U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Medford District
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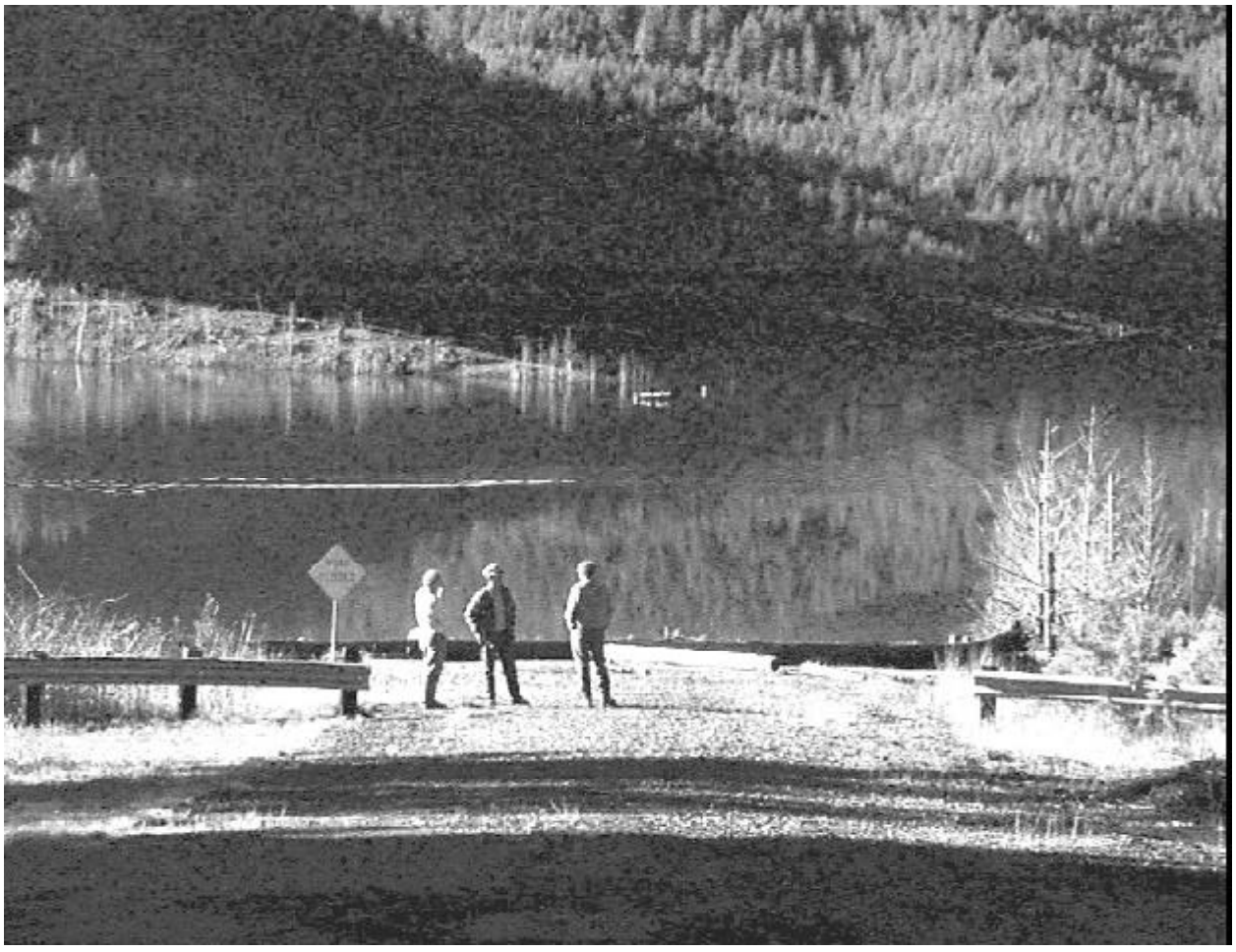
Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report

for Fiscal Year 1999



Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document combines the Medford District Annual Program Summary and the Monitoring Report for fiscal year 1999. The Annual Program Summary addresses the accomplishments of the Medford District in areas such as watershed analysis, Jobs-in-the-Woods, forestry, fire, recreation, and other programs. It also provides information concerning the Medford District budget and timber receipt collections. The results of the Annual Program Summary show that the Medford District is fully and successfully implementing the Resource Management Plan and Northwest Forest Plan.

The Monitoring Report compiles the results and findings of implementation monitoring for fiscal year 1999, the fourth full fiscal year of implementation of the Medford District Resource Management Plan. Although the Annual Program Summary gives only a very basic and very brief descriptions of the programs, resources, and activities in which the Medford District is involved, the report does give the reader a sense of the large scope, complexity and diversity involved in managing the Medford District's public lands and resources. Although there are and will continue to be challenges which will require us to adapt and to give our best, the managers and employees of Medford District take pride in the accomplishments described in this report.

Medford RMP, Summary of Renewable Resource Management Actions, Directions and Accomplishments

RMP RESOURCE ALLOCATION OR MANAGEMENT PRACTICE OR ACTIVITY	FISCAL YEAR 1999 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1996-1999	PROJECTED DECADAL PRACTICES
Regeneration harvest (acres offered)	245	2,966	10,400
Commercial thinning/density management/ uneven age harvests (acres offered)	2,453	36,868	44,900
Site preparation (acres)	8,207	12,868	6000
Hazardous Fuel Reduction/Ecosystem Restoration (burning acres)	4,880	6,927	—
Hazardous Fuel Reduction/Ecosystem Health and Recovery (mechanical acres)	3,327	7,724	—
Maintenance Work & Animal damage control (acres)	10,055	14,240	—
Precommercial thinning (acres)	3,827	23,432	78,000
Brush field/hardwood conversion (acres)	0	0	—
Planting/ regular stock (acres)	1,117	6,815	2,700
Planting/ genetically selected (acres)	290	1,104	10,300
Fertilization (acres)	893	2,222	57,000
Pruning (acres)	836	1,280	18,600
New permanent road const. (miles)	8	17	300
Roads fully decommissioned/ obliterated (miles)	18	120	—
Roads closed/ gated (miles)*	49	207	—
Timber sale quantity offered (mm board feet)	21.84	234.79	571
Timber sale quantity offered (mm cubic feet)	3.69	39.87	96.9
Noxious weed control, chemical (acres)	37	87	—
Noxious weed control, other (acres)	5,005	5,365	—
Livestock grazing permits or leases (Allotment leases / lease renewals)	78 / 5	235 / 48	—
Reservoirs or springs constructed or maintained (units each)	3	4	—
Livestock fences constructed (units/miles)	6 / 2.5	18 / 17.5	—

* Roads closed to the general public, but retained for administrative or legal access.

Medford RMP, Summary of Non-Biological Resource or Land Use Management Actions, Directions and Accomplishments

RMP RESOURCE ALLOCATION OR MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	ACTIVITY UNITS	FISCAL YEAR 1999 ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1995 - 1999	CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Realty, land sales	(actions/acres)	0	1 / 120
Realty, land purchase	(actions/acres)	1 / 27	1 / 27
Realty, land exchanges	(actions/acres acquired/disposed)	1*	3 / 7369 /3306
Realty, R&PP leases/patents	(actions/acres)	0	0
Realty, road rights-of-way acquired for public/agency use	(actions)	10	36
Realty, road rights-of-way granted	(actions)	24	74
Realty, utility rights-of-way granted	(actions)	3	21
Communication sites, rights-of-ways	(actions)	2	2
Special Use Permits	(actions)	6	6
Realty, withdrawals completed	(actions/acres)	0	0
Realty, withdrawals revoked	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mineral/energy, total oil and gas leases	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mineral/energy, total other leases	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mining plans approved	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mining claims patented	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mineral material sites opened	(actions/acres)	0	0
Mineral material sites, closed	(actions/acres)	0	0
Recreation, maintained off highway vehicle trails	(areas/acres)	0	3 / 25,570
Recreation, maintained hiking trails	(trails/miles)	5 / 71	19 /160
Recreation, sites	(sites/acres)	0	14 / 1097
Cultural resource inventories	(sites/acres)	78 / 8,000	189 / 28,439
Cultural/historic sites nominated	(sites/acres)	1	1
Hazardous material sites	(identified/cleaned)	31 / 31	70 / 59

*Land Exchange was with the U.S. Forest Service , Public Law 105-32

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management for the period of October 1998 through September 1999. The program summary is designed to report to the public, local, state and federal agencies a broad overview of activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 1999. This report addresses the accomplishments for the Medford District in such areas as watershed analysis, Jobs-in-the-Woods, forestry, recreation and other programs. Included in the Annual Program Summary is the Monitoring Report for the Medford District.

Both the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) and the Resource Management Plan (RMP) embrace the concepts of ecosystem management in a broader perspective than had been traditional in the past. Land use allocations covering all federal lands within the range of the spotted owl were established in the NFP. Analyses such as watershed analyses and late-successional reserve assessments are conducted at broader scale and involve landowners in addition to BLM personnel. Requirements to conduct standardized surveys or inventories for special status species have been developed for implementation at the regional level.

Implementation of the NFP began in April 1994 with the signing of the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision. Subsequently, with the signing of the RMP Record of Decision in June 1995, the Medford District began implementation of the RMP which incorporates all aspects of the Northwest Forest Plan.

BUDGET

The Medford District receives its annual operating budget from congressionally appropriated and non-appropriated sources. All appropriated funds are identified in the Interior Appropriations and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill. In fiscal year 1999, the Medford District received a total of $16,747,000 in appropriated funds including $16,045,000 in Oregon and California Grant Lands and $702,000 in Management of Lands and Resources appropriations. The district also received an additional $13,102,000 in non-appropriated funds, including funding from the following sources: forest ecosystem health and recovery funds, timber sale pipeline restoration funds, fuel hazard reduction funds, road use fee collections, recreation fee collections, reimbursements for work performed for other agencies, and other miscellaneous sources. The total available fiscal resources in fiscal year 1999 available to the Medford District was $29,849,000.

Appropriation	FY 1998	FY 1999
Oregon and California Land Grant	$ 20,534,000	$ 16,045,000
Management of Lands & Resources	492,000	702,000
Non-appropriated	9,769,000	13,102,000
	$30,795,000	$ 29,849,000

LAND USE ALLOCATIONS

Lands administered by the BLM will be managed to maintain or restore healthy, functioning ecosystems from which a sustainable production of natural resources can be provided. Ecosystem management involves the use of ecological, economic, social, and managerial principles to achieve healthy and sustainable natural systems.

The building blocks for this strategy are composed of several major land use allocations: riparian reserves; late-successional reserves; adaptive management areas; matrix, which includes general forest management areas and connectivity/diversity blocks; and a variety of special purpose management areas such as recreation sites, wild and scenic rivers, and visual resource management areas.

The Medford District has the following major land allocations:*

Congressional Reserves	14,267 acres
Late-Successional Reserves	178,467 acres
Late-Successional Reserve within AMA	32,937 acres
Marbled Murrelet Reserve	3,478 acres
District Defined Reserves	1,290 acres
Connectivity/Diversity Blocks	27,237 acres
Applegate Adaptive Management Area	113,912 acres
Reserved Habitat Area	16,732 acres
General Forest Management Area	470,776 acres
Total	859,096 acres

*Allocations do not have any overlapping designations. There are approximately 369,200 acres of riparian reserves.

LATE SUCCESSIONAL RESERVES AND ASSESSMENTS

Late successional reserves (LSRs) are areas established by the NFP and the Medford District RMP to maintain functional interactive late successional and old growth forest ecosystems. They are designed to serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth-related species including the northern spotted owl.

The Medford District contains portions of five late successional reserves designated in the Resource Management Plan: Elk Creek, Azalea, Galice Block, Munger Butte, and Jenny Creek.

The Jenny Creek assessment has been completed and sent to the Regional Ecosystem Office for review. The Munger Butte, Azalea, Galice Block and Elk Creek Reserves assessments have all been completed as a joint effort with the Forest Service.

APPLEGATE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are working extensively with communities interested in the Applegate River Watershed. Work with neighbors, interest groups, and the Applegate Partnership has resulted in increased understanding about the land and the people.

The Little Applegate Landscape Plan and Design for the 72,000-acre watershed was completed through an interagency team working with a locally based, multiple resource volunteer task force.

The overall goals of the project focused on:

- linking good science tied to passion and connection with the community
- understanding and defining the cultural boundaries and neighborhood networks within the larger Little Applegate community
- balancing individual best interest (physiological satisfaction) with mutual community benefits
- coupling community values to ecology and current policies (e.g., Northwest Forest Plan for federal lands, county zoning laws, etc.)

Timber sales and forest products continue to be outcomes from landscape projects in the Applegate AMA. Landscape sales have multiple objectives—reducing fire hazard, increasing resilience of residual trees, improving riparian and wildlife habitat, and reintroducing fire. Generally, silvicultural prescriptions for the commercial sales recommend thinning from below using a variety of logging systems. Adjacent brush fields are treated using mechanical methods and prescribed fire, as well as testing reintroduction of native grass and avoiding noxious weeds.

In fiscal year 1999, silviculture activities were carried out on 3,091 acres: 1,224 acres of understory reduction in commercial stands, 541 acres of non-forest land density treatments (oak/shrubland), 326 acres of tree planting, 585 acres of precommercial thinning in old clearcuts, and 415 acres of stand maintenance (grubbing and scalping vegetation around trees).

Fuels hazard reduction burning took place on approximately 2800 acres: 2000 acres were handpiled and burned, 533 acres were broadcast burned, and 279 acres were underburned.

Collaboration with communities is a primary focus in working in the area. We continue to explore what is meant by collaboration through workshops with the Applegate Partnership and others, how to describe parameters of collaboration and decision-making, and how to create the best forums for mutual learning.

Research and monitoring across the agency boundaries offer learning opportunities from landscape projects as well as other projects.

MATRIX

The matrix land allocation is defined in the Resource Management Plan as federal lands outside of reserves and special management areas that will be available for timber harvest at varying levels. The matrix within the planning area has been divided into the northern and southern General Forest Management Areas (GFMAs) and Connectivity/Diversity blocks. Approximately 482, 081 acres of BLM administered land are in the GFMAs and 28,761 acres in Connectivity / Diversity blocks. Connectivity/Diversity blocks vary in size and are distributed throughout the northern GFMA.

The following are objectives for the matrix lands:

- Produce a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities which will provide jobs and contribute to community stability.
- Provide connectivity (along with other allocations such as riparian reserves) between late-successional reserves.
- Provide habitat for a variety of organisms associated with both late-successional and younger forests.
- Provide for important ecological functions such as dispersal of organisms, carryover of some species from one stand to the next, and maintenance of ecologically valuable structural components such as down logs, snags, and large trees.
- Provide early-successional habitat.

WATER AND SOILS

Watershed Analysis

First iteration watershed analyses have been completed for 89 percent of the BLM-administered lands in the Medford District. The following table lists the first and second iteration watershed analyses completed in fiscal year 1999 on the Medford District.

MEDFORD DISTRICT WATERSHED ANALYSIS COMPLETED IN FY 1999			
Resource Area	**Watershed**	**Total Acres**	**BLM Acres**
1st Iterations			
Butte Falls	Trail Creek	35,306	13,582
Butte Falls	Lower Big Butte Creek	43,815	12,106
Glendale	Grave Creek*	43,373	17,246
Grants Pass	Rogue-Recreation Section (Big Hog)	93,316	37,678
Grants Pass	Murphy	41,663	17,280
Grants Pass	BLM-Rogue Wild (south portion)	42,384	41,866
	Totals for 1st Iterations	299,857	139,758
2nd Iterations			
Glendale	Grave Creek	61,000	33,100
Glendale	BLM-Rogue Wild (north portion)	61,700	57,700
	Totals for 2nd Iterations	122,700	90,800

*A watershed analysis for the north side of Grave Creek was prepared in 1994. The acres listed here are for the south side of Grave Creek that were not included in the previous watershed analysis. Acres from the north side are included in the second iteration portion of the table.

Riparian assessments for functioning condition status were conducted on 314 stream miles. These stream miles plus an additional 295 stream miles were surveyed for stream and channel characteristics. Summer stream temperature was monitored using recording instruments at 282 sites, streamflow was measured at 26 sites, turbidity was measured at 24 sites, precipitation was measured at 7 sites, and channel cross sections were surveyed at 14 sites.

Water Quality Limited—303(d) Streams

Stream temperature data was provided to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for use in developing the 1998 list of water quality limited streams. Approximately 100 stream segments included on the DEQ 1998 Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waterbodies cross BLM-administered land in the Medford District. These streams are primarily listed as water quality limited due to temperature, but some stream segments are listed for additional reasons such as flow modification, habitat modification, and sedimentation. They are being evaluated as part of the watershed analysis process. More

intensive stream temperature monitoring was done this year to identify the upper end of some water quality limited streams. The Medford District will be working cooperatively with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to develop Water Quality Management Plans and Total Maximum Daily Loads for 303(d) streams on BLM-administered lands.

Municipal Watersheds

Eight communities within the Medford District use a surface water sources for their water supply. There are no formal municipal watershed agreements with these communities. A watershed management plan was developed in conjunction with the City of Butte Falls for their ground water source, Ginger Springs.

Watershed Restoration Projects, Jobs-in-the-Woods

The Jobs-in-the-Woods program was established to mitigate the economic and social impacts of a reduced timber harvest in the Pacific Northwest while addressing the issue of watershed restoration. Fiscal year 1999, the sixth year for the program, resulted in a budget of more than $700 thousand dollars for on-the-ground projects. Direction for the types of projects to be funded included those that furthered goals of watershed restoration, the aquatic conservation strategy, and the Governor's Coastal Salmon Initiative.

Twenty projects were implemented this year including projects to:

- reduce sedimentation (road decommissioning, tree planting on cut banks, cut bank hydro mulching, culvert installation, and road surfacing, storm proofing and repair),
- improve fish habitat (replacement of culverts impeding fish passage with open-bottom or partially buried structures, instream work and diversion dam removals),
- reduce fire hazards on public and private lands,
- produce native seed, and
- meet the training needs of the local demonstration project (a program run by the Rogue Institute of Ecology and Economy to train displaced timber workers in ecoforestry skills).

BLM Medford is working with multi-agency groups, including local watershed councils, to further Jobs-in-the-Woods program objectives. Funds have been transferred to these groups over the last three years to implement fish habitat improvement projects. The Wyden Amendment and a memorandum of understanding that was signed by ten agencies (including the State of Oregon) are tools that are helping us incorporate a watershed approach which will address restoration needs across federal, state and private lands.

WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Green Tree Retention

Timber sales in the south General Forest Management Area (GFMA) maintain 16 to 25 large green trees per acre in harvest units. Units in the north GFMA maintain 6 to 8 green trees per acre.

Snags and Snag Recruitment

Snags are left standing in units if they do not conflict with Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety guidelines and if they do not conflict with prescribed burning.

Coarse Wood

In conformance with the Northwest Forest Plan, all timber sale units maintain a minimum of 120 lineal feet of down logs per acre greater than or equal to 16 inches diameter, assuming there are downed logs on the site. Additional reserve standing trees provide coarse wood recruitment for future decades.

Connectivity

Designated connectivity blocks are spaced across the district. Twenty-five to 30 percent of each block (640 acre section) is to be maintained in late-successional forest managed on a 150-year rotation. Harvest areas are to maintain a minimum 12 to 18 green trees per acre. Additional connectivity is provided by the riparian management network (100 to 300 feet on each side of the creek) and by 250 owl cores (100 acre LSRs).

Special Habitats

As part of the salamander surveys, talus habitat in project areas is being mapped. Entrances to caves and old mine adits are being buffered in upcoming sales. Meadows receive a 300-foot no-harvest buffer to maintain edge cover. Several underburn projects have been undertaken to maintain historic fire-dependant oak woodlands. BLM continues its partnership with The Nature Conservancy to manage The Table Rocks and their associated vernal pool habitats.

Nest Sites and Activity Centers

Protocol surveys were completed on a quarter of upcoming project areas for northern goshawks, a Bureau-sensitive species. Helicopter surveys monitored osprey productivity at Hyatt/Howard Prairie Lakes, Butte Creek, Lost Creek Reservoir, and along the Rogue River. Over 1200 neotropical birds were banded

at a Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship mist netting station in a long-term Partners In Flight project begun in 1995. Monitoring of foraging area on Townsends big-eared bats continued into its second year in the Grants Pass Resource Area utilizing radiotelemetry at a maternity colony.

Big Game Habitat

In the Applegate AMA, 1,000 acres of shrubland were piled and burned or broadcast burned as habitat improvement for deer. At Geppert Butte, 80 acres of brush were crushed in preparation for burning to rejuvenate habitat for big-game winter range. The Grants Pass RA burned 175 acres of brushfields .

Late-successional Reserve (LSR) Habitat Improvement

In the Elk Creek LSR, 20 acres were slashed and underburned to create a shaded fuel break to help combat future catastrophic wildfire.

Survey and Manage (S&M)/Protection Buffer Species

Management guidelines for specific S&M species have been refined during the year. Protocol surveys prior to ground disturbing activities have been ongoing for proposed timber sale areas. Survey data has been provided to the team that prepared the Draft Supplemental EIS For Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigating Measures Standards and Guidelines, released for public comment in December 1999.

Red Tree Vole. Upcoming timber sale units were surveyed for vole presence. Range occurrence maps for the species have been refined. The District is following interagency guidance for project mitigation.

Mollusks. Surveys are being done on proposed sale areas for six species of slugs and snails thought possibly to occur on the District. The two slug species (blue-gray taildropper, papillose taildropper) are being commonly found, but the S&M snail species are rare. When these surveys began in the fall of 1998, the slugs were thought to be rare. Following fall and spring surveys, the taildroppers are now known to be widespread.

Salamanders. Continuing work begun in 1996, all upcoming sale units within 25 miles of the known range were surveyed, talus habitat was mapped, and areas of occurrence were deferred from harvest units. Del Norte salamanders have been found in the northwest quarter of the District, but not east of I-5. Siskiyou Mountains salamanders have been found in the south central portion of the District. No S&M salamanders have been detected in the east half of the District. The Middle Thompson salamander 5-year monitoring study was begun in the Applegate AMA.

Great Gray Owl (protection buffer species). Upcoming sale units in suitable habitat (within 1,000 feet of meadows) have been surveyed to interagency protocol standards (6 surveys in each of 2 years). Several

nests are located each year even though the District is on the fringe of the specie's range. Thirty-five historic activity centers were monitored. Conforming to Northwest Forest Plan guidance, a 300-foot buffer around meadow habitat is being maintained and seasonal restrictions are imposed within a quarter mile of nest sites.

Threatened/Endangered Species

The Medford District joins with the Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on projects within the Rogue Basin to be sure that these projects are in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Peregrine Falcon. Two nest sites on BLM land and two on adjacent private land were monitored. District personnel assisted in identification of a new site on adjacent private land. The species was Federally delisted in August, but remains State Endangered and Bureau Sensitive.

Bald Eagle. Eight historic nest sites on BLM and three on adjacent private land were monitored for occupancy and productivity. An additional four new nests were discovered this year. The species is undergoing review by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for possible federal delisting in 2000.

Marbled Murrelet. The Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas are cooperating with the Siskiyou National Forest in developing and validating a landscape scale sampling effort to address whether there is a need for continued surveys for murrelets prior to habitat disturbing activities further than 25 miles inland in the Rogue Basin. No murrelets have ever been detected on the District since the project began in 1993.

Northern Spotted Owl. The Glendale Resource Area intensively surveyed 70 historic owl sites as part of the long-term Klamath demographic study (begun in 1997), part of the implementation monitoring mandated by the Northwest Forest Plan. An adaptive management monitoring study of owls in the Ashland RA continued its second year in conjunction with the National Council of Paper Industry for Air & Stream Improvement . The other resource areas opportunistically monitored another 150 sites to verify site locations and continue gathering demographic data.

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp. In cooperation with the Oregon Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy, surveys for fairy shrimp continued in ephemeral pool habitats at The Table Rocks. This species was first discovered here in 1998, a 100-mile northward extension of the known range.

FISH HABITAT

A variety of activities to maintain or enhance fish habitat were conducted in fiscal year 1999. The primary focus for fisheries was impact assessments for timber sales and road construction activities. Additionally, watershed analysis, Endangered Species Act consultation, Jobs in the Woods Projects and Transportation Management Objectives analysis. These activities represent the majority of the workload and also involve considerable field visits and meetings. The following are other activities performed by fisheries personnel.

Watershed Council Cooperation

The District provided technical assistance to various councils in support of the Governor's Salmon Plan commitments. BLM-funded projects for the watershed councils were paid for with money from Wyden Amendment appropriations. These projects included removing irrigation diversions and providing alternatives for fish passage in the Illinois River Basin. Projects in the Applegate River Basin included one mile of riparian fencing and removal of an abandoned irrigation diversion.

Stream and Riparian Inventory

Since 1992, the District has contracted with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to inventory streams. To date, complete inventories have been performed on approximately 95% of the streams in the District. Fifty-six miles were inventoried in fiscal year 1999. Tributaries to the Wild and Scenic section of the Rogue River were included in this estimate and will continue to be surveyed in fiscal year 2000.

Fish Passage

Fish passage is a high priority and an ongoing need in the District. Three culverts used bottomless arch conspan and plate designs to maintain a natural streambed and prevent a pool from forming below the culvert. The only funding for these projects is Jobs-in-the-Woods Program. Ten major culverts were replaced on coho salmon and steelhead streams to allow upstream migration to spawning grounds and 17 miles of habitat were made accessible to salmon and steelhead .

Fish Population Monitoring

Approximately ten miles of coho salmon spawning surveys were completed in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Two methods were used to estimate fish populations. Snorkeling was used on six miles of stream. Six rotary screw fish traps were used to determine juvenile fish composition and abundance. Riparian treatment monitoring for improved fish habitat was conducted on four miles of stream. Aquatic insect monitoring occurred at 54 sites in addition to those included in the District aquatic insect monitoring contract.

Instream Fish Habitat

Boulder weirs were placed in the Elk Creek key watershed for fish habitat enhancement. An irrigation ditch was breached in six places to allow uninterrupted natural streamflow from several tributaries. Logs were placed in Draper Creek and North Fork Big Butte Creek for coho salmon habitat enhancement. Two concrete dams (Alfonso Dam on Evans Creek and a dam on Elliott Creek) were removed to aid the upstream migration of adult coho salmon and steelhead to a 15-mile-long spawning area habitat above the dam. Improvement to the East Fork Illinois River irrigation system was done in cooperation with the Illinois River Watershed Council. Under the authority of the Wyden Act, a pond was excavated on private land to provide water for irrigation, replacing an irrigation diversion. The omission of the gravel push-up dam and use of the ditch will aid juvenile and adult coho salmon migration because the fish will remain in the East Fork Illinois River instead of being diverted down the irrigation ditch.

Riparian Fish Habitat

In addition to riparian habitat surveys, approximately 6,000 trees were planted in riparian areas. Ten miles of riparian habitat were fenced and maintained.

Public Outreach

Eleven major presentations were conducted with watershed councils and schools.
Two fishing events with educational talks were hosted.

SPECIAL STATUS AND SPECIAL ATTENTION SPECIES

Surveys, Monitoring, Consultation, and Restoration

Surveys for special status (SS) and special attention (SA) species are being conducted prior to all ground disturbing activities. Approximately 126,000 acres of pre-project clearance surveys have been completed annually since publication of the resource management plan. Baseline fungi, lichen, and bryophyte inventories have been completed on approximately 100,000 acres on the district. Four SS plants have been monitored on an annual basis to determine population trends. Pre-project surveys and monitoring have been accomplished by a permanent botanical staff of three botanists, one natural resource specialist, one forestry technician plus four term botanists. Most of the pre-project inventory has been completed by botanical contracts. The number of SS plant sites known to occur on public lands within the district at the end of 1999 are presented by status category in Table 1. The number of SA plant sites are presented by status category in Table 2. There are a total of 2,197 SS sites and 3,434 SA sites. Clustered lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum)* sites occur in both categories as it has both designations.

Table 1. Number of Sites by Species Group for Special Status Plant Species

Status 1

Species Group	Federal Listed	Federal Candidate	Bureau Sensitive	Assessment Species	Tracking Species
Fungi	—	—	—	—	—
Lichens	—	—	—	—	—
Bryophytes	—	—	—	—	—
Vascular Plants	23	64	1351	330	429

Table 2. Number of Sites by Species Group for Special Attention Plant Species

Status 2

Species Group	Protection Buffer	Survey & Manage Strategy 1	Survey & Manage Strategy 2	Survey & Manage Strategy 3	Survey & Manage Strategy 4
Fungi	121	221	16	506	52
Lichens	0	78	0	94	292
Bryophytes	178	60	62	28	12
Vascular Plants	—	857	857	—	—

Note: Some special attention species are included in more than one status category.

No consultation has been initiated for SS plants. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed one SS plant species, Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*) as endangered. Habitat restoration has been attempted at one SS plant location. Three conservation strategies have been completed and two more are in preparation.

SPECIAL AREAS

Defensibility monitoring has been ongoing on the 34 designated special areas on the district—areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), research natural areas (RNA) and environmental education areas (EEA). Habitat restoration has occurred at Jenny Creek and French Flat ACECs. Noxious weeds control has been conducted at Round Top Butte, Poverty Flat, and Table Rocks ACECs. Draft management plans have been completed on Round Top Butte RNA. A parking lot design is in the planning stages for Upper and Lower Table Rocks. A group area kiosk is being planned for Upper Table Rock. Environmental assessments are being prepared for these projects. A signed management plan is in place for Rough and Ready ACEC. Restoration of old trails with native plants and construction of new trails have been completed at Lower Table Rock ACEC. Management plans are currently in a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for Scotch Creek and Oregon Gulch RNAs and Pilot Rock and Jenny Creek ACECs. These plans are part of the Cascade/Siskiyou Ecological Area Plan. Inventories for survey and manage non-vascular plants have been completed at Holten Creek and Lost Lake RNAs.

Status of ACEC Management Plans				
#ACECs from RMP	**ACEC Plans Written in FY99**	**#ACEC Plans That Need Revision**	**#ACEC Plans Previously Completed and Current in FY99**	**# New ACEC Plans That Need to Be Written**
30	1	2	2	26

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The program provides environmental history information addressing the role of human beings in the evolution of the landscape, to Resource Areas when requested to do so for watershed analyses. This information is synthesized from a variety of sources including reports, maps, photos, and historic documents, and several overview studies done on this subject in past years. The program continues to solicit tribal input for important projects such as the Klamath-Irongate and Bear Creek Watershed assessments and to keep an updated list of interested tribes. Public outreach and education goals were addressed through various means including: implementing an Assistance Agreement with Notre Dame College to continue summer field school work on the District; implementing the Assistance Agreement with Southern Oregon University for student intern assistance in site inventory and recording projects; collaborating with Southern Oregon Historical Society to construct and promote an exhibit on the "Archaeology of the Upper Rogue" displayed at the county fairs; collaboration with Southern Oregon University in presenting a day-long workshop on the BLM's *Exploring Oregon's Past: A Teachers' Activity Guide;* and participation of District personnel in a number of public presentations and workshops. The Medford District Exhibit Committee used the theme "Saving the Past for the Future" for both the Jackson and Josephine County Fairs. The exhibits, seen by more than 15,000 people at the two fairs, emphasized Oregon and Rogue Valley history and cultural resource conservation with exhibits featuring a fiberglass rock with simulated rock art, a simulated archaeological dig, artifacts from various parts of the state, and a four-panel history of the Rogue Valley. All parts of the exhibit incorporated a strong anti-looting, conservation ethic.

RURAL INTERFACE AREAS

The objective of the resource management plan for rural interface areas is to consider the interests of adjacent and nearby rural residential land owners during analysis, planning and monitoring activities occurring within the managed rural interface areas. These interests include personal health and safety, improvements to property, and quality of life.

The BLM manages rural interface areas encompassing approximately 136,000 acres within one-quarter mile of private land zoned for 1-5 acre or 5-20 acre lots located throughout the Medford District.

In the past year, the BLM has worked with numerous local residents and groups such as watershed councils, fire protection groups, area citizen groups, and environmental coalitions to mitigate impacts of land management practices that are in close proximity to private residences.

Gates and other barricades are used to stop unauthorized use of public roads and dust abatement measures to mitigate impacts to neighbors. The BLM is also attempting to reduce fuels hazards on public lands adjacent to private properties.

RECREATION

The Medford District's Recreation Management program continues to be one of the most diverse in the state. Developed sites include campgrounds at Hyatt Lake, Tucker Flat, Elderberry Flat and a new campground at Skull Creek added in fiscal year 1999. Day use sites are maintained at Gold Nugget, Elderberry Flat, Kenny Meadows, Hyatt Lake, and along the Recreational Section of the Rogue River. Interpretive trails and sites are maintained at Eight Dollar Mountain, Table Rocks, Hyatt Lake, Gold Nugget, Rand Administrative Site, and two National Register Sites, the Whisky Creek Cabin and the Rogue River Ranch. More than 2900 school children and 1800 adults took guided interpretive hikes on the Table Rocks. These numbers represent a increase over past years.

In addition, we maintain two nationally designated trails, The Rogue River National Recreation Trail and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

BLM administers both the commercial and private permits on the 47 miles of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River managed by the district.

For users who enjoy driving for pleasure, the district manages two Back Country Byways and three designated Off Highway Vehicle areas. For non-motorized cyclists, the district maintains the 74-mile Glendale-to-Powers Bicycle Recreation Area.

The 5,867-acre Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area continues to be managed under the non-impairment criteria of the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, pending Congressional action. The Soda Mountain area was also proposed as a National Conservation Area this year and the area is being evaluated at this time for possible Presidential or Congressional designation.

This year the district added a mid-mountain launch ramp and a beginner's hill at the base of the slope at the Woodrat Mountain hang glider site.

Winter recreation use continues to increase with over 20 miles of cross-country ski trails and sixty miles of snowmobile trails maintained. The Table Mountain Tubing Hill was remodeled this year with the addition of parking areas and the development of a longer slope.

Dispersed use throughout the district includes hunting, fishing, camping, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hang gliding, caving, shooting, mountain biking, water play, sightseeing, hiking, and mushroom and berry gathering. The types of uses increase every year as does the amount of use.

In addition to these activities, this year the district issued approximately 150 Special Recreation Permits for commercial or competitive activities. The majority of these permits are issued to commercial outfitters and guides on the Rogue River. Additional permits are issued for coonhound trials, paintball wars, hunting guides, equestrian events, bicycle events, automobile road races, and OHV events.

Backlog maintenance projects were completed again this year at Hyatt Lake Campground, the Table Rocks, the Rogue River Ranch, and Gold Nugget using Recreation Pipeline dollars. In addition, the Pilot Fee Demonstration program has made it possible to keep the fees charged at recreation sites for use at that site, thereby showing the users a direct return for their money.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Medford District manages approximately 859,096 acres of land located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos counties. Under the Northwest Forest Plan, approximately 191,000 acres (or 22 percent of the Medford District land base) are available for timber production. The Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan provide for a sustainable timber harvest (known as the Allowable Sale Quantity) of 57.1 MMBF (million board feet) annually from Medford District administered public lands. The district offered 21.8 MMBF (3.69 MMCF) in fiscal year 1999.

Beginning in fiscal year 1998, all BLM timber sales were measured, sold and reported in volumes of hundred cubic feet. The cubic foot measurement takes into account the taper in logs and offers a more accurate, consistent measurement that accounts for lumber, chips, and the sawdust that is produced from logs of all sizes. Volumes in board feet will continue to be reported for informational purposes.

In fiscal year 1999, Medford District sold 5 timber sales at auction and negotiated 6 sales of minor volume. The value of these sold timber sales was over $4.6 million. The monies associated with these timber sales is paid as the timber is harvested over the life of the contracts, which is generally three years. Timber sale collection for fiscal year 1999 from active harvesting was $9,876,279.76 for Oregon and California Railroad Lands and $1,777,669.20 for Public Domain Lands.

A number of harvest methods are employed in the Medford District. These consist of regeneration harvest, density management, selective, clearcut, and salvage.

Land Use Allocation	Offered FY 1999	Total 1995-1999
AMA	12,090	68,811
North GFMA	15,177	113,783
South GFMA	1,338	42,172
Connectivity	1,609	9,150
Total Volume from ASQ lands	30, 214	233,916
LSR Volume	0	3,721
Riparian Reserve volume	0	4,472
Hardwood volume	0	29
Misc. volume	335	1,363
Total Volume Offered	26,090	239,042
District FY Target Volume	57,075	255,478

- Data shown is for all "Offered" timber sales, which included advertised and negotiated sales with associated modifications.
- Misc. volume includes special forest products sold as sawtimber.

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS

The Medford District sold a wide variety of products under the Special Forest Products Program in fiscal year 1999. These sales included mushrooms, mosses, Christmas trees, wood burls, plant transplants, floral greenery and wood products such as poles or fence posts.

The record of decision does not have any commitments for the sale of special forest products. The following table shows the special forest product sales for fiscal year 1999 on the Medford District.

Product	Number of Contracts	Quantity Sold	Value
Boughs-Coniferous	120	314,070 lbs	$8,792
Burls & Miscellaneous	33	81,665 lbs	$8,239
Christmas Trees	22	771 trees	$3,405
Ornamentals	1	100	$25
Edibles & Medicinals	4	1,400 lbs	$40
Floral & Greenery	200	223,031 lbs	$5,952
Mosses-Bryophytes	1	1,000 lbs	$30
Mushrooms-Fungi	2	390 lbs	$1,795
Seed & Seed Cones	3	70 bushels	$95
Transplants	3	310 plants	$145
Wood Products	997	650,129 cu. ft.	$15,662
Total	**1,386**	—	**$44,180**

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Containment and/or reduction of noxious weed infestations on Medford District administered lands in five counties (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, Curry) using an integrated pest management approach is critical if native and natural ecosystems are to survive. Currently, the Medford District is emphasizing control of 12 species of exotic plants (yellow starthistle; purple loosestrife; puncturevine; diffuse, meadow, and spotted knapweeds; rush skeletonweed; leafy spurge; tansy ragwort; Canada thistle; scotch and Spanish broom). The number of sites targeted for treatment each year is subject to change, depending upon new infestations, funding, cooperation from adjacent landowners, and effectiveness of control method.

The following is a partial list of accomplishments:

1. Released 2,000 *Bangasternus orientalis*, and 1,000 *Eustenopus villosus* for yellow star thistle; 1,000 *Ceutorhynchus litura* and 1,250 *Urophra cardui* for Canada thistle within the Soda Mt. Wilderness (5,867 acres); and 500 *Larinus minutus* on squarrose knapweed near Soda Mt. Wilderness.
2. Contracted with Forest Action Committee and Forest Service in Cave Junction for manual control of spotted knapweed, meadow knapweed, yellow starthistle, and scotch broom along roads, around the local high school, along air strip, and in major infestations on private lands (approximately 25 acres).
3. Sponsored the Interagency Noxious Weed Workshop.
4. Controlled yellow starthistle and knapweed on the Rogue River with 9 students from SOU (approximately 10 acres).
5. Controlled Dyer's woad on approximately 3 acres.
6. Aerially surveyed purple loosestrife on approximately 1,500 acres.
7. Handpull Dyer's Woad on approximately 2 acres.
8. Hand-pulled puncturevine on approximately 5 acres.
9. ODA sprayed distaff thistle on approximately 10 acres.
10. Treated approximately 2 acres of Canada thistle and diffuse and spotted knapweed at Hobson Horn.
11. Controlled Scotch broom on approximately 5 acres in Jacksonville.
12. Contracted with Rural Outdoor Education to handpull yellow starthistle and clip seedheads of purple loosestrife.
13. Designed weed booklets in preparation for printing.

WILDFIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection and wildland fire suppression through a cost reimbursable contract for the Medford District BLM. For the 1999 fire season the District experienced 56 wildfires which burned a total of 72 acres. Of that total 41 wildfires were lightning caused and 15 human caused.

Although the number of fires and acres burned this year were lower than our 10 year average, this was not an average year on the Medford District. Starting in July, the National Fire Danger Rating System indices started to mirror two of our worst recent fire seasons (1992, 1994). The low acreage total for the number of fires in the Medford District this year is due primarily to a proactive fire prevention effort and aggressive initial attack fire suppression by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

In all cases the suppression actions were completed within the framework of the Medford District's Resource Management Objectives.

The District treated fuels on 8,207 acres in fiscal year 1999. Of that total, the District used prescribed burning (underburning, broadcast burning, and pile burning) on 4,880 acres of federal land. The remaining 3,327 acres was either prepared for later burning through hand piling or excavator machine piling or the material was chipped or crushed to reduce hazard and may be burned in the future.

The objective of the district hazardous fuels reduction program is to reduce through burning or mechanical treatment available fuel that could contribute to large, severe wildfires. The Medford District conducts risk (probability of a fire) and hazard (severity if a fire starts) assessments as part of the land management planning process. These assessments help target fuels treatments in the highest risk and hazard areas and over time should reduce the chance of large catastrophic fire in the areas treated. In order to make these risk and hazard assessments easier and more accurate, the District is in the process of developing a Southwest Oregon area-wide fuel model Geographic Information System data layer. This layer is being developed on an interagency basis with the USDA Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.

The majority of the District's burning continues to be hand piles (66%). Hand piling and burning is the best method for first entry treatment due to the tree density and under story vegetation in prescribed fire project areas. This vegetation density makes underburning difficult or impossible to accomplish without the potential for unacceptable resource damage. Underburning dense stands also increases the possibility of escape due to increased fuel loading and potential for high fire intensity.

The material generally greater than 3 inches in diameter is not included in the piling operation and will remain on site for nutrient recycling, erosion control, and wildlife habitat retention. The application and use of fire and fuels management was completed within the objectives established for each land allocation under the Medford District Resource Management Plan.

All prescribed burning on the Medford District is done in compliance with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Smoke Management Plan. There were no smoke intrusions due to BLM burning during 1999. No conformity determinations were made under the State Implementation Plan and Clean Air Act. There was no burning within the designated smoke sensitive areas identified by the Oregon Smoke Management Plan for the Ashland/Medford Air Quality Management Area and Grants Pass Designated Area.

The District is continuing the completion of a smoke and air quality monitoring network in Southwest Oregon with the cooperation of USDA Forest Service and Oregon DEQ. The Rogue River NF installed a site in Ruch, Oregon, and the Medford District will install a site in Shady Cove, Oregon, this spring.

ACCESS

Because public and private lands are intermingled within the district boundary, each party must cross the lands of the other in order to gain access to their lands and resources such as timber. Throughout most of the district this has been accomplished through reciprocal logging road rights-of-way agreements with neighboring private landowners. The individual agreements and associated permits (a total of 103 on the district) are subject to the regulations which were in effect when they were executed or assigned. Additional rights-of-way have been granted for projects such as driveway construction, residence utility lines, domestic and irrigation water pipelines, and legal ingress and egress.

TRANSPORTATION / ROADS

The Western Oregon Transportation Management Plan was completed in 1996. One of the stated objectives of the plan is to comply with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. The four resource areas are developing transportation management objectives as part of the watershed analysis process. Road inventories, watershed analyses, and individual timber sale projects identified some roads and associated drainage features that posed a risk to aquatic or other resource values. Those activities identified included:

- surfacing dirt roads
- replacing deteriorated culverts
- replacing log fill culverts
- replacing undersized culverts in perennial streams to meet 100-year flood events

Other efforts were made to reduce overall road miles by closure or elimination of roads.

The district decommissioned approximately 18 miles of road through timber sale projects. Another 49 miles of road were closed by gates or barricades.

ENERGY AND MINERALS

The Medford District has more than 150 active mining notices. Each year we inspect about half of all mining sites on the district. In 1999, 75 sites that were the most likely to have impacts on other resources were inspected. One site was placed in noncompliance status.

The district continues to sell mineral materials to the public including clay, decorative rock, and quarry rock used for driveways and roads. Materials sales were made to businesses and private citizens in fiscal year 1999.

LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS

For fiscal year 2000, we will continue to work on the Pilot Rock Exchange with Boise Cascade and the Soda Mountain exchange with U.S. Timberlands. These acquisitions will block up an area of critical environmental concern and the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The district hazardous materials coordinator participated in a number of actions involving investigations and/or cleanup of reported hazardous waste sites including:

- Completing three environmental site assessments for easement acquisitions.
- Activating and administering the emergency response contract for three incidents and responding to five meth lab sites.
- Coordinating environmental testing at various sites for sediments, soil, and building materials (asbestos).
- Recovering refrigerant and waste oils and disposing of 22 junk appliances from illegal dumping on public lands.
- Performing preliminary investigations and carrying out appropriate actions on 28 reported hazmat incidents.

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

The Medford District participates in the Southwest Oregon Provincial Executive Committee (which includes the heads of federal agencies in southwest Oregon). The district continued an interagency effort on late-successional reserve assessments and worked with agencies on the endangered species act consultation process involving Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Intergovernmental tribal coordination continues on the district with many planned projects. The Applegate Adaptive Management Area continues to be a strong focal point for the Bureau, the Forest Service, and local private landowners.

The Medford District continues to meet with the Jackson County Forest Subcommittee and environmental groups on a regular basis. Interagency discussions started this year on the Rogue Basin assessment with the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Quality and local watershed councils.

RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

In 1998, the Medford District developed a five-year research and monitoring plan (fiscal years 1998-2002). This plan was based on the concept that the Northwest Forest Plan would be carried out in an adaptive management framework that provides for management changes as we learn more from research and monitoring results. Three priorities were identified:

a) Young stands' biodiversity (managed vs. natural),

b) Riparian reserves (structure and functions to meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives), and

c) Survey and manage species (assessing habitats needs and protection requirements).

Some studies that are underway are designed to evaluate mortality rates in large old trees, responses of old trees to thinning, developmental patterns of old growth forests and future trajectories of young stands.

Some studies would be retrospective in nature to evaluate and monitor the effects of past management practices on various ecosystems' parameters, while other studies would involve testing new concepts that require disturbance (*i.e.*, thinning, underburning, creating snags and course woody debris). The Medford District is also in the early stages of cooperating with other federal agencies and private landowners in southwest Oregon to develop plant association group maps that would assist in large scale planning and monitoring across watersheds and landscapes.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

Cadastral survey crews completed four projects and commenced work on three large projects during the fiscal year 1999. A total of 68 miles of line were surveyed, 48 miles of federal boundaries were posted, and 92 survey monuments were set. Medford cadastral survey utilized survey-grade global positioning systems (GPS) to establish control points on the projects it completed as well as using GPS to conduct surveys where practical. Two of the surveys were for timber trespass cases, three were for work in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area, and two were for occupancy trespass cases.

Cadastral survey serves as the district lead for all levels of GPS work—resource grade and survey grade. Cadastral survey also completed work on the Geographic Coordinate Data Base for 23 townships. The crews conducted site surveys at three different locations.

Cadastral survey responded to numerous questions from private landowners, timber companies, private land surveyors and district personnel regarding surveying procedures, status of surveys, and information about official survey plats and field notes.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Medford District has two full time BLM rangers and, through a law enforcement agreement with the counties, the services of a deputy sheriff from both Jackson and Josephine Counties. Law enforcement efforts on the Medford District for fiscal year 1999 included the following:

- Participating in operations at Medford District during active protests and other demonstrations having the potential for confrontation, destruction of government property, or threat to employee or public safety,
- Investigating occupancy trespass cases,
- Exchanging information concerning illegal or planned illegal activities on BLM lands,
- Regular patrols and other ongoing investigations.

Cases and incidents have resulted in written warnings, citations, physical arrests, and the referral of cases to other agencies.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Medford District rangeland program administers grazing for 70 livestock operators on 104 allotments. These grazing allotments include approximately 352,313 acres of the Medford District's 863,095 total acres. In addition to public lands, grazing authorizations may include several thousand acres leased from private timber company holdings.

Grazing is one of the many uses of the public lands. The primary goal of the grazing program is to provide livestock forage while maintaining or improving range conditions and riparian areas. To ensure that these lands are properly managed, the Bureau conducts monitoring studies to help the manager determine if resource objectives are being met.

A portion of the grazing fees and operational funding is spent each year to maintain or complete rangeland improvement projects. These projects are designed to benefit wildlife, fisheries, and watershed resources while improving conditions for livestock grazing. The Medford District has conducted the long-running Jenny Creek Riparian Enhancement Projects each year since 1988 as part of the rangeland program. These projects have resulted in numerous improvements and enhanced riparian systems and have built strong partnerships with friends, neighbors, and organizations.

Livestock grazing regulations were revised in 1995 with the implementation of Rangeland Reform. Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health were completed for the states of Oregon and Washington in 1997. The fundamental characteristics of rangeland health combine physical function and biological health with elements of law relating to water quality, and plant and animal populations and communities. Assessments of rangeland health will be completed on grazing allotments over a ten year period.

Recent changes have also taken place in the review process for grazing lease renewals Bureau wide. Grazing leases will now be reviewed prior to renewal to ensure appropriate documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act.

An update of the Medford District's Rangeland Program Summary is currently being completed to summarize changes which have occurred since the last update. If you would like a copy of this document please contact our office with your name and mailing address. All future updates will be reported annually in the Medford District Annual Program Summary.

Fiscal Year 1999 Accomplishments

Standard and Guideline Assessments:

- Ashland Field Office: Billy Mountain Allotment 20,203; Foots Creek 20,219; Conde Creek 20,117; Grizzly 10,119
- Butte Falls Field Office: Crowfoot 10,038; Devon South 10,043; Reese Creek 10,027
- Grants Pass Field Office: Q Bar X 10,310

Lease renewals have been completed for Q Bar X, Foots Creek, Devon South, Crowfoot, and Reese Creek.

Allotment Monitoring: Collected utilization, trend, and riparian studies on 19 high priority allotments

Rangeland Improvements: Insects were released within the Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area to biologically assist in control of yellow starthistle. Inventory for Canada thistle was completed on approximately 100,000 acres on the Conde, Keene Creek and Soda Mountain Allotments. A cattle guard was installed on the Dead Indian allotment. A pole fence was completed around Griffin Pass spring. Part of the holding field at Soda Mountain was reconstructed. Approximately one-half mile of fence was completed on the Lake Creek Spring allotment. One spring exclosure and one spring development were maintained in the Butte Falls area.

Seventy-four Jenny Creek Riparian Volunteers completed 10 projects in 1999. These volunteers constructed fencing to protect an aspen stand and installed check dams to control erosion on the Dauenhauer Ranch; repaired fencing on and rolled up old wire hazards and removed trash from the Box O Ranch; installed bluebird boxes and constructed a pole fence to discourage traffic in the riparian zone at Little Hyatt Reservoir.

PLANNING AND NEPA DOCUMENTS

Plan Maintenance

The Medford District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) was approved in April 1995. Since then, the district has implemented the plan across the entire spectrum of resources and land use allocations. During the life of a plan, both minor changes or refinements and possibly major changes brought about by new information or policy may occur. The plan establishes mechanisms to respond to these situations. Maintenance actions respond to minor data changes and incorporation of activity plans. This maintenance is limited to further refining or documenting a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Plan maintenance will not result in expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved resource management plan. Maintenance actions are not considered a plan amendment and do not require the formal public involvement and interagency coordination process undertaken for plan amendments.

Previous plan maintenance has been published in past Medford District Annual Program Summaries. The following additional items have been implemented on the Medford District as part of the plan maintenance during fiscal year 1999. These plan maintenance items represent minor changes, refinements or clarifications that do not result in the expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved resource management plan.

Plan Maintenance for Fiscal Year 1999

Oregon Cultural Protocol Implementation. Instruction Memorandum OR-99-020 addresses some changes in Oregon cultural resources protocol. One aspect of cultural resource protection remains unchanged. The BLM still holds the same responsibility and commitment for engaging tribal communications on all projects and programs in a meaningful manner regardless of the project's status relative to the protocol.

Lynx—Survey and Manage Protocol. Instruction Memorandum OR-99-25 provides the protocol for surveys which are required within the known or suspected range of lynx. The lynx was identified as a protection buffer species that followed the implementation schedule for the survey and manage Component 2 provision . The Regional Ecosystem Office issued a memorandum (June 11, 1996) that documented the Regional Interagency Executive Committee decision to change specific provisions regarding the management of lynx in the Standards and Guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. This decision changed the lynx into management under Component 3 rather then Component 2. Component 3 requires extensive surveys to identify high-priority areas for species management.

Vascular Plants—Survey and Manage Protocol. Instruction Memorandum OR-99-26 contains the standard protocols (Version 2.0) for conducting surveys for vascular plants. The protocols are being distributed as a working version for use, field testing and comment in 1999. They will undergo peer review at the same time. Although the protocols will likely be revised, projects surveyed according to these protocols will be considered as meeting the requirements of Component 2 until further notice.

Change in Implementation Schedule for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Species. IM OR 99-047. On March 3, 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service jointly filed a Finding of No Significant Impact and separately issued Plan Implementation Documentation (BLM)) and a Decision Notice (Forest Service) to delay the survey schedule for 32 of the Component 2 Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species for one year. This means that the requirement to survey for these 32 species has been postponed from FY 1999 until FY 2000. Surveys for these species are considered to be technically infeasible at this time for any of the following reasons: (1) they cannot be identified in the field; (2) they require specialized expertise for positive identification; or (3) multiple-year surveys are required to determine species absence.

Presently a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Amendment to the Survey and Manage , Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigating Measures, Standards and Guidelines has been written. The DEIS comment period closes March 3, 2000. The final EIS is expected to be available in late spring or early summer and the Record of Decision may amend portions of the Medford RMP.

Third Year Evaluation

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) will be formally evaluated at the end of every third year after implementation begins. Fiscal year 1998 was the third full year of implementation of the Medford District RMP which was signed in April 1995.

Simultaneously with other western Oregon BLM Districts, Medford District has initiated the collection of supplemental information and analyses required for evaluating the RMP. The evaluation will be based on the implementation actions and plan and project monitoring from April 1995 through September 30, 1998. Meetings have been held in which key staff and managers from western Oregon districts consolidated and refined a list of internal issues. They also developed a strategy and process for accomplishing the third year evaluation.

All of the supplemental analyses and RMP evaluations are expected to be completed by the spring of 2000, when they will be made available for public review. The State Director's findings will indicate whether or not the Western Oregon RMP's are individually or collectively still valid for continued management direction or require plan amendments or revisions, together with appropriate environmental analyses and public participation.

An Executive Summary will be mailed to the same mailing list that received this Annual Program Summary publication. The individual evaluations will be available upon request and also accessible "on-line" at the Medford District website, www.or.blm.gov/Medford/

MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Introduction

This document represents the fourth monitoring report of the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) for which the Record of Decision was signed in April 1995. This monitoring report compiles the results of implementation monitoring of the fourth year of implementation of the Resource Management Plan. Included in this report are the projects that took place from October 1998 through September 1999. Effectiveness and validation monitoring will be conducted in subsequent years when projects mature or proceed long enough for the questions asked under these categories of monitoring to be answered.

Background

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4 - 9) call for the monitoring and evaluation of resource management plans at appropriate intervals.

Monitoring is an essential component of natural resource management because it provides information on the relative success of management strategies. The implementation of the RMP is being monitored to ensure that management actions:

- follow prescribed management direction (implementation monitoring),
- meet desired objectives (effectiveness monitoring) and
- are based on accurate assumptions (validation monitoring) (see Appendix L, Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan).

Some effectiveness monitoring and most validation monitoring will be accomplished by formal research. The nature of the questions concerning effectiveness monitoring require some maturation of implemented projects in order to discern results. This and validation monitoring will be conducted as appropriate in subsequent years.

Monitoring Overview

This monitoring report focuses on the implementation questions contained in the Resource Management Plan. The monitoring plan for the Resource Management Plan incorporates the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan.

Monitoring at multiple levels and scales along with coordination with other BLM and Forest Service units has been initiated through the Regional Interagency Executive Council (RIEC). At the request of the RIEC, the Regional Ecosystem Office started a regional-scale implementation monitoring program. This province-level monitoring was completed for the fourth year.

Monitoring Results and Findings

Implementation monitoring was based on a process developed by the Medford District Research and Monitoring Committee. The basis was Appendix L of the RMP/ROD. Questions were separated into two lists, those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary or completed reports (copies of the questions are included in Appendix B). Projects were randomly selected for monitoring for the period from October 1998 through September 1999. A summary of the district monitoring follows.

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects for FY 1999

Project Type	# Ashland R.A.	# Butte Falls R.A.	# Glendale R.A.	# Grants Pass R.A.	Total # District
Timber Sales	1	1	2	1	5
Silviculture Projects	1	0	2	3	6
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	1	0	0	1
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burns	0	0	0	0	0
Road Restoration/Bridge Replacement	0	0	1	1	2
Other Projects	3	4	3	2	12

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects Selected for Monitoring FY 1999

Project Type	# Ashland R.A.	# Butte Falls R.A.	# Glendale R.A.	#Grants Pass R.A.	Total # District
Timber Sales	1	1	2	1	5
Silviculture Projects	1	0	1	3	5
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	1	0	0	1
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burns	0	0	0	0	0
Road Restoration	0	0	1	1	2
Other Projects	3	3	3	2	11

Note: See Appendix A for all projects considered and projects selected for monitoring.

The monitoring team consisted of district core team members and was supplemented with area personnel. Projects were selected for monitoring based on the guidelines contained in Appendix L of the RMP/ROD.

The Medford District started or completed 26 projects from October 1998 through September 1999. These projects included timber sales, small salvage sales, road rights-of-way, collection of special forest products and trail construction. The projects were sorted into the following categories:

Timber Sales	Riparian Projects
Silvicultural Projects	Fish Habitat work
Wildlife Habitat	Prescribed Burns
Road Restorations	Other

Projects that required environmental assessments or categorical exclusions were randomly selected for office and field review. Appendix L generally requires a 20 percent sample to be evaluated.

FY 1999 Implementation Monitoring Selection Categories

Selection categories from Data Base	# Projects FY 99	# Projects Monitored FY 99	% Monitored
Ground Disturbing Activities	22	20	90%
Projects occurring in Riparian Reserves	17	4	23%
Structures within Riparian Reserves	10	10	100%
Projects in Late Successional Reserves	0	0	N/A
Timber Sales in watersheds w/ <15% Late Successional Forest	0	0	N/A
Matrix Regeneration Harvests	3	2	66%
Projects in Municipal Watersheds	0	0	N/A
Projects within or adjacent to Special Areas	2	2	100%
Projects which include or are adjacent to Special habitats	5	3	60%
Projects in VRM II or III areas	13	3	23%
Projects in Wild & Scenic River Corridors	1	1	100%
Projects in Rural Interface	15	3	20%
Noxious Weed Project	1	1	100%
Prescribed Burn Projects	5	2	40%
Projects which required dust abatement	5	1	20%

For each project selected, we answered the project-specific questions included in Appendix B. Questions of a general nature (Appendix B, second list of questions) are addressed in the specific program articles found in the beginning of this document.

The Medford District is divided into four resource areas. The resource area landscape planners prepared answers to the monitoring questions for the individual actions based on a review of the files and

NEPA documentation. Some questions asked for information that required field review of projects before they were started and other questions required information gathered after projects were completed. The district monitoring group reviewed the entire monitoring package and attended the necessary field trips.

The Medford District monitoring group found a high level of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) contained in the Medford Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan.

Field review of the timber sales and projects indicated that the intent and requirements for the S&Gs had been met for the sampled and completed sales. In two instances, a review of the documentation of the projects showed that linkage from the watershed analysis to the environmental assessment could be improved. While the link was there, the group determined it could be strengthened.

Projects received field visits so that the selected monitoring questions could be answered or required pre-harvest measurements taken. The projects were reviewed in the field for the different factors listed below.

Special Attention Species	Riparian Reserves	Snag Retention
Coarse Woody Debris	Wildlife Habitat	Special Status Species
Cultural Resources	Noxious Weeds	

Snags, green tree retention, and coarse woody debris were found to be reserved at the levels expected in the RMP. Riparian reserves were measured and found to have the correct size buffers for the different type of streams. All projects were found to be in full compliance with the S&Gs from the record of decision. The project results and information on the monitoring process is available at the Medford District Office. As a result of observed very high compliance with management action and direction in the past three years, no implementation or management adjustments are recommended.

A portion of the questions asked in the monitoring appendix concern projects that have not been completed and which deal with pretreatment conditions. Measurements of riparian reserves, surveys of green tree and snag retention, coarse woody debris levels, and special attention species were completed on the projects in the following list and will be reviewed again when the project has been completed. Some projects may take up to three years to be completed.

1999 Brushing Maintenance	Hey Mr. Wilson	Eco-Overstory Project
Quartz Gulch O & C Permit	Spencer Lomas	

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. MONITORING

Projects subjected to sampling:

Timber Sales
Spencer Lomas Project
Hey Mr. Wilson
3 + 3 Forest Management Project
Grave Creek West
Eco-Overstory Removal Project

Silvicultural Projects
Annosus Project
GLRA PCT / Release
1999 Brushing Maintenance
GLRA Conifer Pruning
Scalp Mulch Installation / Maintenance
Tree Planting with multiple treatments

Roads and Construction
Road Repair (ERFO) Project
FY 1999 Road Decommissioning
FY 1997 Flood Damage, road repair
Marial Bruin Road Improvement
Spur Road Decommissioning
Williams Watershed Road Decommissioning

Fish Habitat Improvement Projects
FY 1999 Culvert Replacement
Fish Screen Project

Other
Table Mountain Tubing Hill
Galesville Campground
Table Rock Parking Lot & Trail
Hollister ROW
Quartz Gulch O & C Permit
Christmas Tree Project
Rough & Ready ACEC Mgmt. Plan

FY 1999 Sampled Project List (by category)

Timber Sales
Spencer Lomas Project
Hey Mr. Wilson
3 + 3 Forest Management Project
Flounce Rock
Grave Creek West
Eco-Overstory Removal Project
McCollum Creek

Silvicultural Projects
Annosus Project
Scalp Mulch Installation / Maintenance
Tree Planting with multiple treatments
GLRA PCT / Release
1999 Brushing Maintenance

Roads and Construction

Road Repair (ERFO) Project
FY 1999 Road Decommissioning
FY 1997 Flood Damage, road repair
Bonnie / Riffle / Susan road repair
Marial Bruin Road Improvement
Spur Road Decommissioning
Williams Watershed Road Decommissioning

Fish Habitat Improvement Projects

FY 1999 Culvert Replacement
Fish Screen Project

Other

Table Mountain Tubing Hill
Galesville Campground
Table Rock Parking Lot & Trail
Western Telecommunications
Tucker Flat Recreation Site
Quartz Gulch O & C Permit
Christmas Tree Project
Rough & Ready ACEC Mgmt Plan
Cantrall Buckley Trail

APPENDIX B: Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 1999

The following two lists of questions have been used to record the Medford District Implementation Monitoring question results for fiscal year 1999. The first list, 1999 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, have been used for specific projects for monitoring. Completed forms for individual projects are available for review at the district office.

The second list, APS-Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, have been addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

Medford District
1999 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

Listed below are the Implementation Monitoring Requirements and Questions as described in Appendix L of the Medford District ROD for the RMP.

All Land Use Allocations

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 225)

1. Are surveys for the species listed in Appendix C conducted before ground-disturbing activities occur?

2. Are protection buffers being provided for specific rare and locally endemic species and other species in habitats identified in the upland forest matrix?

3. Are the sites of amphibians, mammals, bryophytes, mollusks, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and arthropod species listed in Appendix C being protected?

Riparian Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 226)

7A. Are watershed analyses being completed before on-the-ground actions are initiated in Riparian Reserves?

7B. Were the concerns identified in the watershed analysis addressed in the project's environmental assessment?

8A. Is the width and integrity of the Riparian Reserves being maintained?

8B. Did the conditions that existed before management activities change in ways that are not in accordance with the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

10A. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines?

10B. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with RMP management direction?

10C. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

11A. Are new structures and improvements in Riparian Reserves constructed to minimize the diversion of natural hydrologic flow paths?

11B. Do new structures and improvements reduce the amount of sediment delivery into the stream?

11C. Do new structures and improvements protect fish and wildlife populations?

11D. Do new structures and improvements accommodate the 100-year flood?

12A. Are all mining structures, support facilities, and roads located outside the riparian reserves?

12B. Are those located within the riparian reserves meeting the objectives of the aquatic conservation strategy?

12C. Are all solid and sanitary waste facilities excluded from riparian reserves or located, monitored, and reclaimed in accordance with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

Matrix

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 230)

19. Are suitable numbers of snags, coarse woody debris, and green trees being left following timber harvest as called for in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

20. Are timber sales being designed to meet ecosystem goals for the Matrix?

21. Are late-successional stands being retained in fifth-field watersheds in which federal forest lands have 15 percent or less late-successional forest?

Air Quality

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 231)

23. Were efforts made to minimize the amount of particulate emissions from prescribed burns?

24. Are dust abatement measures used during construction activities and on roads during BLM timber harvest operations and other BLM commodity hauling activities?

Soil and Water

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 232)

26. Are site-specific Best Management Practices identified as applicable during interdisciplinary review carried forward into project design and execution?

27B. Are watershed analyses being performed prior to management activities in key watersheds?

Wildlife Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 234)

38. Are suitable (diameter, length and numbers) of snags, coarse woody debris, and green trees being left in a manner that meets the needs of species and provides for ecological functions in harvested areas as called for in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

39. Are special habitats being identified and protected?

Fish Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 235)

45A. Is documentation regarding fish species and habitat and related recommendations and decisions in light of policy and SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction occurring?

45B. If mitigation was required, was mitigation incorporated in the authorization document?

45C. Was the mitigation carried out as planned?

Special Status Species and SEIS Special Attention Species and Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 236)

46A. Are special status species being addressed in deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions?

46B. During forest management and other actions that may disturb special status species, are steps taken to adequately mitigate disturbances?

47. Are the actions identified in plans to recover species and the requirements and recommendations in the biological opinion being implemented in a timely manner?

Special Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 238)

53A. Are BLM actions and BLM authorized actions/uses near or within special areas consistent with RMP objectives and management direction for special areas?

53B. If mitigation was required, was it incorporated in the authorization document?

53C. If mitigation was required, was it carried out as planned?

Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 239)

60A. Are cultural resources being addressed in deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions?

60B. During forest management and other actions that may disturb cultural resources, are steps taken to adequately mitigate?

Visual Resources

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 240)

64. Are visual resource design features and mitigation methods being followed during timber sales and other substan tial actions in Class II and III areas?

Wild and Scenic Rivers

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 241)

65. Are BLM actions and BLM authorized actions consistent with protection of the ORVs of designated, suitable, and eligible, but not studied, rivers?

Rural Interface Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 242)

67. Are design features and mitigation measures developed and implemented to avoid/minimize impacts to health, life, property, and quality of life and to minimize the possibility of conflicts between private and federal land manage ment?

Noxious Weeds

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 247)

76. Are noxious weed control methods compatible with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Medford District
APS-Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

This list of questions are addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

All Land Use Allocations

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 225)

4. Are the sites of amphibians, mammals, bryophytes, mollusks, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and arthropod species listed in Appendix C being surveyed as directed in the SEIS ROD?

5. Are high priority sites for species management being identified?

6. Are general regional surveys being conducted to acquire additional information and to determine necessary levels of protection for arthropods and fungi species that were not classed as rare and endemic, bryophytes, and lichens?

Riparian Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 226)

9A. What silvicultural practices are being applied to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

9B. Are management actions creating a situation where riparian reserves are made more susceptible to fire?

13A. Are new recreation facilities within the Riparian Reserves designed to meet, and where practicable, contribute to Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

13B. Are mitigation measures initiated where existing recreation facilities are not meeting Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Late Successional Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 228)

14. What is the status of the preparation of assessments and fire plans for Late-Successional Reserves?

15A. What activities were conducted or authorized within Late-Successional Reserves and how were they compatible with the objectives of the Late-Successional Reserve Assessment?

15B. Were the activities consistent with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines, with RMP management direction, and Regional Ecosystem Office review requirements, and the Late-Successional Reserve assessment?

16. What is the status of development and implementation of plans to eliminate or control nonnative species which adversely impact late-successional objectives?

17. What land acquisitions occurred, or are under way, to improve the area, distribution, and quality of late-successional reserves?

Adaptive Management Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 229)

18A. Are the adaptive management area (AMA) plans being developed?

18B. Do the AMA plans establish future desired conditions?

Matrix

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 230)

22. What is the age and type of the harvested stands?

Air Quality

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 231)

25A. Are conformity determinations being prepared prior to activities which may: contribute to a new violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation, or delay the timely attainment of a standard?

25B. Has and interagency monitoring grid been established in southwestern Oregon?

Soil and Water

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 232)

27A. What watershed analyses have been or are being performed?

28. In watersheds where municipal providers have agreements, have the agreements been checked to determine if the terms and conditions have been met?

29. What is the status of identification of instream flow needs for the maintenance of channel conditions, aquatic habitat, and riparian resources?

30. What watershed restoration projects are being developed and implemented?

31. What fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies have been developed to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

32. What is the status of development of road or transportation management plans to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

33. What is the status of preparation of criteria and standards which govern the operation, maintenance, and design for the construction and reconstruction of roads?

34A. What is the status of the reconstruction of roads and associated drainage features identified in watershed analysis as posing a substantial risk?

34B. What is the status of closure or elimination of roads to further Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives and to reduce the overall road mileage within Key Watersheds?

34C. If funding is insufficient to implement road mileage reductions, are construction and authorizations through discretionary permits denied to prevent a net increase in road mileage in Key Watersheds?

35. What is the status of reviews of ongoing research in Key Watersheds to ensure that significant risk to the watershed does not exist?

36A. What is the status of evaluation of recreation, interpretive, and user-enhancement activities/facilities to determine their effects on the watershed?

36B. What is the status of eliminating or relocating these activities/facilities when found to be in conflict with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

37A. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies in the development of watershed-based Research Manage ment Plans and other cooperative agreements to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

37B. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies to identify and eliminate wild ungulate impacts which are inconsistent with attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

Wildlife Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 234)

40. What is the status of designing and implementing wildlife habitat restoration projects?

41. What is the status of designing and constructing wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities?

Fish Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 235)

42. Are at-risk fish species and stocks being identified?

43. Are fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities being designed and implemented which contribute to attainment of aquatic conservation strategy objectives?

44. Are potential adverse impacts to fish habitat and fish stocks being identified?

Special Status Species and SEIS Special Attention Species and Habitat

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 236)

48. What coordination with other agencies has occurred in the management of special status species?

49. What land acquisitions occurred or are underway to facilitate the management and recovery of special status species?

50. What site-specific plans for the recovery of special status species were, or are being, developed?

51. What is the status of analysis which ascertains species requirements or enhances the recovery or survival of a species?

52. What is the status of efforts to maintain or restore the community structure, species composition, and ecological processes of special status plant and animal habitat?

Special Areas

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 238)

54. What is the status of the preparation, revision, and implementation of ACEC management plans?

55A. Are interpretive programs and recreation uses being developed and encouraged in ONAs?

55B. Are the outstanding values of the ONAs being protected from damage?

56. What environmental education and research initiatives and programs are occurring in the RNAs and EEAs?

57. Are existing BLM actions and BLM authorized actions and uses not consistent with management direction for special areas being eliminated or relocated?

58A. Are actions being identified which are needed to maintain or restore the important values of the special areas?

58B. Are the actions being implemented?

59. Are protection buffers being provided for specific rare and locally endemic species and other species in habitats identified in the SEIS ROD?

Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 239)

61. What mechanisms have been developed to describe past landscapes and the role of humans in shaping those landscapes?

62. What efforts are being made to work with American Indian groups to accomplish cultural resource objectives and achieve goals outlined in existing memoranda of understanding and to develop additional memoranda as needs arise?

63. What public education and interpretive programs were developed to promote the appreciation of cultural re sources?

Wild and Scenic Rivers

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 241)

66A. Are existing plans being revised to conform to aquatic conservation strategy objectives?

66B. Are revised plans being implemented?

Socioeconomic Conditions

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 243)

68. What strategies and programs have been developed, through coordination with state and local governments, to support local economies and enhance local communities?

69. Are RMP implementation strategies being identified that support local economies?

70. What is the status of planning and developing amenities (such as recreation and wildlife viewing facilities) that enhance local communities?

Recreation

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 244)

71. What is the status of the development and implementation of recreation plans?

Timber Resources

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 245)

72. By land-use allocation, how do timber sale volumes, harvested acres, and the age and type of regeneration harvest stands compare to the projections in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management objectives?

73. Were the silvicultural (e.g., planting with genetically selected stock, fertilization, release, and thinning) and forest health practices anticipated in the calculation of the expected sale quantity implemented?

Special Forest Products

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 246)

Implementation Monitoring

74. Is the sustainability and protection of special forest product resources ensured prior to selling special forest products?

75. What is the status of the development and implementation of specific guidelines for the management of individual special forest products?

Fire/Fuels Management

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 247)

77. What is the status of the preparation and implementation of fire management plans for Late-Successional Reserves and Adaptive Management Areas?

78. Have additional analysis and planning been completed to allow some natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions?

79. Do wildfire suppression plans emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat?

80. Have fire management plans been completed for all at risk late successional areas?

81. What is the status of the interdisciplinary team preparation and implementation of regional fire management plans which include fuel hazard reduction plans?

APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF ONGOING PLANS AND ANALYSES

Hellgate Segment, Wild and Scenic River Plan EIS

The Medford District is revising its river plan for the 27-mile Hellgate Recreation Area of the National Wild and Scenic Rogue River. The Hellgate Recreation Area begins at the confluence of the Applegate River and the Rogue River and proceeds downstream to Grave Creek. The Hellgate Recreation Management Plan/Draft Environmental Statement is scheduled for a public review period in fiscal year 2000.

Integrated Pest Management

Presently an Environmental Impact Statement is being developed for the seed orchards of four Western Oregon districts. The Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) is needed primarily because of a significant loss of seed to cone insects and other pests. Insecticide use and other alternatives would be considered to control the pests. The plan would only apply to IPM activities within the seed orchards themselves. If we decide to proceed with the IPM plans, formal identification to the public will be made. If you have questions about the plan, please contact the appropriate orchard manager. In the Medford District, call Harvey Koester, 541-618-2200.

Modifications being considered for Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer Guidelines

On November 15, 1998, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (the Agencies) filed a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for survey and manage species. During the four years since the Record of Decision (ROD) was published, the Agencies have acquired considerable information about species abundance and survey feasibility that prompted consideration of adjustments to the survey and manage and protection buffer provisions. The Agencies are developing and considering alternatives for a process to revise the survey and manage and protection buffer standards and guidelines in order to increase the efficiency and consistency of these mitigation measures.

The Northwest Forest Plan stated that the standards and guidelines must have the flexibility to adapt and respond to new information, and that an adaptive management process would be implemented to maximize the benefits and efficiency of the standards and guidelines (ROD, pp. E-12-E-13). As stated in the Northwest Forest Plan, our goal is to continue the current survey and manage strategy on Federal lands—a combination of managing known sites and increasing our information base through surveys—but to make the process more efficient and consistent.

A draft EIS was prepared and was available for public comment through March 3, 2000. A final EIS will be prepared and, at this time, the decision regarding this action is expected in the summer of 2000.

APPENDIX D: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEC	-	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMA	-	Adaptive Management Area
ASQ	-	Allowable Sale Quantity
BLM	-	Bureau of Land Management
CBWR	-	Coos Bay Wagon Road
CCF	-	Hundred cubic feet
CFR	-	Code of Federal Regulations
DEQ	-	Department of Environmental Quality
EEA	-	Environmental Education Area
FY	-	Fiscal Year
GCDB	-	Geographic Coordinates Data Base
GFMA	-	General Forest Management Area
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
GPS	-	Global Positioning System
LSF	-	Late Successional Forest
LSR	-	Late-Successional Reserve
MBF	-	Thousand board feet
MMBF	-	Million board feet
MOU	-	Memorandum of Understanding
NFP	-	Northwest Forest Plan
O&C	-	Oregon and California Revested Lands
ODEQ	-	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	-	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OSHA	-	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSU	-	Oregon State University
PD	-	Public Domain Lands
PILT	-	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
PL	-	Public Law
REO	-	Regional Ecosystem Office
RIEC	-	Regional Interagency Executive Committee
RMP	-	Resource Management Plan
RMP/ROD	-	The *Medford District Resource Management Plan* and *Record of Decision*
RNA	-	Research Natural Area
ROD	-	Record of Decision
SA	-	Special Attention Species
S&G	-	Standards and Guidelines
SS	-	Special Status Species
USFS	-	U.S. Forest Service

APPENDIX E. DEFINITIONS

AMA-Adaptive Management Area—the Medford District's Applegate AMA is managed to restore and maintain late-successional forest habitat while developing and testing management approaches to achieve the desired economic and other social objectives.

anadromous fish—Fish that are born and reared in fresh water, move to the ocean to grow and mature, and return to fresh water to reproduce, e.g., salmon, steelhead and shad.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)—An area of BLM administered lands where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and provide safety from natural hazards.

candidate species—Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

fifth field watershed—A watershed size designation of approximately 20-200 square miles in size.

fiscal year—The federal financial year. It is a period of time from October 1 of one year to September 31 of the following year.

hazardous materials—Anything that poses a substantive present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed.

iteration—Something said or performed again; repeated.

late successional reserve—A forest in its mature and/or old-growth stages that has been reserved

lay down fence—A fence capable of being put down in winter to allow less damage from winter weather.

matrix land—Federal land outside of reserves and special management areas which will be available for timber harvest at varying levels.

noxious plant/weed—A plant specified by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome, and difficult to control.

precommercial thinning—The practice of removing some of the trees less than merchantable size from a stand so that remaining trees will grow faster.

prescribed fire—A fire burning under specified conditions that will accomplish certain planned objectives.

refugia—Locations and habitats that support populations of organisms that are limited to small fragments of their previous geographic ranges.

Regional Interagency Executive Council—A senior regional interagency entity which assures the prompt, coordinated, successful implementation at the regional level of the forest management plan standards and guidelines .

research natural area—An area that contains natural resource values of scientific interest and is managed primarily for research and educational purposes.

Resource Management Plan—A land use plan prepared by the BLM under current regulations in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

riparian reserves—Designated riparian areas found outside late successional reserves.

SEIS Special Attention Species—A term which incorporates the "Survey and Manage" and "Protection Buffer" species from the Northwest Forest Plan.

silvicultural prescription—A detailed plan , usually written by a forest silviculturist, for controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forest stands.

site index—A measure of forest productivity expressed as the height of the tallest trees in a stand at an index age.

site preparation——Any action taken in conjunction with a reforestation effort (natural or artificial) to create an environment that is favorable for survival of suitable trees during the first growing season. This environment can be created by altering ground cover, soil or microsite conditions, using biological, mechanical, or manual clearing, prescribed burns, herbicides or a combination of methods.

Special Status Species—Plant or animal species in any of the following categories

- Threatened or Endangered Species
- Proposed Threatened or Endangered Species
- Candidate Species
- State-listed Species
- Bureau Sensitive Species
- Bureau Assessment Species

stream mile—A linear mile of stream.