Northwest Forest Plan Report

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bureau of Land Management
Western Oregon &
Northern California
Fiscal Year 2001

Introduction

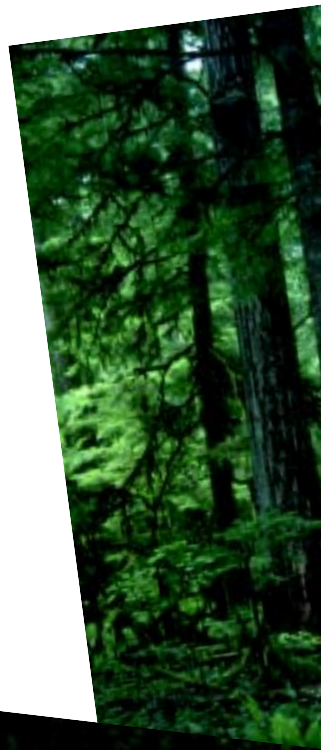
The Northwest Forest Plan covers 22 million acres of Federal forests in western Oregon, Washington, and northern California. The Northwest Forest Plan was designed to be a balanced, scientifically-based, long-term management plan to protect the health of forests and wildlife, to provide for the continued existence of old-growth species, and to produce a predictable and environmentally sustainable supply of timber. Since April of 1994, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has managed its land base of 2.7 million acres in western Oregon and northern California under the rigorous interagency Standards and Guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Northwest Forest Plan consists of a series of land-use allocations with the objective of providing for an increase in older forest habitat over time, attaining specific aquatic conservation strategies at a watershed level, and making areas available for commercial timber harvest, subject to specific Standards and Guidelines. While these forests have been managed by both the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and the BLM for some time, the Northwest Forest Plan represents the first coordinated land use plan of its kind developed to deal with broad regional issues.

Forestry

BLM manages 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon lands that are managed under the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately 500,000 acres (or 22% of the BLM western Oregon land base) are available for timber harvest. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, the BLM offered 56.4 million board feet (MMBF) in western Oregon made up primarily of commercial thinning sales. This volume is below the 203 MMBF Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and resulted from litigation which limited BLM's opportunity to offer regeneration timber sales, and impacts associated with implementation of Survey and Manage Standards & Guidelines.

The BLM continues reforestation and forest development efforts to meet resource management objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan. Reforestation includes site preparation, tree planting, and protection. Successful reforestation is the major activity following timber harvest and natural disturbances.



Recreation

In FY 2001, recreation sites in western Oregon continued to participate in the national Pilot Fee Demonstration program. Fees collected through this program are invested in maintenance and visitor services at the site where the fees are collected. Hiking, fishing, rafting and biking are just some of the activities visitors enjoy on visits to BLM lands.

Total Recreation-Related Revenue Generated in FY 2001: $1,431,637.60 (of which $1,160,652.39 is related to Fee Demo/Site-Specific Revenues).

Habitat Improvement

Since 1998, the BLM has decommissioned over 100 miles of roads and designed and installed 68 projects to restore anadromous fish passage through culverts that were previously impassible. Removing roads improves water quality and fish habitat while also reducing wildlife disturbance. Now, salmon and other fish spawn and grow in additional miles of historically accessible habitat.

Survey and Manage

The agencies have diligently implemented the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines. Interagency teams have developed survey protocols and management recommendations for approximately 300 Survey and Manage species, conducted the surveys, gathered data on little-known species throughout the Northwest Forest Plan area, removed seventy-two of the more commonly found species from the Survey and Manage list in all or part of their range, and created a new process for adding species to and removing species from the list.

Late Successional Reserves

Recent studies show a sound scientific basis for proceeding with thinning of young dense stands in order to enhance and accelerate late successional/old-growth habitats in Late Successional Reserves. BLM will work with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and the federal regulatory agencies to pursue accelerating some of these young dense forest stands' movement towards old-growth characteristics.

Jobs-In-The-Woods

Through the Jobs-in-the-Woods program, BLM has made progress in innovative interagency contracting and in training workers in a variety of restoration and hazardous fuels reduction work. Since the Northwest Forest Plan's inception, BLM has utilized approximately $58 million in Congressional funding to create 1,557 jobs for displaced workers.

OTHER ISSUES AND THE FUTURE

National Fire Plan

Devastating wildfires across the country in the summer of 2000 prompted the President to ask Congress to create the National Fire Plan, a multi-agency program that aims to attack the wildfire problem on several fronts.

The National Fire Plan provides more fire trucks, equipment, aircraft and firefighters, and supports hundreds of local initiatives addressing the causes of wildfires. In the Pacific Northwest alone, $15 million in grants and agreements will fund grassroots efforts to improve firefighting, reduce wildfire hazards and strengthen local economies.

A total of 179 grant applications were received, and 98 project proposals were selected for funding based on evaluations by an interagency team. The combined value of all awards was $9,231,328.

The Bureau of Land Management made a total of 31 awards through 12 assistance agreements. A total of $4,044,435 was distributed in Oregon and Washington.

Resource Advisory Committees in Western Oregon

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) establishes a five-year payment schedule to local counties in lieu of funds derived from the harvest of timber on federal lands. In so doing, it creates a mechanism for local community collaboration with BLM and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to select projects on federal lands or to benefit resources on federal lands. The five western Oregon BLM Resource Advisory Committees, established under the law, will review proposed federal projects, make recommendations to the agency, and provide opportunities for interested parties to participate in the project development process.

2001 Forest Plan Accomplishments Report

FY2001 O&C Appropriated Dollars

Forest Management $23,294,000

Design and administer timber sales; monitor ecological trends, impacts, and effectiveness of management of the ecosystem; ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations; support the research, protection, and management of habitat for wildlife species; assist development and implementation of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species; implement best management practices on watersheds.

Reforestation and Forest Development $24,819,000

Maintain sustainability of forest resources and timber harvest levels through successful reforestation, utilizing site preparation, tree planting, young stand maintenance and protection, genetic tree trait conservation, and growth enhancing and forest health practices; develop site specific and watershed level prescriptions using silvicultural techniques; maintain up-to-date inventories of sites available for reforestation and forest development.

Other Forest Resources Management including Watershed Analysis, Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries Management $35,711,000

Conduct watershed analysis; comply with Clean Water Act; use smoke management to comply with air quality rules; monitor Threatened and Endangered species, develop protocols for and conduct field inventories of more than 400 Survey and Manage species.

Transportation and Facilities Maintenance $10,801,000

Maintain 300 buildings and 104 recreation sites. Maintain 14,000 miles of roads, 353 bridges and thousands of culverts in Western Oregon (roads, trails, airstrips).

Planning $1,145,000

Maintain viability of resource management plans (RMP) through plan monitoring, incorporation of new data and amendments to the RMPs.

Data System Operation and Management $2,187,000

Convert existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data from Map Overlay and Statistical System to commercial software; operation of the data system at each BLM Western Oregon district office.

Construction and Acquisition $289,000

Access easements across private land to allow management of federal lands, and for construction of roads, bridges, buildings and other facilities.

Jobs-in-the-Woods $5,792,000

Hire displaced timber workers, provide training, and assist communities while accomplishing watershed restoration.

Total $104,038,000

BLM Fiscal Year 2001 Timber Sale Information

District	Volume Offered (MMBF)	Volume Harvested (MMBF)
Lakeview	2.6	0.4
Salem	11.4	12.1
Eugene	11.7	7.2
Roseburg	2.8	4.2
Medford	1.3	16.7
Coos Bay	26.6	5.3
Northern California	.108	.108
Totals	56.5	46.0

BLM Tree Planting in FY 2001

District	Acres Planted	Seedlings
Lakeview	36	18,500
Salem	707	389,000
Eugene	485	253,000
Roseburg	647	314,000
Medford	973	427,000
Coos Bay	342	188,000
Northern California	21	9,000
Totals	3,211	1,598,500

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