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Form **990-PF**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Private Foundation

or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
▶ Information about Form 990-PF and its instructions is at *www.irs.gov/form990pf*.

OMB No 1545-0052

2015

Open to Public Inspection

For calendar year 2015, or tax year beginning 01-01-2015 , and ending 12-31-2015

Name of foundation
The Ross Foundation

A Employer identification number
71-6060574

Number and street (or P O box number if mail is not delivered to street address) PO Box 335 | Room/suite

B Telephone number (see instructions)
(870) 246-9881

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

C If exemption application is pending, check here ▶ ☐

G Check all that apply ☐ Initial return ☐ Initial return of a former public charity ☐ Final return ☐ Amended return ☐ Address change ☐ Name change

D 1. Foreign organizations, check here ▶ ☐
2. Foreign organizations meeting the 85% test, check here and attach computation ▶ ☐

H Check type of organization ☑ Section 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation
☐ Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust ☐ Other taxable private foundation

E If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here ▶ ☐

I Fair market value of all assets at end of year *(from Part II, col (c), line 16)* ▶$ 95,138,203

J Accounting method ☐ Cash ☑ Accrual ☐ Other (specify) ______
(Part I, column (d) must be on cash basis)

F If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here ▶ ☐

Part I **Analysis of Revenue and Expenses** *(The total of amounts in columns (b), (c), and (d) may not necessarily equal the amounts in column (a) (see instructions))*

			(a) Revenue and expenses per books	(b) Net investment income	(c) Adjusted net income	(d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only)
Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, etc , received (attach schedule)				
	2	Check ▶ ☑ if the foundation is **not** required to attach Sch B				
	3	Interest on savings and temporary cash investments	2,138	2,138		
	4	Dividends and interest from securities				
	5a	Gross rents	91,953	91,953		
	b	Net rental income or (loss) 91,953				
	6a	Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets not on line 10	1,757,606			
	b	Gross sales price for all assets on line 6a 2,363,232				
	7	Capital gain net income (from Part IV, line 2)		1,757,606		
	8	Net short-term capital gain				
	9	Income modifications				
	10a	Gross sales less returns and allowances				
	b	Less Cost of goods sold				
	c	Gross profit or (loss) (attach schedule)				
	11	Other income (attach schedule)	78,934	78,934		
	12	**Total.** Add lines 1 through 11	1,930,631	1,930,631		
Operating and Administrative Expenses	13	Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc	248,023			248,023
	14	Other employee salaries and wages	307,456			307,456
	15	Pension plans, employee benefits	120,300			117,005
	16a	Legal fees (attach schedule)	1,118			781
	b	Accounting fees (attach schedule)	23,500			23,500
	c	Other professional fees (attach schedule)				
	17	Interest	225,337			209,567
	18	Taxes (attach schedule) (see instructions)	186,658			146,747
	19	Depreciation (attach schedule) and depletion	26,449			
	20	Occupancy	19,437			19,437
	21	Travel, conferences, and meetings	11,661			11,661
	22	Printing and publications				
	23	Other expenses (attach schedule)	172,476			164,726
	24	**Total operating and administrative expenses.** Add lines 13 through 23	1,342,415	0		1,248,903
	25	Contributions, gifts, grants paid	276,268			617,852
	26	**Total expenses and disbursements.** Add lines 24 and 25	1,618,683	0		1,866,755
	27	Subtract line 26 from line 12				
	a	**Excess of revenue over expenses and disbursements**	311,948			
	b	**Net investment income** (if negative, enter -0-)		1,930,631		
	c	**Adjusted net income** (if negative, enter -0-)				

Part II	Balance Sheets Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end-of-year amounts only (See instructions)	Beginning of year (a) Book Value	End of year (b) Book Value	(c) Fair Market Value
Assets 1	Cash—non-interest-bearing	313,257	195,014	195,014
2	Savings and temporary cash investments	807,698	769,528	769,528
3	Accounts receivable ▶ 59,691			
	Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶	300	59,691	59,691
4	Pledges receivable ▶			
	Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶			
5	Grants receivable			
6	Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons (attach schedule) (see instructions)			
7	Other notes and loans receivable (attach schedule) ▶			
	Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶			
8	Inventories for sale or use			
9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	15,059	12,058	12,058
10a	Investments—U S and state government obligations (attach schedule)			
b	Investments—corporate stock (attach schedule)			
c	Investments—corporate bonds (attach schedule)			
11	Investments—land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶			
	Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶			
12	Investments—mortgage loans			
13	Investments—other (attach schedule)			
14	Land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ 1,180,391			
	Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ 514,154	617,366	666,237	666,237
15	Other assets (describe ▶)	31,257,633	93,435,675	93,435,675
16	**Total assets**(to be completed by all filers—see the instructions Also, see page 1, item I)	33,011,313	95,138,203	95,138,203
Liabilities 17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	148,004	176,670	
18	Grants payable	420,184	78,600	
19	Deferred revenue		67,043	
20	Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons			
21	Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule)	5,485,000	4,800,000	
22	Other liabilities (describe ▶)	18,521		
23	**Total liabilities**(add lines 17 through 22)	6,071,709	5,122,313	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	**Foundations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☑ and complete lines 24 through 26 and lines 30 and 31.**			
24	Unrestricted	26,939,604	90,015,890	
25	Temporarily restricted			
26	Permanently restricted			
	Foundations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☐ and complete lines 27 through 31.			
27	Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds			
28	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg , and equipment fund			
29	Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds			
30	**Total net assets or fund balances**(see instructions)	26,939,604	90,015,890	
31	**Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances**(see instructions)	33,011,313	95,138,203	

Part III Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances

1	Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year—Part II, column (a), line 30 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	1	26,939,604
2	Enter amount from Part I, line 27a	2	311,948
3	Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶	3	63,373,357
4	Add lines 1, 2, and 3	4	90,624,909
5	Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶	5	609,019
6	Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5)—Part II, column (b), line 30	6	90,015,890

Part IV Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income

	(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)	(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
1 a	Timber	P	2010-01-01	2015-01-01
b				
c				
d				
e				

	(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
a	2,363,232		605,626	1,757,606
b				
c				
d				
e				

	Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69			(l) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) **or** Losses (from col (h))
	(i) F M V as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	
a				1,757,606
b				
c				
d				
e				

2	Capital gain net income or (net capital loss) { If gain, also enter in Part I, line 7 / If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 7 }	2	1,757,606
3	Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6) If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c) (see instructions) If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8	3	

Part V Qualification Under Section 4940(e) for Reduced Tax on Net Investment Income

(For optional use by domestic private foundations subject to the section 4940(a) tax on net investment income)
If section 4940(d)(2) applies, leave this part blank

Was the foundation liable for the section 4942 tax on the distributable amount of any year in the base period? ☐ Yes ☑ No
If "Yes," the foundation does not qualify under section 4940(e) Do not complete this part

1 Enter the appropriate amount in each column for each year, see instructions before making any entries

(a) Base period years Calendar year (or tax year beginning in)	(b) Adjusted qualifying distributions	(c) Net value of noncharitable-use assets	(d) Distribution ratio (col (b) divided by col (c))
2014	1,389,477	1,017,275	1 36588
2013	1,386,722	1,296,949	1 06922
2012	1,378,422	1,115,712	1 23546
2011	1,270,441	820,813	1 54778
2010	1,274,874	621,889	2 05000

2	**Total** of line 1, column (d).	2	7 268350
3	Average distribution ratio for the 5-year base period—divide the total on line 2 by 5, or by the number of years the foundation has been in existence if less than 5 years	3	1 453670
4	Enter the net value of noncharitable-use assets for 2015 from Part X, line 5.	4	1,121,974
5	Multiply line 4 by line 3.	5	1,630,980
6	Enter 1% of net investment income (1% of Part I, line 27b).	6	19,306
7	Add lines 5 and 6.	7	1,650,286
8	Enter qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4.	8	1,866,755

If line 8 is equal to or greater than line 7, check the box in Part VI, line 1b, and complete that part using a 1% tax rate See the Part VI instructions

Part VI **Excise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), 4940(e), or 4948—see page 18 of the instructions)**

1a	Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here ▶ ☐ and enter "N/A" on line 1 Date of ruling or determination letter ____________ **(attach copy of letter if necessary–see instructions)**				
b	Domestic foundations that meet the section 4940(e) requirements in Part V, check here ▶ ☑ and enter 1% of Part I, line 27b			1	19,306
c	All other domestic foundations enter 2% of line 27b Exempt foreign organizations enter 4% of Part I, line 12, col (b)				
2	Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only Others enter -0-)			2	
3	Add lines 1 and 2			3	19,306
4	Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only Others enter -0-)			4	
5	**Tax based on investment income.** Subtract line 4 from line 3 If zero or less, enter -0-			5	19,306
6	Credits/Payments				
a	2015 estimated tax payments and 2014 overpayment credited to 2015	6a	30,406		
b	Exempt foreign organizations—tax withheld at source	6b			
c	Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	6c			
d	Backup withholding erroneously withheld	6d			
7	Total credits and payments Add lines 6a through 6d			7	30,406
8	Enter any **penalty** for underpayment of estimated tax Check here ☑ if Form 2220 is attached			8	
9	**Tax due.** If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter **amount owed** ▶			9	
10	**Overpayment.** If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the **amount overpaid** ▶			10	11,100
11	Enter the amount of line 10 to be **Credited to 2015 estimated tax** ▶ 11,100 **Refunded** ▶			11	

Part VII-A **Statements Regarding Activities**

			Yes	No
1a	During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign?	1a		No
b	Did it spend more than $100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes (see Instructions for definition)?	1b		No
	If the answer is "Yes" to ***1a*** *or* ***1b,*** *attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities*			
c	Did the foundation file **Form 1120-POL** for this year?	1c		No
d	Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year **(1)** On the foundation ▶ $ ____________ **(2)** On foundation managers ▶ $ ____________			
e	Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers ▶ $ ____________			
2	Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? *If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities*	2		No
3	Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? *If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes*	3		No
4a	Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more during the year?	4a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on **Form 990-T** for this year?	4b		No
5	Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? *If "Yes," attach the statement required by General Instruction T*	5		No
6	Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument?	6	Yes	
7	Did the foundation have at least $5,000 in assets at any time during the year? *If "Yes," complete Part II, col (c), and Part XV*	7	Yes	
8a	Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered (see instructions) ▶AR			
b	If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by General Instruction G? *If "No," attach explanation*	8b	Yes	
9	Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year 2015 or the taxable year beginning in 2015 (see instructions for Part XIV)? *If "Yes," complete Part XIV*	9		No
10	Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? *If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses*	10		No

Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities *(continued)*

11	At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule (see instructions).	11		No
12	Did the foundation make a distribution to a donor advised fund over which the foundation or a disqualified person had advisory privileges? If "Yes," attach statement (see instructions)	12		No
13	Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application?	13	Yes	
	Website address ▶www rossfoundation us			
14	The books are in care of ▶Amanda Fenocchi Telephone no ▶(870) 246-9881			
	Located at ▶PO Box 335 Arkadelphia AR ZIP+4 ▶71923			
15	Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of **Form 1041** —Check here ▶ ☐ and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year ▶ 15			
			Yes	No
16	At any time during calendar year 2015, did the foundation have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country?	16		No
	See instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) If "Yes", enter the name of the foreign country ▶			

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required

	File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.		Yes	No
1a	During the year did the foundation (either directly or indirectly)			
	(1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person? ☑ Yes ☐ No			
	(5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? (**Exception.** Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days). ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)–(6), did **any**of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53 4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)?	1b		No
	Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here ▶ ☐			
c	Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2015?	1c		No
2	Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5))			
a	At the end of tax year 2015, did the foundation have any undistributed income (lines 6d and 6e, Part XIII) for tax year(s) beginning before 2015? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	If "Yes," list the years ▶ 20____ , 20____ , 20____ , 20____			
b	Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is **not** applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to **all**years listed, answer "No" and attach statement—see instructions)	2b		No
c	If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to **any** of the years listed in 2a, list the years here ▶ 20____ , 20____ , 20____ , 20____			
3a	Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in 2015 as a result of **(1)** any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969, **(2)** the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest, or **(3)** the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? *(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in 2015).*	3b		No
4a	Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes?	4a		No
b	Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2015?	4b		No

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required *(Continued)*

5a	During the year did the foundation pay or incur any amount to			
	(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955), or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive? . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc , organization described in section 4945(d)(4)(A)? (see instructions). . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?. . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)–(5), did **any**of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53 4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)? . . .	**5b**		No
	Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here. . . . ▶ ☐			
c	If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant?. . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53 4945–5(d)			
6a	Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?. . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?. . . .	**6b**		No
	If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870			
7a	At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If yes, did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?	**7b**		No

Part VIII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors

1 List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation (see instructions).

(a) Name and address	**(b)** Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation **(If not paid, enter -0-)**	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
See Additional Data Table				

2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1—see instructions). If none, enter "NONE."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than $50,000	**(b)** Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
David Hunt PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Sr Forester 40 00	88,331	11,032	7,800
Eric Rhodes PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Forester 40 00	59,249	11,352	7,800
Amanda Fenocchi PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Office Mgr 40 00	50,912	2,123	
Total number of other employees paid over $50,000. . . . ▶				

Part VIII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors *(continued)*

3 Five highest-paid independent contractors for professional services (see instructions). If none, enter "NONE".

(a) Name and address of each person paid more than $50,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
NONE		

Total number of others receiving over $50,000 for professional services . . . . ▶

Part IX-A Summary of Direct Charitable Activities

List the foundation's four largest direct charitable activities during the tax year Include relevant statistical information such as the number of organizations and other beneficiaries served, conferences convened, research papers produced, etc	Expenses
1 Conservation Forestry Management The Ross Foundation continued its conservation forestry management program in 2015 by incorporating diverse management techniques which included natural stand management, plantation stand management, hardwood management systems, and unique plant and habitat area management Conservation forestry objectives are centered on the incorporation of these various management components resulting in stand diversity, plant diversity, and habitat diversity throughout all lands owned and managed by The Ross Foundation as charitable assets To accomplish its mission, The Ross Foundation employs a full time staff of professional foresters, biologists, and technicians to design, implement, and monitor a comprehensive conservation forestry management program In 2015, The Ross Foundation incurred $405,718 in expenses related to salaries and benefits for professional staff directly related to the continuation of its conservation forestry program Additionally, expenses	561,726
2 Public Recreation The Ross Foundations land is available to the public for recreational opportunities During 2015, recreational users enjoyed various pursuits including hunting, fishing, day hiking, camping, horseback riding, picnicking, mountain bike riding, swimming, backpacking, bird watching, nature study, photography, and walking for aerobic activity During 2015, The Ross Foundation spent $6,680 on material and $40,283 in salary and benefits for allocated staff time related to public recreation administration and management activities on The Ross Foundations property	46,963
3 Environmental Education and Research The Ross Foundations lands are available for educational and research activities In 2015, The Ross Foundation conducted environmental education field trips for Henderson State University ecology students and Ouachita Baptist University biology students to expose them, in an outdoor classroom setting, to the principles of the areas local ecology and how those ecological interactions are incorporated into The Ross Foundations conservation forestry management activities Also in 2015, The Ross Foundation provided sites for outdoor laboratory study, native fauna inventory and assessment, and extension outreach with various natural resource agencies and user groups The Ross Foundation contributed $6,680 in staff time related to coordinating and leading these environmental education and research activities	6,680
4	

Part IX-B Summary of Program-Related Investments (see instructions)

Describe the two largest program-related investments made by the foundation during the tax year on lines 1 and 2	Amount
1	
2	
All other program-related investments See instructions	
3	
Total. Add lines 1 through 3 . . . . ▶	

Part X Minimum Investment Return

(All domestic foundations must complete this part. Foreign foundations,see instructions.)

1	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes		
a	Average monthly fair market value of securities	1a	0
b	Average of monthly cash balances	1b	1,139,060
c	Fair market value of all other assets (see instructions)	1c	0
d	**Total** (add lines 1a, b, and c)	1d	1,139,060
e	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation) — 1e: 0		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets	2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d	3	1,139,060
4	Cash deemed held for charitable activities Enter 1 1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions)	4	17,086
5	**Net value of noncharitable-use assets.** Subtract line 4 from line 3 Enter here and on Part V, line 4	5	1,121,974
6	**Minimum investment return.** Enter 5% of line 5	6	56,099

Part XI Distributable Amount

(see instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations check here ▶ ☐ and do not complete this part.)

1	Minimum investment return from Part X, line 6	1	56,099
2a	Tax on investment income for 2015 from Part VI, line 5 — 2a: 19,306		
b	Income tax for 2015 (This does not include the tax from Part VI) — 2b:		
c	Add lines 2a and 2b	2c	19,306
3	Distributable amount before adjustments Subtract line 2c from line 1	3	36,793
4	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions	4	
5	Add lines 3 and 4	5	36,793
6	Deduction from distributable amount (see instructions)	6	
7	**Distributable amount** as adjusted Subtract line 6 from line 5 Enter here and on Part XIII, line 1	7	36,793

Part XII Qualifying Distributions (see instructions)

1	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc , purposes		
a	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc —total from Part I, column (d), line 26	1a	1,866,755
b	Program-related investments—total from Part IX-B	1b	
2	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes	2	
3	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the		
a	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required)	3a	
b	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule)	3b	
4	**Qualifying distributions.** Add lines 1a through 3b Enter here and on Part V, line 8, and Part XIII, line 4	4	1,866,755
5	Foundations that qualify under section 4940(e) for the reduced rate of tax on net investment income Enter 1% of Part I, line 27b (see instructions)	5	19,306
6	**Adjusted qualifying distributions.** Subtract line 5 from line 4	6	1,847,449

Note: The amount on line 6 will be used in Part V, column (b), in subsequent years when calculating whether the foundation qualifies for the section 4940(e) reduction of tax in those years

Part XIII **Undistributed Income** (see instructions)

		(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2014	(c) 2014	(d) 2015
1 Distributable amount for 2015 from Part XI, line 7					36,793
2 Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of 2015					
a Enter amount for 2014 only.					
b Total for prior years 20___ , 20___ , 20___					
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2015					
a From 2010.	1,272,670				
b From 2011.	1,248,230				
c From 2012.	1,378,422				
d From 2013.	1,311,381				
e From 2014.	1,365,976				
f **Total** of lines 3a through e.		6,576,679			
4 Qualifying distributions for 2015 from Part XII, line 4 ▶ $ 1,866,755					
a Applied to 2014, but not more than line 2a					
b Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required—see instructions).					
c Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required—see instructions).		0			
d Applied to 2015 distributable amount.					36,793
e Remaining amount distributed out of corpus		1,829,962			
5 Excess distributions carryover applied to 2015 *(If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a))*					
6 **Enter the net total of each column as indicated below:**					
a Corpus Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e Subtract line 5		8,406,641			
b Prior years' undistributed income Subtract line 4b from line 2b					
c Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed.					
d Subtract line 6c from line 6b Taxable amount —see instructions					
e Undistributed income for 2014 Subtract line 4a from line 2a Taxable amount—see instructions					
f Undistributed income for 2016 Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1 This amount must be distributed in 2015					0
7 Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (Election may be required - see instructions)					
8 Excess distributions carryover from 2010 not applied on line 5 or line 7 (see instructions) . . .		1,272,670			
9 **Excess distributions carryover to 2016.** Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a		7,133,971			
10 Analysis of line 9					
a Excess from 2011. . . .	1,248,230				
b Excess from 2012. . . .	1,378,422				
c Excess from 2013. . . .	1,311,381				
d Excess from 2014. . . .	1,365,976				
e Excess from 2015. . . .	1,829,962				

Part XIV Private Operating Foundations (see instructions and Part VII-A, question 9)

1a If the foundation has received a ruling or determination letter that it is a private operating foundation, and the ruling is effective for 2015, enter the date of the ruling. . . . . . ▶

b Check box to indicate whether the organization is a private operating foundation described in section ☐ 4942(j)(3) or ☐ 4942(j)(5)

	Tax year	Prior 3 years			(e) Total
	(a) 2015	**(b)** 2014	**(c)** 2013	**(d)** 2012	
2a Enter the lesser of the adjusted net income from Part I or the minimum investment return from Part X for each year listed					
b 85% of line 2a					
c Qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4 for each year listed					
d Amounts included in line 2c not used directly for active conduct of exempt activities					
e Qualifying distributions made directly for active conduct of exempt activities Subtract line 2d from line 2c					
3 Complete 3a, b, or c for the alternative test relied upon **a** "Assets" alternative test—enter **(1)** Value of all assets					
(2) Value of assets qualifying under section 4942(j)(3)(B)(i)					
b "Endowment" alternative test— enter 2/3 of minimum investment return shown in Part X, line 6 for each year listed					
c "Support" alternative test—enter **(1)** Total support other than gross investment income (interest, dividends, rents, payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), or royalties)					
(2) Support from general public and 5 or more exempt organizations as provided in section 4942(j)(3)(B)(iii)					
(3) Largest amount of support from an exempt organization					
(4) Gross investment income					

Part XV Supplementary Information (Complete this part only if the organization had $5,000 or more in assets at any time during the year—see instructions.)

1 Information Regarding Foundation Managers:

a List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than $5,000) (See section 507(d)(2))

b List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest

2 Information Regarding Contribution, Grant, Gift, Loan, Scholarship, etc., Programs:

Check here ▶ ☐ if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc (see instructions) to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d

a The name, address, and telephone number or e-mail address of the person to whom applications should be addressed

Mary Elizabeth Eldridge
PO Box 335
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(870) 246-9881
meeldridge@rossfoundation us

b The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include

See attachment

c Any submission deadlines

See attachment

d Any restrictions or limitations on awards, such as by geographical areas, charitable fields, kinds of institutions, or other factors

See attachment

Part XV Supplementary Information(continued)

3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year* See Additional Data Table				
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				617,852
b *Approved for future payment* See Additional Data Table				
Total . . . . ▶ **3b**				52,600

Part XVI-A Analysis of Income-Producing Activities

Enter gross amounts unless otherwise indicated	Unrelated business income		Excluded by section 512, 513, or 514		(e) Related or exempt function income (See instructions)
	(a) Business code	(b) Amount	(c) Exclusion code	(d) Amount	
1 Program service revenue					
a					
b					
c					
d					
e					
f					
g Fees and contracts from government agencies					
2 Membership dues and assessments. . . .					
3 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments			14	2,138	
4 Dividends and interest from securities. . .					
5 Net rental income or (loss) from real estate					
a Debt-financed property.					
b Not debt-financed property.			16	91,953	
6 Net rental income or (loss) from personal property					
7 Other investment income.					
8 Gain or (loss) from sales of assets other than inventory					1,757,606
9 Net income or (loss) from special events					
10 Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory . .					
11 Other revenue a Hunting License Fees			16	71,423	
b Royalties			15	7,511	
c					
d					
e					
12 Subtotal Add columns (b), (d), and (e). .				173,025	1,757,606

13 Total. Add line 12, columns (b), (d), and (e). **13** 1,930,631

(See worksheet in line 13 instructions to verify calculations)

Part XVI-B Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purposes

Line No. ▼	Explain below how each activity for which income is reported in column (e) of Part XVI-A contributed importantly to the accomplishment of the foundation's exempt purposes (other than by providing funds for such purposes) (See instructions)
8	Revenue received from the sale of timber harvested in connection with the Foundation's forestry conservation and management programs

Part XVII **Information Regarding Transfers To and Transactions and Relationships With Noncharitable Exempt Organizations**

		Yes	No
1 Did the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following with any other organization described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3) organizations) or in section 527, relating to political organizations?			
a Transfers from the reporting foundation to a noncharitable exempt organization of			
(1) Cash.	**1a(1)**		No
(2) Other assets.	**1a(2)**		No
b Other transactions			
(1) Sales of assets to a noncharitable exempt organization.	**1b(1)**		No
(2) Purchases of assets from a noncharitable exempt organization.	**1b(2)**		No
(3) Rental of facilities, equipment, or other assets.	**1b(3)**		No
(4) Reimbursement arrangements.	**1b(4)**		No
(5) Loans or loan guarantees.	**1b(5)**		No
(6) Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations.	**1b(6)**		No
c Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, other assets, or paid employees.	**1c**		No

d If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," complete the following schedule Column **(b)** should always show the fair market value of the goods, other assets, or services given by the reporting foundation If the foundation received less than fair market value in any transaction or sharing arrangement, show in column **(d)** the value of the goods, other assets, or services received

(a) Line No	**(b)** Amount involved	**(c)** Name of noncharitable exempt organization	**(d)** Description of transfers, transactions, and sharing arrangements

2a Is the foundation directly or indirectly affiliated with, or related to, one or more tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3)) or in section 527?. ☐ Yes ☑ No

b If "Yes," complete the following schedule

(a) Name of organization	**(b)** Type of organization	**(c)** Description of relationship

Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

******	2016-11-11	******
Signature of officer or trustee	Date	Title

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown below (see instr)? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's Signature	Date	Check if self-employed ▶	PTIN
Jody Blazek			☑	P00072674

Firm's name ▶ Blazek & Vetterling

Firm's EIN ▶

Firm's address ▶ 2900 Weslayan Suite 200 Houston, TX 770275132

Phone no (713) 439-5739

Form 990PF Part VIII Line 1 - List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation

(a) Name and address	**(b)** Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation **(If not paid, enter -0-)**	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
Ross Whipple PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Chairman/Trust 7 00	47,000	14,809	
Mary Elizabeth Eldridge PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Dir /Trustee 15 00	51,360	4,745	
Mark Karnes PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Dir /Trustee 40 00	113,663	16,576	10,200
Clark Tennyson PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Trustee 2 00	12,000		
Peggy Clark PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Trustee 2 00	12,000		
Mary Whipple PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Trustee 2 00	12,000		

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
American Cancer Society 901 N University Little Rock, AR 72207	N/A	PC	Relay for Life	1,000
Arkadelphia Choir Boosters 1200 Cutler Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
Arkadelphia Community Foundation 601 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Appreciation Dinner for Clark County Safety and Emergency Personnel	1,000
Arkadelphia Promise Foundation 235 N 11th St Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Arkadelphia Promise Scholarship Program	351,684
Arkadelphia Public Schools 235 North 11th Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	GOV	CONE Foundation, Project Prom, and AHS-Jr ROTC Program	10,000
Arkansas Arts Center Foundation 501 East 9th Street Little Rock, AR 72202	N/A	PC	Artmobile	5,000
Arkansas Children's Hospital Founda 1 Childrens Way Slot 661 Little Rock, AR 72202	N/A	PC	Dental Sealant Program - Gurdon Public Schools	5,500
Arkansas Forestry Assoc Education F 1213 W 4th St Little Rock, AR 72201	N/A	PC	Unrestricted	35,723
Arkansas Game Fish Foundation 2 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Unrestricted	55,931
Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches 100 Saint Vincent Place Batesville, AR 72501	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship 614 E Emma Ave Ste 119 Springdale, AR 72764	N/A	PC	Clark County Scholarships	6,000
Baptist Health Foundation 9601 Interstate 630 Exit 7 Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	OR Drill for Baptist Health Medical Center-Arkadelphia	15,000
Boys and Girls Club of Clark County 1305 Caddo Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
CASA of Clark County PO Box 987 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
Community Family Enrichment Center 301 North 23rd Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				617,852

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
Clark County Arts Humanities Counci 625 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Unrestricted - General Support	500
Dawson Educational Cooperative 711 Clinton Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	GOV	Mini-Grant Programs	19,830
Group Living Inc 708 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
Henderson State University Foundati Box 7550 HSU Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	SO III FI	Girls Leadership in STEM Conference	500
Junior Auxiliary of Arkadelphia PO Box 565 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Angel Tree - 2015	1,500
Museum of Discovery 500 President Clinton Ave Suite 150 Little Rock, AR 72201	N/A	PC	Race for Planet "X" - Mobile Museum	2,000
Natural Areas Association PO Box 1504 Bend, OR 97709	N/A	PC	Natural Areas Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas November 3-5, 2015	1,000
Nevada County Depot Museum PO Box 599 Prescott, AR 71857	N/A	PC	Elkins Ferry Battlefield Acquisition	10,000
Ouachita Baptist University 410 Ouachita Street Box 3754 Arkadelphia, AR 71998	N/A	PC	Ben Elrod Center for Family and Community	10,000
Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety PO Box 292 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Start-Up Expenses, Initial Operating Costs & Pt Salaries, ArkansasGives Day	20,500
Pregnancy Resource Ctr for SW Arkan 911 Clinton Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Arkansas Gives Day, Practical Fatherhood Program	4,661
Ronald McDonald House Charities of 1009 Wolfe Street Little Rock, AR 72202	N/A	PC	Family Meals	5,000
Shine Through Missions 8582 Hwy 8 West Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ArkansasGives Day	500
The Nature Conservancy 601 N University Ave Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Unrestricted	35,723
University of Arkansas 2301 South University Avenue Rm 10 Little Rock, AR 72204	N/A	GOV	LeadAR Seminar Class 17	300
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				617,852

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
University of Arkansas Foundation 200 Whittington Ave Hot Sprngs, AR 71901	N/A	PC	ASMSA Maker Space	10,000
Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Fa 1501 North University Suite 345 Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Provide Car for Youth in Need from Clark County	6,000
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				617,852

TY 2015 Accounting Fees Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Financial statement preparation	21,000	0	0	21,000
Tax compliance	2,500	0	0	2,500

Note: To capture the full content of this document, please select landscape mode (11" x 8.5") when printing.

TY 2015 Depreciation Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Description of Property	Date Acquired	Cost or Other Basis	Prior Years' Depreciation	Computation Method	Rate / Life (# of years)	Current Year's Depreciation Expense	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Cost of Goods Sold Not Included
Buildings	2001-01-01	902,233	293,149	SL	39 0000	23,131			
Equipment	2001-01-01	197,739	189,456	SL	5 0000	3,318			

TY 2015 Land, Etc. Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Category / Item	Cost / Other Basis	Accumulated Depreciation	Book Value	End of Year Fair Market Value
Machinery and Equipment	202,839	197,874	4,965	4,965
Buildings	902,233	316,280	585,953	585,953
Land	75,319		75,319	75,319

TY 2015 Legal Fees Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
General governance & counsel	1,118	0	0	781

TY 2015 Mortgages and Notes Payable Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Total Mortgage Amount: 4,800,000

Item No.	1
Lender's Name	Clark County Arkansas
Lender's Title	
Relationship to Insider	None
Original Amount of Loan	10,000,000
Balance Due	4,800,000
Date of Note	2006-12
Maturity Date	2021-12
Repayment Terms	Semi-annual payments of P&I
Interest Rate	4.2500
Security Provided by Borrower	12,838 acres of timber land
Purpose of Loan	Acquire timber land
Description of Lender Consideration	Cash
Consideration FMV	10000000

TY 2015 Other Decreases Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Description	Amount
Audit adjustment to correct fixed asset balance	609,019

TY 2015 Other Expenses Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Description	Revenue and Expenses per Books	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Bond issuance costs amortization	7,750			
Computer service and programming	8,400			8,400
Conservation and wildlife expenses	96,028			96,028
Dues and subscriptions	4,077			4,077
Insurance	52,099			52,099
Office supplies	3,105			3,105
Other expenses	1,017			1,017

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TY 2015 Other Income Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Description	Revenue And Expenses Per Books	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income
Hunting License Fees	71,423	71,423	
Royalties	7,511	7,511	

TY 2015 Other Increases Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Description	Amount
Adjustment to reflect timber and related land at FMV	62,486,445
Unrealized increase in value of timber and related land	886,912

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TY 2015 Taxes Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 15000324

Software Version: 2015v2.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Excise tax	39,911			
Property tax	145,822			145,822
State tax	925			925