessions. The AFC also actively participates in a tree improvement cooperative to improve loblolly and shortleaf pine and select oak.

### **Landowner Assistance**

AFC, in partnership with federal and state governments and private organizations, continued to provide landowner training and assistance, and facilitated implementation of landowner's management plans to ensure forest sustainability.

AFC is a key partner in a special initiative funded by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities that focuses on improving forest management by connecting African American landowners to organized networks of forestry support including federal and state government programs, businesses, and nonprofit conservation, legal, and community development organizations. The program helps landowners solve and prevent problems of insecure land tenure caused by heirs' property and inadequate estate planning. Insecure title is a major barrier to forestry support programs and forest management.

### **Urban and Community Forestry**

The AFC Urban Forestry Program provided educational, technical and/or financial assistance to Arkansas communities and cities with a combined population of 1,125,285. Volunteers provided over 17,000 hours of service in community forestry programs. Five urban forestry grants were awarded for community improvement projects. The cities of Trumann, Conway, Hope, Walnut Ridge, and Bentonville received grants totaling \$17,920, which was met with a 50/50 match by the communities. Projects included tree plantings in public areas, hazardous tree removals, and the purchase of tree care equipment.

---

## Contact Information



### Arkansas Forestry Commission

Joe S Fox  
*State Forester*  
3821 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204-6396  
501-580-5479  
[joe.fox@arkansas.gov](mailto:joe.fox@arkansas.gov)

### US Forest Service Southern Region

Ken Arney  
*Deputy Regional Forester*  
USDA Forest Service  
1720 Peachtree Street, Suite 760S  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404-347-4178  
[karney@fs.fed.us](mailto:karney@fs.fed.us)