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RAZORBACK CREW SENT TO REY FIRE TO ASSIST IN WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

STATEWIDE, ARK. – Eight Arkansas Forestry Commission (AFC) wildland firefighters are part of the 20-person Razorback Crew sent to the Rey Fire near Santa Barbara, California by way of Fort Smith this morning. Currently the Rey Fire is burning 21,172 acres on the Los Padres National Forest and nearby private land and is 20% contained.

AFC firefighters on the Razorback Crew (pictured and named from left to right) include: Russell Huskey (Sebastian County), James Wall (Bradley County), Les Miller (Conway County), Wes Morgan (Stone County), Freddie Wolfenbarger (Carroll County), Andy Shaver (Van Buren County), Jerald McBride (Sebastian County), and Wesley McKinney (Conway County).

Qualified AFC personnel can make themselves available to assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with wildfire suppression on out of state incidents when Arkansas wildfire danger is low. The Razorback Crew is the largest group of AFC personnel on a single crew. Eleven other AFC personnel are also out of state, assisting on other USFS incidents.

“Out of state assistance is a great way for our firefighters to get new training and experience,” said State Forester Joe Fox. “When Arkansas weather is this wet, we are glad to see personnel working with new people, learning new skills, and helping to protect forests and property across the U.S.,” he said.

Find updates about the Rey Fire at this link: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4971/>
Follow updates about the Razorback Crew at @ARForestryComm (Twitter) and @ArkansasForestryCommission (Facebook).

The mission of the AFC is to protect Arkansas’s forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development, and conservation for all generations of Arkansans. To report a wildfire, or inquire about wildfire danger, call the AFC Dispatch Center at 1-800-468-8834. To report an emergency, dial 911. Stay updated on AFC updates and warnings at www.arkfireinfo.org or www.forestry.arkansas.gov.

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