

**Fiscal Year 2012**

# **Medford District Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report**

**Medford District Office**

**BLM**



## *Medford District Vision*

Working together to sustain and enhance resilient landscapes and quality of life in southwest Oregon.

## *Medford District Mission*

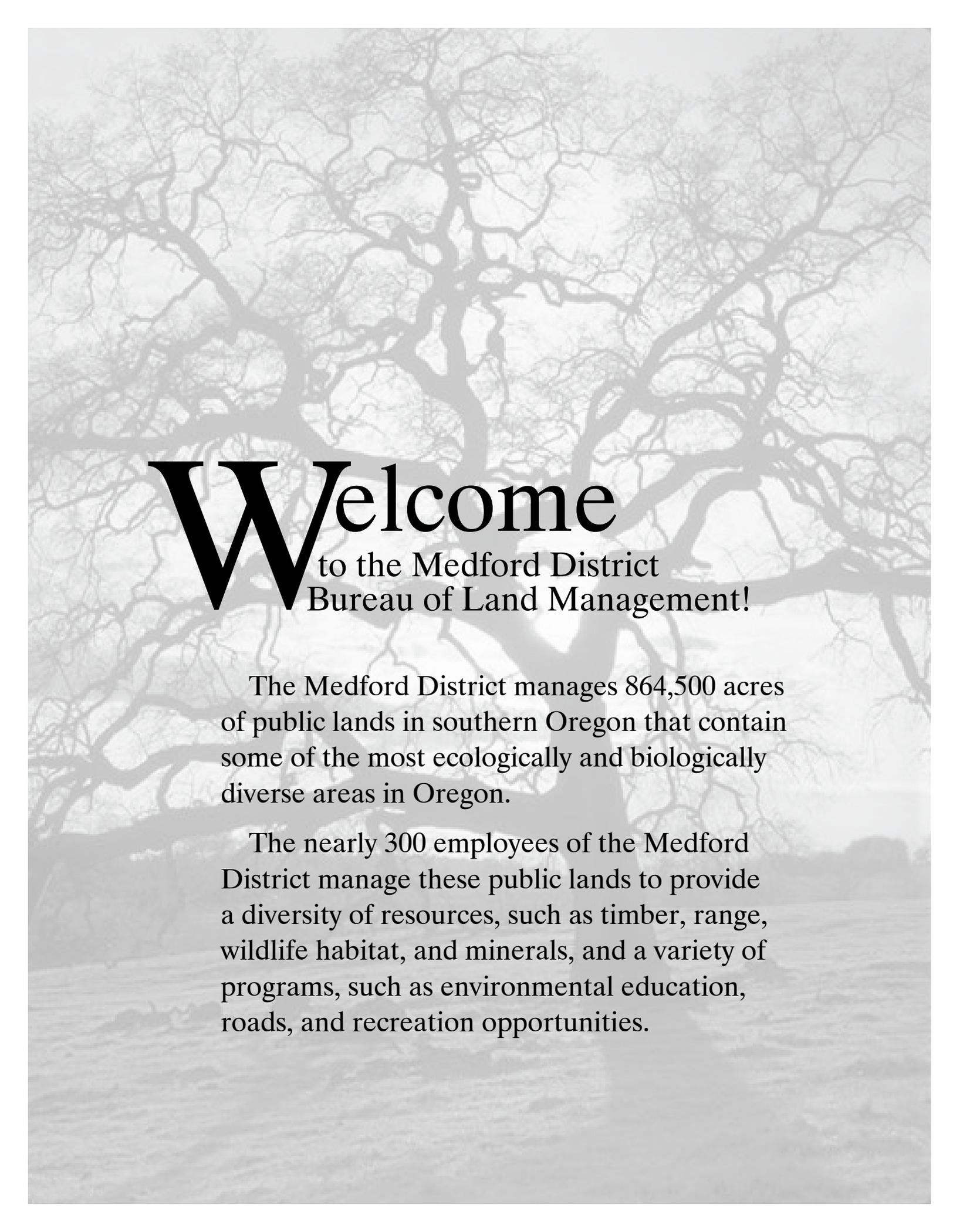
We are dedicated to professional management of the public lands by sustaining a wide variety of uses to serve the American people, now and in the future. We do this with a land ethic of balanced resource management in an environmentally, socially, and economically sound manner.

We are engaged, knowledgeable, informed, supported, and contributing toward solutions to current and future challenges.

We contribute to and manage toward resilient landscapes and habitats.

We effectively contribute to our communities through a diverse and flexible portfolio of goods, services, and opportunities.





# Welcome

to the Medford District  
Bureau of Land Management!

The Medford District manages 864,500 acres of public lands in southern Oregon that contain some of the most ecologically and biologically diverse areas in Oregon.

The nearly 300 employees of the Medford District manage these public lands to provide a diversity of resources, such as timber, range, wildlife habitat, and minerals, and a variety of programs, such as environmental education, roads, and recreation opportunities.

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**Table S-1. Medford RMP Planning Area,  
Summary of Resource Management Actions, Directions, and Accomplishments**

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2012	Cumulative Practices (2005-2014)	Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014)
<b>Forest and Timber Resources</b>				
Regeneration harvest offered	acres	33	1,236	11,277
Commercial thinning/density management/uneven age harvest offered (harvest land base)	acres	2,003	12,510	18,584
Other	acres	78	5,192	548
Timber volume offered (harvest land base)	million board feet	21.5	124.1	566.5
Timber volume offered (other)	million board feet	0.1	41.2	41.3
Precommercial thinning (harvest land base)	acres	2,033	7,227	78,000
Precommercial thinning (reserves)	acres	50	1,841	N/A
Brushfield/hardwood conversion	acres	0	0	N/A
<b>Fire and Fuels</b>				
Site preparation (prescribed fire)	acres	0	984	6,000
Site preparation (other methods)	acres	208	995	1,000
Fuels Treatments				
Slash and hand pile	acres	6,760	99,570	150,000
Burn (hand pile or underburn)	acres	5,229	55,917	85,000
Fuels Treatment (other methods)	acres	0	0	0
<b>Silviculture</b>				
Planting—regular stock	acres	98	3,226	2,700
Planting—genetically selected	acres	287	3,332	10,300
Maintenance/Protection	acres	25,060	28,576	
Fertilization	acres	0	0	57,000
Pruning	acres	25	3,063	18,600
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>				
Noxious weeds control	acres	3,298	41,641	N/A
<b>Native Plants Program</b>				
Wildland native seed collections	collections	166	434	
Native seed produced	pounds	13,000	106,240	
Native seed applied	acres/ # seeded	850/ 11,000	7,360/ 70,704	

**Table S-1. Medford RMP Planning Area,  
Summary of Resource Management Actions, Directions, and Accomplishments**

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2012	Cumulative Practices (2005-2014)	Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014)
<b>Range</b>				
Livestock grazing permits or leases	annual leases/ 10-year renewals	50/2	N/A	N/A
Animal unit months (actual)	animal unit months	8,239	N/A	N/A
Livestock fences constructed or maintained	units/miles			
<b>Realty</b>				
Land sales	actions/ acres	0	20	N/A
Land purchase	acres	5,250	8,050	N/A
Land exchanges	actions/ acres acquired/ acres disposed	0	0	N/A
R&PP leases/patents	actions	0	N/A	N/A
Road easements acquired for public/agency use	acres	0	46	N/A
Road rights-of-way granted	actions	6	560	N/A
Utility rights-of-way granted (communication sites)	actions	11	60	N/A
Special use permits	actions	0	26	N/A
Withdrawals completed	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
Withdrawals revoked	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
<b>Minerals/Energy</b>				
Oil and gas leases	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
Other leases	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
Mining plans approved	actions/ acres	0	1	N/A



**Table S-1. Medford RMP Planning Area,  
Summary of Resource Management Actions, Directions, and Accomplishments**

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2012	Cumulative Practices (2005-2014)	Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014)
Mining claims patented	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral materials sites opened	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral material sites closed	actions/ acres	0	0	N/A

# Annual Program Summary

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management for the period of October 2011 through September 2012. The program summary is designed to report to the public and to local, state, and Federal agencies a broad overview of activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2012. This report addresses the accomplishments for the Medford District in such areas as watershed analysis, forestry, recreation, and other programs. The Monitoring Report for the Medford District is also included in the Annual Program Summary.

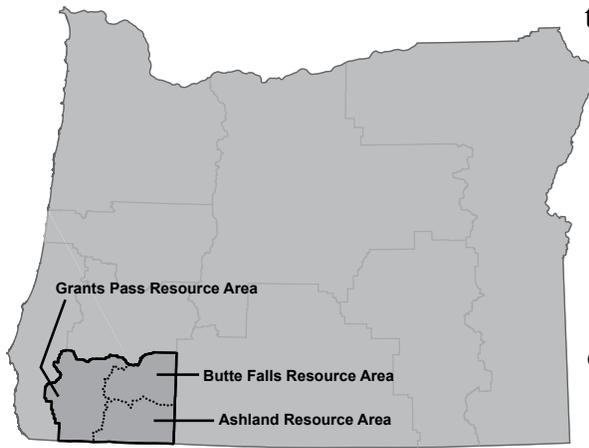
In April 1994, the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) was signed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. The Medford District Record of Decision (ROD) and Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in April 1995, adopted and incorporated the Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan in the form of Management Actions/Directions.

The Record of Decision for the 2008 Medford District RMP was signed December 30, 2008, but withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior in July 2009. On March 31, 2011, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia vacated and remanded the Secretary of the Interior's decision to withdraw the 2008 RODs/RMPs (*Douglas Timber Operators et al. v. Salazar*) effectively returning the districts to the 2008 RMPs.

Plaintiffs in the *Pacific Rivers Council v. Shepard* litigation filed a partial motion for summary judgment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon on Endangered Species Act (ESA) claims and requested the court to vacate and remand the 2008 RODs/RMPs. A magistrate judge issued findings and recommendations on September 29, 2011 and recommended granting the Plaintiffs motion for partial summary judgment on their ESA claim. The Court recommends setting aside the agency action, vacating the 2008 RODs and reinstating the Northwest Forest Plan as the appropriate remedy. The Court reviewed and ruled on objections and issued a final order on May 16, 2012, vacating the 2008 RODs and again returning management of Medford District BLM lands to the 1995 RMP (as modified by recent court rulings [see Recent Court Rulings]).

Both the Northwest Forest Plan and the ROD/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 northern spotted owl were established in the Northwest Forest Plan. Analyses such as watershed analyses and late-successional reserve assessments are conducted at broader scale and involve landowners in addition to BLM. Requirements to conduct standardized surveys or inventories for special status species have been developed for implementation at the regional level.

The Medford District administers approximately 866,000 acres located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties. BLM lands on the Medford District are divided into three Resource Areas: Grants Pass, Ashland, and Butte Falls. Under



the Northwest Forest Plan and ROD/RMP, management of these lands is included in three primary land use allocations: Matrix, where the majority of commodity production will occur; Late-Successional Reserve, where providing habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species is emphasized; and Riparian Reserve, where maintenance of water quality and the aquatic ecosystem is emphasized. The ROD/RMP established objectives for management of 17 resource programs occurring on the District. Not all land

use allocations and resource programs are discussed individually in a detailed manner in the APS because of the overlap of programs and projects. Likewise, a detailed background of the various land use allocations or resource programs is not included in the APS to keep this document reasonably concise. Complete information can be found in the ROD/RMP and supporting Environmental Impact Statement, both available at the Medford District and Grants Pass Interagency Offices.

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### Recent Court Rulings

A series of recent court rulings has affected the approach for this APS, particularly regarding monitoring requirements. The details are included in the Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2012 in this document.

### Survey and Manage

On December 17, 2009, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued an order in *Conservation Northwest, et al. v. Sherman, et al.*, No. 08-1067-JCC (W.D. Wash.), granting Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment and finding NEPA violations in the *Final Supplemental to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (USDA and USDI, June 2007). In response, parties entered into settlement negotiations in April 2010, and the Court filed approval of the resulting Settlement Agreement on July 6, 2011. Projects that are within the range of the northern spotted owl are subject to the Survey and Management Standards and Guidelines in the 2001 ROD, as modified by the 2011 Settlement Agreement.

### Budget

The Medford District receives its annual operating budget from direct congressional appropriations and other nonappropriated or indirectly appropriated revenue sources. The BLM Washington Office and BLM Oregon/Washington State Office determine the Medford District budget based on congressional appropriations and other authorities and

departmental direction. In fiscal year 2012, the Medford District received a total of \$15.9 million in Oregon and California Land Grant (O&C) direct appropriations, \$4.4 million in Management of Lands and Resources direct appropriations, and \$16.9 million in other appropriated and nonappropriated funds (Table 1). These figures do not include carryover from prior fiscal years or fire suppression costs.

The other appropriated funds category included \$7.3 million in hazard fuels reduction, emergency fire rehabilitation, and fire preparedness funds; \$6.2 million in land acquisition related funds; \$1.7 million in Secure Rural Schools Act funds; and \$2.7 million in deferred maintenance funds.

Permanent funds include \$360,000 in recreation fee collections. Other funds included reimbursements for work performed for other Federal agencies, appropriated funds transferred to BLM from other agencies, funds contributed from non-Federal sources, and other miscellaneous collection accounts.

The total monetary resources (excluding prior year carryover) available to the Medford District in fiscal year 2012 was \$37.2 million. The District had an additional \$8.3 million in prior year carryover funds available in fiscal year 2012, including \$2.6 million in land acquisition funds, \$1.2 million in Secure Rural Schools Act funds, and \$0.8 million in deferred maintenance funds. Carryover also included, but was not limited to, \$160,000 of timber sale pipeline restoration funds, \$640,000 of forest ecosystem health and recovery funds, \$260,000 in road use fee collections, and \$130,000 in recreation fee collections.

**Table 1. Medford District Budget for Fiscal Years 2007–2011**

Appropriation Category	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Oregon and California Land Grant	\$18,564,000	\$18,093,000	\$16,691,000	\$17,377,000	\$15,889,916
Management of Lands and Resources	\$1,802,378	\$3,840,000	\$2,192,000	\$3,698,000	\$4,387,682
Other Appropriated and Nonappropriated Funds	\$19,368,574	\$25,124,601	\$22,183,215	\$15,412,122	\$16,903,453
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,734,952</b>	<b>\$47,057,601</b>	<b>\$41,071,215</b>	<b>\$36,487,122</b>	<b>\$37,181,052</b>

## Land Use Allocations

Lands administered by the BLM are 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 under the 1995 RMP: 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 (Table 2).

**Table 2. Major Land Use Allocations on the Medford District**

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

NOTE: The allocations in this table do not have any overlapping designations. There are approximately 369,200 acres of riparian reserves that overlap all of these major land use allocations.

## Late-Successional Reserves

Late-successional reserves are areas established by the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District ROD/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: Elk Creek, Azalea, Galice Block, Munger Butte, and Jenny Creek. Late-successional reserve assessments were completed for all late-successional reserves.

## Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) was developed to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems contained within them on public lands. The ACS is composed of riparian reserves, key watersheds, watershed analysis, and watershed restoration.

The strategy is to protect salmon and steelhead habitat on Federal lands managed by the BLM. This conservation strategy employs several tactics to approach the goal of maintaining the “natural” disturbance regime. The ACS strives to maintain and restore ecosystem health at watershed and landscape scales to protect habitat for fish and other riparian-dependent species and resources and restore currently degraded habitat.

Silviculture practices have been implemented within riparian reserves to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain ACS objectives. These silviculture practices include tree planting, precommercial thinning, and density management thinning.

Watershed analysis is required by the Northwest Forest Plan. Watershed analysis includes

- analysis of the at-risk fish species and stocks, their presence, habitat conditions, and restoration needs;
- description of the landscape over time, including the effects of fire and the impacts of humans and their role in shaping the landscape;
- distribution and abundance of species and populations throughout the watershed; and
- characteristics of the geological and hydrologic conditions.

This information is obtained from a variety of sources such as field inventory and observation, history books, agency records, and old maps and survey records. Completed watershed analyses are posted on the Medford District Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/inventas.php>

## Watershed Council Coordination

The District coordinates with and offers assistance to a number of watershed council associations. This provides an excellent forum for exchange of ideas, partnering, education, and promoting watershed-wide restoration. The District is active with approximately 14 watershed council associations.

## Air Quality

All prescribed fire activities conformed to the Oregon Smoke Management and Visibility Protection Plans. Air quality considerations in prescribed burn plans include burning during high-quality smoke mixing when good dispersal exists and rapid mop-up of burned units to reduce residual smoke. Qualitative and some quantitative monitoring occurred during prescribed burning episodes in 2012. On-site and permanent nephelometer monitoring, which measures smoke particulates in the air, as well as ocular monitoring ensured smoke did not impact Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas and reduce visibility.

## Water and Soils

### Water Quality Limited—303(d) Streams

Approximately 246 stream miles included on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 2010 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 dissolved oxygen, biological criteria, fecal coliform, *E. coli*, and sedimentation.

The Medford District worked cooperatively with the Oregon DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP) for 303(d) listed streams on BLM-administered lands. As of December 2012, Oregon DEQ has completed TMDLs and WQMPs for the Umpqua and Rogue Basins and Upper Klamath Subbasin.

The BLM prepares Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRP) for BLM-administered lands; the WQRPs are incorporated into Oregon DEQ’s WQMPs. The Medford District completed one WQRP in 2012, bringing the total Oregon DEQ-approved WQRPs to 30 (Table 3). All but two of these WQRPs may be found on the Medford District Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/activityplans.php>. The BLM’s Upper Sucker Creek and Lower Sucker Creek WQRPs were prepared as part of the DEQ’s WQMPs with the same titles. These WQMPs may be found on the DEQ Web site at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/rogue.htm#is>.

**Table 3. Medford District WQRPs Approved by DEQ**

WQRP Name	Year Approved by DEQ
Upper Sucker Creek (WQMP)	1999
Grave Creek	2001
Lower Sucker Creek (WQMP)	2002
West Fork Cow Creek	2004
Middle Cow Creek	2004
Upper Cow Creek	2004
Applegate Subbasin	2005
Lower East Fork Illinois River	2006
McMullin Creek	2006
South Rogue River-Gold Hill	2006
West Bear Creek	2006
North and South Forks Little Butte Creek	2006
West Fork Illinois River	2007
Illinois River-Kerby	2007
Big Butte Creek	2008
Althouse Creek	2008
Upper Bear Creek	2009
Elk Creek	2009
Evans Creek	2009
Jumpoff Joe Creek	2010
Horseshoe Bend-Rogue River	2010
Lower Little Butte Creek	2010
Hellgate Canyon-Rogue River	2011
Silver Creek	2011
Trail Creek	2011
Shady Cove-Rogue River	2011

**Table 3. Medford District WQRPs Approved by DEQ**

WQRP Name	Year Approved by DEQ
North Gold Hill-Rogue River	2011
Grants Pass-Rogue River	2011
Deer Creek	2011
Jenny Creek	2012

The following restoration projects (Table 4) were implemented in fiscal year 2012 to improve water quality on water quality limited streams.

**Table 4. Medford District Fiscal Year 2010 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

Watershed	Stream Name	Water Quality Limited Parameter	Restoration Project
<b>Applegate Subbasin</b>			
Little Applegate River	Second Waters Gulch	Summer Temperature	Decommissioned/obliterated 0.32 mile of BLM Road 39-1-28.1
Middle Applegate River	Chapman Creek	Summer Temperature	Upgraded 4 culverts on Chapman Creek to accommodate 100-year flood flows and pass bedload.
Lower Applegate River	Cheney Creek	Summer Dissolved Oxygen; Summer Temperature	Placed large wood structures in 0.66 mile of Cheney Creek to improve stream habitat complexity. Benefits will include improved stream habitat and reduced channel width-to-depth ratio.
Upper Applegate River	Beaver Creek (Texter Gulch)	Sedimentation; Habitat Modification; Flow Modification; Biological Criteria	Constructed/installed water quality upgrades consisting of outsloping, rolling dips, and surfacing on approximately 1.8 miles of BLM road.
<b>Illinois Subbasin</b>			
Deer Creek	Draper Creek	Summer Temperature	Decommissioned/obliterated approximately 0.5 mile of road along Draper Creek to reduce sedimentation.
Deer Creek	Draper Creek	Summer Temperature	Rebuilt approximately 100 feet of stream channel below a culvert to improve stream habitat and channel structure.

**Table 4. Medford District Fiscal Year 2010 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

Watershed	Stream Name	Water Quality Limited Parameter	Restoration Project
<b>Middle Rogue Subbasin</b>			
Bear Creek	Upper Emigrant (Cove Creek)	Aquatic Weeds; Dissolved Oxygen; <i>E. coli</i> ; Fecal Coliform; Phosphorus; Summer Temperature	Installed gate to limit road use during the wet season and OHV access to a meadow. Blocked and obliterated OHV routes within riparian reserves.
Evans Creek	West Fork Evans Creek, Rock Creek, Cold Creek	Summer Temperature	Working with Lone Rock Timber Company and Seven Basins Watershed Council, created 33 log jams on Rock Creek and 2 log jams on Cold Creek to improve stream habitat complexity.
Evans Creek	West Fork Evans Creek, Rock Creek	Summer Temperature	Working with Lone Rock Timber Company and Seven Basins Watershed Council, decommissioned 2.3 miles of road to reduce sedimentation.
<b>South Umpqua Subbasin</b>			
Middle Cow Creek	Fortune Branch Creek	Summer Temperature	Placed approximately 100 pieces of large wood in Fortune Branch Creek to improve stream habitat complexity and reduce width-to-depth ratio.
Middle Cow Creek	Quines Creek	Summer Temperature; Sedimentation; Habitat Modification; Flow Modification	Placed approximately 35 pieces of large wood in Quines Creek creating 11 structures along 0.6 miles of stream to improve stream habitat complexity and reduce width-to-depth ratio.
Middle Cow Creek	Riffle Creek	Summer Temperature	Placed approximately 88 pieces of large wood in Riffle Creek creating 37 structures along 0.9 mile of stream to improve stream habitat complexity and reduce width-to-depth ratio.

**Table 4. Medford District Fiscal Year 2010 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

Watershed	Stream Name	Water Quality Limited Parameter	Restoration Project
<b>Upper Rogue Subbasin</b>			
Elk Creek	West Branch Elk Creek	Summer Temperature	Replaced undersized rusted culvert with bottomless pipe arch to allow for fish passage and to accommodate 100-year floods.
Little Butte Creek	Lost Creek	Sedimentation; Summer Temperature	Placed 50 pieces of large wood in Lost Creek to improve stream habitat complexity. Benefits will include formation of pools and cover habitat for salmonids.
Little Butte Creek	Lost Creek	Sedimentation; Summer Temperature	Decommissioned/obliterated 0.4 mile of road. Included culvert removal and channel reconstruction at stream crossing. Benefits include reduced sedimentation.
Little Butte Creek	Deer Creek	Summer Temperature; Sedimentation	Decommissioned/obliterated 0.72 mile of road. Included culvert removal and channel reconstruction at stream crossing.
Little Butte Creek	Soda Creek	Summer Temperature; Sedimentation	Decommissioned/obliterated two road segments on Soda Creek. Included culvert removal and channel reconstruction at stream crossing.
Big Butte Creek	North Fork Big Butte Creek	Summer Temperature	Replaced undersized and damaged draw pipes and cross drain culverts with properly sized culverts to reduce sedimentation.



Conducting a stream channel cross section survey.

## Monitoring

The BLM conducted stream surveys on 27 stream miles in fiscal year 2012. The information collected is used for project planning and updating the hydrography data set. Channel cross sections were surveyed at 3 sites in 2012.

Water monitoring was conducted for various parameters at sites across the District (Table 5).

**Table 5. Medford District Water Monitoring Fiscal Year 2012**

Parameter Monitored	Number of Monitoring Sites
Summer stream temperature using recording instruments	60
Streamflow	16
Turbidity	40
Conductivity	46
pH	46
Dissolved oxygen	25
Precipitation	7

## Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management

Wildlife habitat work generally occurs through implementation of other projects such as timber sales, fuels treatments, or silviculture projects. Wildlife biologists in each of Medford's three resource areas review those projects through interdisciplinary team processes. Biologists prioritize surveys for species and habitats to evaluate what species might occur in or adjacent to the project areas, assess relevant literature, and talk with species experts to determine potential effects of proposed projects. Required surveys are accomplished with contracts or in-house personnel. Through the interdisciplinary process, biologists offer recommendations to managers to reduce impacts and minimize effects on species during sensitive periods (generally the reproductive period). Wildlife Biologists also propose projects that may improve habitat for key species or restore habitat when opportunities and funding allow.

Objectives of the land-use allocations delineated in the Northwest Forest Plan dictate the type and degree of wildlife conservation or management. Most timber harvest volume comes from matrix lands, which includes general forest management areas, adaptive management areas, and connectivity/diversity blocks. Major habitat components are retained in timber projects through land-use allocation, green tree retention, snag retention and recruitment, and coarse woody debris management. Specific measures were provided in the Northwest Forest Plan to meet the needs of most priority wildlife species found in the District.

In 2012, the Medford Wildlife program continued to work on several wildlife-related lawsuits, including project level cases involving northern spotted owl and fisher, and Survey and Manage issues.

## Snags and Snag Recruitment

Snags (standing dead wood) provide important habitat components to many species of wildlife, including the northern spotted owl. The BLM leaves as many existing snags in a timber harvest unit as possible. Standing dead trees that meet RMP requirements are left in units if they do not conflict with prescribed burning or Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety guidelines.

## Connectivity

Designated connectivity/diversity blocks are spaced across the Medford District. The BLM manages connectivity/diversity blocks on a 150-year harvest rotation and must maintain 25 to 30 percent of each block (640-acre section) in late-successional forest. Additional connectivity is provided by the riparian management network (100 to 300 feet on each side of a stream) and by 250 known 100-acre northern spotted owl activity centers that are managed as late-successional reserves. Regeneration harvest areas in connectivity/diversity blocks maintain a minimum of 12 to 18 green trees per acre.



Great gray owl using snag for nest tree.

## Wildlife Survey and Manage

The 2011 Settlement Agreement from *Conservation Northwest et al. v. Sherman et al.*, Case No. 08-1067-JCC (W.D. Wash.) went into effect July 21, 2011. The settlement agreement included a revised Survey and Manage species list that was implemented by the BLM. The species categories for Survey and Manage remain the same in the settlement agreement, which requires surveys for Category A and C species and management of known (documented) sites for Category A, B, C, and E species, management of high-priority Category D species, and no site management requirement for Category F species.

The BLM performed surveys for Survey and Manage Species, including red tree voles, great gray owls, and mollusks, prior to ground-disturbing activities. Protection buffers according to species-specific management recommendations were applied as needed to maintain species persistence. General regional surveys are normally coordinated and funded through the BLM Oregon State Office. The Medford District did not assist with any regional surveys in fiscal year 2012.

## Wildlife Special Status Species

Wildlife biologists worked with other resource specialists and managers to implement the revised BLM Manual 6840—Special Status Species Management on rare and sensitive species (including species listed under the Endangered Species Act). Regular updates are made to the Special Status Species list (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp>).

Medford conducted work on the following special status species projects during fiscal year 2012:

- Bald eagle (District-wide): Continued to monitor 19 known sites and conduct three mid-winter eagle counts
- Golden Eagle (Grants Pass and Butte Falls RA): Monitored two sites
- Peregrine falcon (District-wide): Continued to monitor 10 known sites
- Fisher (District Project): Continued surveys to help refine distributional boundaries on the District and collect genetic samples to help determine the range of the disjunct Oregon populations. The District surveyed 31 sample units and fishers were documented at 13 sample units; 20 suspected fisher hair samples were collected and sent off for genetic analysis. One hair sample collected within the range gap between the translocated South Cascades population and the extant Klamath population was determined to be from a male in the Klamath population. This is the first confirmed fisher to cross Interstate 5 in southern Oregon. There is still no evidence that the two populations are interbreeding. BLM employees also assisted the Forest Service in a trapping effort to place GPS collars on fisher.

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## Federally Listed Species Management

The Medford District is home to three species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and vernal pool fairy shrimp. The District consults under Section 7 of the ESA on all activities proposed within the habitat of federally listed species. The District completed two Biological Assessments in fiscal year 2012 for Section 7 consultation evaluating multiple project effects to listed species and critical habitat. Wildlife consultation documents are posted on the Medford District Web site under planning documents/consultation.

### Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)

Northern spotted owls are federally listed as threatened. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been in the process of updating the critical habitat since 2008 due to litigation. On March 8, 2012, the Service released the proposed revised Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat. As a result, the Medford District followed conferencing procedures to reinitiate past consultation documents, and to analyze effects from BLM projects to proposed critical habitat.

The Klamath Area northern spotted owl demographic study continued in the Grants Pass Resource Area as one of two BLM long-term owl effectiveness projects designed to rigorously monitor northern spotted population trends.

The BLM conducted surveys in historic sites and unsurveyed suitable habitat throughout the District to assist with project planning in fiscal year 2012.

## Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

On June 30, 2011, the Service released the *Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI FWS 2011). The Notice of Final Revised Recovery Plan Availability was published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2011 (76 FR 38575 38576). The 2011 Recovery Plan contains 33 Recovery Actions. Recovery Actions are recommendations to guide activities needed to accomplish the recovery objectives and ultimately lead to delisting of the species. At the local level, the Medford District implemented Recovery Actions 2 and 3 by continuing demographic monitoring. Additionally, the Medford District implemented Recovery Actions 10 and 32, which aim to conserve spotted owl sites and habitat.

The intent of Recovery Action 32 is to maintain the older and more structurally complex multi-layered conifer forests on Federal lands in order not to further exacerbate the competitive interactions between spotted owls and barred owls. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Medford District BLM, created an interagency, interdisciplinary team to develop a methodology for identifying Recovery Action 32 structurally complex forest for project-level planning and northern spotted owl consultation needs in southwest Oregon. The most current methodology (version 1.3, January 2010) was used in 2012 to identify Recovery Action 32 stands for proposed projects within the Medford District.

The intent of Recovery Action 10 is to protect, enhance and develop habitat in the quantity and distribution necessary to provide for the long-term recovery of spotted owls and to provide additional demographic support to the range-wide spotted owl population. In 2012, a similar interagency, interdisciplinary team was created to develop a methodology to help the BLM and Forest Service implement Recovery Action 10 for project-level planning and northern spotted owl consultation needs in southwest Oregon. The Southwest Oregon methodology is in draft form and is expected to be released to the Medford District in 2013.

## Marbled Murrelet

Marbled murrelets are federally listed as threatened. No murrelets have ever been located in the Medford District, despite significant survey efforts. No surveys were completed in 2012 in marbled murrelet habitat for projects within the required survey zone. The District has been compiling past survey data into the new marbled murrelet GIS database.

## Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp

Vernal pool fairy shrimp are federally listed as threatened in Oregon and are only found on the Table Rocks in the Medford District. The tops of the Table Rocks are designated as critical habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp. The Butte Falls Resource Area completed the draft Table Rocks Management Plan in 2012. The plan identifies the BLM's proposal to manage the increasing recreational popularity in the area, while also protecting the unique

wildlife and plant habitats through vegetation management and designated hiking trails. The BLM continues its partnership with The Nature Conservancy to manage the Table Rocks and associated vernal pool habitat.

## Special Habitats

Special habitat is forested or nonforested habitat that contributes to overall biological diversity within the District. Special habitats for plants and animals may include meadows, seeps, cliffs, caves, and talus slopes.

Resource damage continues to occur in special habitats such as meadows. Mud bogging in low elevation meadows diminishes wildlife habitat suitability by creation of deep ruts and mud holes by vehicles. BLM expends time and money to protect sensitive areas, replace vandalized road closures and gates, and educate the public on the importance of wise stewardship and prudent use of public lands. Road closures, signing, education and fencing continue to help address this issue.

## Big Game and Furbearers

Big game and mammal habitat objectives were included in fuels treatment prescriptions across much of the District that focused primarily on the Wildland-Urban Interface. A portion of the Medford District lands are included in the Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area where ODFW restricts motor vehicle access from October 15 to April 30. Only roads marked by a green reflector are open to motor vehicles to improve wildlife protection, reduce disturbance, and reduce resource damage.

The Medford RMP was maintained to address new science related to elk and big game management.

## Neotropical Migratory Birds

The Grants Pass Resource Area conducted fall and spring population and avian productivity monitoring in partnership with Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO). The mark-recapture data provides important spring and fall migration information for willow flycatchers, a Bureau special status species, and other Neotropical migratory birds. This data is being analyzed for long-term trends in abundance, reproduction, and survivorship and is being compared with other similar stations from within the Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network. As part of this partnership, KBO, in cooperation with Southern Oregon University, trains college-level interns. KBO promotes monitoring efforts and its partnerships with the BLM and others by presenting at various meetings, and by submitting articles and papers to be included in newsletters and technical publications.

In 2012, KBO analyzed 11 years of bird monitoring data collected in riparian habitat along the Applegate River on BLM lands adjacent to the Provolt Seed Orchard. This data was collected from a mist netting site that was in operation from 1997–2007. The final

report, *Avian Population Monitoring Results from Eleven Year of Mist Netting on the Applegate River*, was released in November 2012. Their results showed a high diversity of bird species use the riparian area at the Applegate River site during breeding and fall migration, with 70 species captured at the site in the 11-year period. Partner's in Flight riparian focal species were among the most commonly captured during the breeding season. During migration the site also supported a number of high elevation and coniferous forest species.

## Bats

Biologists throughout the District collected data on bat species to contribute to regional species group evaluations. Medford BLM participated in the Oregon Grid program, a systematic sampling method across Oregon and Washington. Biologists throughout the District joined with Forest Service biologists to mist net and monitor eight sites in southwest Oregon as part of the long-term, interagency effort to evaluate bat populations. The bat grid information is compiled by the Forest Service to establish baseline information.

The Medford District received funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that were dedicated to reclaim abandoned mines that pose safety hazards to people. Some of these abandoned mines have been inactive since the early 1900s. Of the estimated 1,833 mining features across the District, only 383 are open adits. The open adits provide rare "cave" habitat for bats, several of which are special status species. BLM biologists have been working with other specialists to prioritize closures and design methods to make the mines safe for humans and wildlife, while also maintaining habitat for bat maternity roosts and hibernacula. Closure work started across the District in fiscal year 2012. Adits that may support bats are being treated to allow bat passage while providing safety for humans. The BLM's Abandoned Mine Lands program contracted bat survey work with Bat Conservation International in fiscal year 2012 to complete pre-closure surveys. The Bat Conservation International team analyzed each adit for bat habitat potential and recommended proper closure procedures based on bat observations and habitat status.

## Aquatic Habitat and Species Management

### Watershed Council Cooperation

All three resource areas cooperated with the Middle Rogue, Williams Creek, Illinois Valley, Seven Basins, and Applegate River Watershed Councils on fish habitat restoration projects. Plans progressed with these Watershed Councils for

1. a channel restoration project at the Bridgepoint Ditch diversion on Williams Creek;
2. the addition of large wood in West Fork Evans Creek;
3. placing large wood from BLM lands in sections of Thompson Creek under private ownership (Middle Applegate Watershed); and
4. placing large wood in Evans Creek.

## Fish Passage

Fish biologists continue to address fish passage issues across the District. In fiscal year 2012, fish biologists in the Grants Pass Resource Area

- completed a channel roughening project on Draper Creek that rectified a fish passage problem on a private culvert that could not be replaced at this time;
- assisted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) with a right-of-way analysis to aid in cooperation with the ODFW fish screen program at the White-Brown Ditch (Illinois River); and
- cooperated with ODFW on passage issues at a water diversion on Beech-Platter Ditch on Althouse Creek.

Fish biologists in the Butte Falls Resource Area replaced a culvert on West Branch Elk Creek to allow coho salmon and steelhead access to 0.5 mile of stream above the old culvert.

## Population Monitoring

Grants Pass Resource Area fish biologists monitored fall chinook spawning in the Wild and Scenic Rogue River Recreational Section, as required in the Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan. They conducted coho spawning and juvenile surveys on streams with completed fish habitat projects and previously replaced culverts.

Ashland Resource Area fish biologists

- monitored coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout spawning from late fall through middle spring on two Applegate River tributaries;
- evaluated the effectiveness of recent passage and instream projects on Star Gulch and Yale, Footh, Keeler, and Ninemile creeks;
- assisted Crater Lake National Park with bull and brook trout population estimation; and
- monitored 8 sites in the Conde Creek grazing allotment to assess the level of grazing use along riparian areas.

## Instream and Riparian Projects

All three resource areas placed large wood in streams for salmon and steelhead habitat enhancement. Logs were placed on several miles of streams. Log placement occurred in the Grants Pass Resource Area on Cheney, Fortune Branch, Riffle, and Quines Creeks.

The Butte Falls Resource Area was a partner with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Seven Basins Watershed Council, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to add 50 logs on BLM lands and dozens more on private, adjacent lands on Rock Creek in the Evans Creek drainage.

The Ashland Resource Area added 50 logs to Lost Creek in combination with four riparian road obliterations (also in Little Butte Creek) which permanently removed over 1.7 miles of riparian roads and included seven perennial stream crossings. These projects included planting with appropriate riparian vegetation.

The Grants Pass Resource Area assisted with permits and environmental analysis with the Middle Rogue Watershed Council on the Shan Creek large wood project. Grants Pass also conducted riparian thinning to enhance tree growth for fish habitat along Crooks Creek and completed the Draper Road decommissioning project.

## Endangered and Threatened Species (ESA)

District Fisheries developed an internal process to conduct an analysis of mining claim proposals on BLM lands. The process is anticipated to improve efficiencies in our fish biological analyses as the number and complexity of mining claim proposals increase. ESA analyses were conducted for more than 40 NEPA planning documents, including timber sales, mining plans of operation, and Wild and Scenic River projects.

## NEPA Planning

Biologists analyzed potential impacts from

- timber sales (Williams IVM, East West Junction, Jumping Bean, Speaking Coyote, McKnabe, Friese Camp, Sterling Sweeper, Heppsie, Conde, Cottonwood, Pilot Joe, and Pilot Thompson);
- dozens of right-of-way agreements; and
- silviculture treatments in riparian areas.

Additionally, analyses continued in the Grants Pass Resource Area for Mining Notices and Plans of Operation for claims on Sucker Creek, Grave Creek, Middle Cow Creek, Quines Creek, North Fork Galice Creek, Starvout Creek, and French Flat ACEC. The Ashland Resource Area additionally performed analysis on range lease renewals and a comprehensive transportation plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. District-wide analysis was performed for stream and riparian fish habitat restoration projects.

## Public Outreach

Grants Pass Interagency Office continues the educational fish tank display in the lobby as a demonstration of salmon life history. Children who accompanied their parents as they purchased tree cutting permits in December were attracted to the display, which is in English and Spanish. Biologists also participated in Outdoor Education days at the Deer Creek site, on the Rogue River, and at Illinois Valley High School. The Ashland Resource Area fish biologist led a macroinvertebrate field day on Jenny Creek with students from Lincoln School, led a salmon discussion at McGregor Park (Salmon Watch), and contributed write-ups and photos for an interpretive brochure for Wagner Creek.

## Weed Management

The Medford District BLM coordinates a weed management program that focuses on surveys, prevention practices, control treatments, and education/outreach. The program relies on key partnerships with the Jackson and Josephine Cooperative Weed Management Areas, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Parks, and Forest Service, among others.

The BLM completes surveys to locate, map, and characterize noxious weeds in proposed BLM project areas. In 2012, Medford District botanists and contractors surveyed 28,150 acres for weeds, documenting 365 new infestations. Despite a decline in the number of acres surveyed each year, the number of new infestations found in 2012 was consistent with 2010 and 2011, when 369 and 347 infestations were located, respectively. Thus, the number of new infestations per survey acre doubled from 2010 to 2012 (Table 6), possibly indicating an increase in distribution of some noxious weed species. Himalayan blackberry, medusahead, and yellow star-thistle were the most frequently discovered infestations in 2012. Of the newly discovered infestations, none were new noxious weed species not previously known to exist on the Medford District.

**Table 6. Acres Surveyed and New Noxious Weed Infestations Located on Medford District BLM, 2010-2012.**

Year	Acres Surveyed	New Infestations	Infestations per Survey Acre
2010	64,719	369	0.006
2011	34,787	347	0.010
2012	28,150	365	0.013

In 2012, BLM treated 3,298 acres of noxious weeds, primarily by spot-spraying with approved herbicides (2,384 acres) and by using manual techniques (881 acres). Mowing and biological control insects accounted for a small percent of treatments. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of weed treatments implemented in 2011 and 2012, BLM botanists and contractors conducted post-treatment monitoring on 805 acres in 2012. Treatments were effective—as measured by mortality or severe damage of target plants—on approximately 90% of treated acres. For sites with unsuccessful treatments, target weeds were re-treated or scheduled for additional future treatment and monitoring.

## Botanical Special Status and Survey and Manage Species

Special status species are those that are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened, endangered, or proposed; listed by a state as threatened, endangered, or candidate; or listed by the BLM as sensitive or strategic. The Medford District contains a diversity of plant communities and unique habitats that support 143 special status plant and fungi species, with another 88 botany species suspected of occurring on the District

(Table 7). In addition, BLM is responsible for maintaining the persistence of nearly 100 Survey and Manage plant and fungi species known or suspected of occurring on the Medford District.

**Table 7. Special Status and Survey and Manage Plant and Fungi Species on Medford District BLM**

Category of Plants	Documented Species	Species Suspected of Occurring
Federally Listed	2	2
BLM Sensitive	97	45
BLM Strategic	44	41
Survey and Manage	57	41
Total	200	129

In compliance with BLM Manual 6840–Special Status Species Management, Medford District botanists coordinate and implement a special status plant program that includes inventories, monitoring, consultation, and conservation actions. Some of the special status plant projects that occurred in Medford District in fiscal year 2012 are highlighted below.

## Federally Listed Plants

### Gentner’s fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*)—Threatened

- Annual monitoring of flowering plants: Since 2008, BLM has annually monitored the number of flowering plants occurring at 57 sites. In 2012, there was a mean of 27.0 flowering plants per site, up from 21.2 plants in 2011, continuing a 5-year upward trend. However, a majority of sites (67%) had fewer than 10 flowering plants, including 22 sites with zero flowering plants.
- Population monitoring at Pickett Creek: One of the largest known populations of Gentner’s fritillary occurs on the BLM’s Pickett Creek site. Annual monitoring of flowering plants by the Institute of Applied Ecology at this site shows a general downward trend since 2002, when 424 flowering plants were observed. In contrast, only 46 flowering plants were observed in 2012, the lowest number in 11 years of monitoring. It is unknown whether this decline in flowering plants is indicative of a significant trend in overall population size or vigor. Population size estimates, based on density plot sampling, have fluctuated from year to year, with no consistent trend. In 2012, there were an estimated 13,400 individual Gentner’s fritillary plants at Pickett Creek. The entire report is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.
- Bulb collection and outplanting: The BLM, in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, continued to assist with recovery actions for Gentner’s fritillary in 2012. The bulb collection and outplanting project involves collecting bulblets (a mechanism of asexual reproduction) in the wild, growing plants in a greenhouse, transplanting to recovery sites, and monitoring the health and vigor of transplants. From 2006 to 2012, over 19,000 bulblets have been collected from 12 BLM sites, including 4,550 bulblets from 6 sites in 2012. As of 2012, over 21,000

bulbs have been transplanted to 14 BLM sites. Survivorship of transplants has been variable across outplanting sites, with larger bulbs more likely to survive than small bulbs. The vigor of large-bulb transplants, as measured by leaf length and number of flowering plants, has also been variable across sites and from year to year. Leaf length increased from 2011 to 2012 for most sites.

### **Cook's desert parsley (*Lomatium cookii*)—Endangered**

- Reintroduction study and monitoring: Working with the Institute for Applied Ecology, the BLM continues to evaluate the potential to establish new populations or augment existing populations of Cook's desert parsley through direct seeding and transplanting of greenhouse-grown seedlings. Early monitoring results suggest that both methods can be used to establish new plants. The report documenting 2012 accomplishments for this study are not complete, but will be available in winter 2013 at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.
- Population monitoring in Illinois Valley: The Institute for Applied Ecology, with assistance from the BLM, continued to monitor three occurrences of Cook's desert parsley in the Illinois Valley in 2012. The report documenting 2012 monitoring results is not complete, but will be available in 2013 at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.

## **BLM Sensitive Plants**

- Howell's mariposa-lily (*Calochortus howellii*): BLM collaborated with Oregon Department of Agriculture to continue population monitoring in 2012 at two sites. At both sites, the number of reproductive plants in 2012 was well below the 6-year mean. The number of vegetative plants was below mean at one site, but approximately average at the second site. Herbivory was very high at one site, with 79% of reproductive plants and 86% of vegetative plants browsed, which is well above the 6-year mean.
- Siskiyou mariposa-lily (*Calochortus persistens*): The single known population of this species in Oregon consists of 5 plants in a 5-square-meter area on Medford BLM. The only other known occurrences of this species are at two sites in Siskiyou County, California. In 2012, the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service finalized a conservation agreement to voluntarily protect and conserve the Siskiyou mariposa-lily and its habitat. In an effort to identify additional occurrences, BLM coordinated surveys on 4,346 acres of potential habitat on Federal land, primarily on the Medford District. No new occurrences were located.
- Clustered lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*): The BLM collaborated with the Institute for Applied Ecology to analyze the population viability of this species in Oregon and California, including the Medford District. Populations have declined in size over time and models of extinction probability predict that small populations (less than 10 plants) are at high risk of extinction with increasing time

(91% probability after 30 years). Only large populations of more than 100 plants have an extinction probability near zero. The entire report is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.

- Dwarf meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* spp. *pumila*): The BLM continued its collaboration with the Institute for Applied Ecology on long-term monitoring of this species and its associated vernal pool and mound habitat at the Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Population size and number of flowers per plant have fluctuated greatly among years, but have declined steeply since 2010 at Lower Table Rock. Abundance and distribution of invasive annual grasses (e.g., medusahead and bulbous bluegrass) have increased during this same period. In a related study, experimental plot results suggest that recreational impacts to dwarf meadowfoam may be minimized by restricting the timing and distribution of visitors around vernal pools. The entire report is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.
- Parish's horse-nettle (*Solanum parishii*): The Institute for Applied Ecology completed its study on BLM lands of the effects of prescribed fire on this dry chaparral and woodland species. Prescribed burns were conducted by the BLM in Parish's horse-nettle plots in fall 2010. In 2012, no effects of fire were detected on plant survival, size, or reproductive effort. The authors of the study report cautioned that although fire had a short-term neutral effect on individual plants, the broader use of fire for managing these habitats could have long-term negative impacts by encouraging further invasion of nonnative invasive annual grasses, which were abundant at both study sites. The entire report is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.

## Plant Inventories

In 2012, Medford District botanists and contractors surveyed 27,948 acres for vascular plants in order to locate and protect special status species within proposed BLM project areas. The surveys mostly occurred in areas proposed for timber sales, silviculture treatments, fuel reduction treatments, and grazing permit renewals. In addition, surveyors examined a subset of these acres (17,745 acres) for nonvascular plants (lichens and bryophytes), including fungi. Surveyors located two new occurrences of the federally listed Gentner's fritillary (one plant per site), 65 new sites for BLM Sensitive/Strategic species, and 176 new sites for Survey and Manage species.

## Native Plant Program

The Medford District manages a native plant program that is widely recognized for the diversity of wildland species collected; the volume of native seed produced; the volume and diversity of seed in inventory; and the number of species and acres under production for seed increase. Native seeds are used by the BLM for a variety of rehabilitation and restoration projects, including wildland fire mitigation. Notable program accomplishments in 2012 included:

- Finalized new Memorandums of Understanding with Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and The Nature Conservancy, which will facilitate additional native plant material development and restoration activities in southwest Oregon.
- Completed 166 wildland seed collections from 140 species.
- Contracted over 60 acres of native seed production.
- Produced approximately 13,000 pounds of native seeds.
- Managed seed increase fields of approximately 70 species and 110 different accessions.
- Managed a seed inventory of over 57,000 pounds and 490 different germplasms.
- Seeded approximately 850 acres with 11,000 pounds of native seed.
- Purchased 28 tons of straw for use in rehabilitation and restoration projects.
- Provided oversight for 5 volunteers who worked 80 hours collecting native seeds. The volunteers were recruited through contacts with the Jackson County Master Gardeners Association and the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Siskiyou Chapter.

## Outreach Events

In 2012, botanists from the Medford District participated in more than 20 outreach and volunteer events. Outreach events included wildflower walks, presentations, and displays at organized events focused on providing education and information on rare plants, native plants, invasive plants, and natural areas. Several volunteer events involved the public in efforts to control invasive plants, including yellow starthistle, Scotch broom, English ivy, garlic mustard, and Dyer's woad. The botany program's Seeds of Success team completed over 60 hours of outreach, educating communities about native seed collection and BLM conservation programs.

## Special Management Areas

The Medford District manages 22 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and 12 Research Natural Areas (RNAs). In cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Interagency Natural Areas Network, BLM is conducting long-term vegetation monitoring following a standard protocol for natural areas throughout the Pacific Northwest. To date, monitoring plots have been established at five ACECs/RNAs in the Medford District, including installations in 2012 at North Fork Silver Creek RNA, Round Top Butte RNA, and Table Rocks ACEC. These plots will provide baseline data for several important natural communities in the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. Over time, monitoring will provide valuable data on the response of these communities to climate change.

The BLM also continued to cooperate with The Nature Conservancy in 2012 on finalizing a management plan for Table Rocks ACEC. Priority actions will focus on accommodating responsible recreation while protecting the site's unique natural communities and rare species.

Informal monitoring of the French Flat ACEC in 2012 confirmed that off-highway vehicle trespass continues to occur, threatening the values for which the ACEC was created. To minimize future vehicle trespass, the BLM completed a cadastral survey of the ACEC in 2012 in preparation for the construction of additional fences and barriers along critical boundary segments. Fence materials have been purchased and will be installed in the near future.

Likewise, monitoring of the nearby Rough and Ready ACEC identified areas that were impacted by off-highway vehicle use in 2012. This site is further threatened by the continued spread of two Class A noxious weeds, collectively referred to as yellowtuft alyssum, both of which are eastern European mustards that grow in serpentine soils. In 2012, BLM botanists cooperated with the interagency Yellowtuft Alyssum Working Group to monitor and eradicate these plants from critical areas in the Illinois Valley.



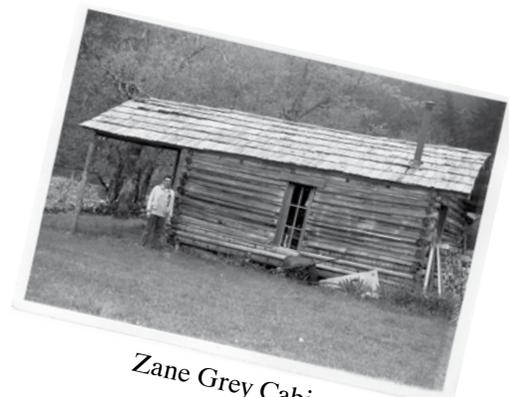
Yellowtuft alyssum.  
Photo by Ken French,  
Oregon Department of Agriculture

Rough and Ready ACEC is part of an alluvial fan that was recently nominated as a potential National Natural Landmark because of its unique geology and ecosystem. The National Natural Landmark Program, administered by the National Park Service, supports conservation of sites that are considered outstanding examples of the nation's natural heritage. If all owners within the proposed site grant permission, then a formal evaluation process will determine if the Rough and Ready Creek Alluvial Fan should be designated as an National Natural Landmark. Round Top Butte National Natural Landmark, which includes Round Top Butte RNA, is the only National Natural Landmark in the Medford District.

## Cultural Resources

### Zane Grey Cabin

The Zane Grey Cabin is a one-story log cabin located 30 miles northwest of Grants Pass in an isolated section of the lower Rogue River Canyon. Grey acquired the property in 1925 after spending time there engaged in one of his favorite pastimes, fly fishing. This site was chosen by Grey as a fishing retreat as far removed from civilization as possible.



Zane Grey Cabin circa 1968



Zane Grey Cabin, 2008.

The cabin was originally built in 1924 as part of a mining claim and the location still retains the feeling of a remote and pristine landscape. The BLM acquired the cabin and the surrounding property in 2008. To this day, no roads access the Zane Grey Cabin, and it can only be reached by a 2- to 5-day rafting trip over class III and IV rapids on the Rogue River, or by hiking trail. In fiscal year 2012, the Grants Pass Resource Area received a grant

from the Farnley Tyas Foundation to complete the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the site. BLM staff researched the history of the property and compiled the nomination package for submission to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

## Box O Ranch

The more than 400-acre Box O Ranch Complex in southeastern Jackson County was acquired by the BLM in 1995. Following the acquisition of the Ranch, archaeological surveys were completed to create a preliminary inventory of prehistoric sites, historic sites, and isolated finds located within the complex. As a result, the surveys located 15 historic sites or isolates within the Box O Ranch Complex. In May 2012, a BLM archaeologist led a group from the Pinehurst School on a hike down to the property and gave a brief talk about the ranch and its history. In September 2012, the BLM led another hike into the ranch as part of the Greensprings Mountain Music Festival activities. In addition to the tours of the property, an article was written about the Box O Ranch that will be published in the local papers this fall. The BLM will develop a cultural resource management plan to assist in managing the property.



Box O Ranch Corral



Barn at Box O Ranch

## Resources and People (RAP) Camp 2012

In fiscal year 2012, BLM staff participated in the annual RAP Camp. They provided high school age students with an opportunity to learn about how archaeology is performed with a hands-on activity called excavation in a box. They also discussed the mining history of the Medford District with students.

## Field Schools

In fiscal year 2012, the Grants Pass Resource Areas received funding to conduct three field schools: test excavations at Paint Creek, search for the Battle of Hungry Hill site, and ground-penetrating radar investigations at Waldo Cemetery.

The Paint Creek site is located near the confluence of Paint Creek and the Rogue River and consists of several fruit trees, a modern fire ring, remnants of an old mining claim, an occupancy trespass that dates to the 1960s, and what appears to be a prehistoric village. The site was initially recorded as a surface-flake scatter in 1978 by BLM archaeologists; the historic remains were recorded in subsequent visits. Unfortunately, the prehistoric component has been subjected to extensive pot hunting over the years and may have been significantly altered. In order to better understand the remaining elements of the property and provide adequate management, the BLM, in partnership with Southern Oregon University, conducted limited test excavations at the site. The purpose of the project was to generate useful information to help the BLM appropriately manage the site and to provide a field school experience for Southern Oregon University anthropology students in cultural resource management.



Activities at RAP Camp

The Battle of Hungry Hill (also known as the Battle of Grave Creek Hill) took place on October 31, 1855 between Native American people, the U.S. Army, and local pioneer militia. It was one of the key skirmishes in the Rogue River Indian Wars of 1855–1856. Southern Oregon University conducted a search on BLM lands located north of Grave Creek in Josephine and Douglas counties, Oregon.

The Waldo Cemetery and adjoining Chinese Cemetery date back to the 1850s, when the town of Waldo was flourishing with miners who came to seek their fortune in the Upper Illinois Valley. The Chinese Cemetery lies on the hillside next to the main Waldo Cemetery. Both sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are located within the Historic Waldo Placer Mining District. The cemeteries are falling into disrepair. A picket fence around one grave is collapsing, the area is becoming overgrown with brush, and grave markers are growing more weathered and unreadable. Trees have fallen on some of the marble grave markers. The cemeteries are located near areas that have seen a high increase in recreational use and are more susceptible to vandalism and looting. Looter holes were found in the Chinese Cemetery in 2011. Not all the graves have markers and numerous depressions in the area suggest there could be other graves. This project involves using underground radar equipment to survey the entire cemetery area for possible graves not marked or visible on the ground surface.

## Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory

In 2012, the Medford District's Abandoned Mine Lands crew completed the final surveys of historic mining properties on the District. The goal of these surveys was to identify specific locations where open adits and shafts posed a risk to public health and safety and to carry through remediation efforts using various treatment techniques. During inventory, numerous historic structures, mining adits and shafts, mining equipment, and other cultural resource items were documented.



Shaft to be remediated.

In 2012, four of the 17 reports for the various mining districts have been completed by the Abandoned

Mine Lands crew and reviewed by the District Archaeologist. The first of these reports has been submitted to SHPO for review. In all, over 100 sites have been recorded and evaluated for National Register of Historic Place significance. The site records will be submitted to SHPO for concurrence on their determinations of eligibility.



Stamp Mill.

## Table Rocks Management Plan

The Medford District BLM and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) entered into a Cooperative Agreement during fiscal year 2010 to transfer approximately 800 acres of TNC land on the Table Rocks to the Medford BLM. In 2012, the Butte Falls Resource Area developed a draft management plan for the Table Rocks (Upper and Lower) in collaboration with TNC, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Cow Creek Band



Upper Table Rock

of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Under this management plan, the lands acquired would be managed by the BLM for their public education, recreation, and interpretive values. In fiscal year 2012, the BLM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and TNC as part of BLM's effort to strengthen relationships with Tribes. A video of the ceremony was made and is available on You Tube. It is anticipated the BLM will also complete a Memorandum of Understanding

with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, another federally recognized Tribe with ancestral ties to the Table Rocks.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Cultural Resources Program Accomplishments

During fiscal year 2012 the District's cultural resources program

- Hired a new District Archaeologist to assist the Resource Area archaeologists with compliance to SHPO Protocol
- Worked with the Oregon BLM Data Steward to identify data gaps and begin cleaning up records at the District in anticipation of a contract. Inventoried District reports and site records and identified missing reports
- Solicited tribal input from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians on BLM projects and planning efforts, and kept an updated list of interested tribes and tribal officials
- Strengthened tribal relationships—Completed an MOU with the Grande Ronde to be partners in developing the Table Rock Management Plan, contacted Tribes for the upcoming RMP effort and in compliance with the President's direction for improving our consultation efforts
- Completed Archeological Resources Protection Act consultation with Tribes for two field schools
- Increased coordination efforts between Tribes and archaeologists, conducted face-to-face meetings between Resource Area archaeologists and Tribal archaeologists or other Tribal representatives to discuss the results of project surveys
- Completed a Challenge Cost Share Project with the Kerbyville Museum to organize and reprint approximately 2,100 archival photographs of local historical images
- Completed surveys in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Provided Cultural Resource Management support to the District's Abandoned Mine Lands inventory
- Communicated with Resource Area staff about projects that could affect cultural resources
- Completed cultural resource evaluations in advance of project proposals
- Consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office for proposed projects and site evaluations
- Evaluated sites for National Register of Historic Places eligibility, with over 100 sites evaluated as a result of Abandoned Mine Lands work
- Conducted cultural inventories on 3,433 acres for projects
- Made progress to compile baseline cultural resource information for the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River corridor

- Improved data management to more easily consolidate information across the District and track information more consistently
- Supported SOU’s Laboratory of Anthropology curation facility and SOU field schools; provided “shadowing” learning experiences for young adults; and conducted presentations during the Oregon Archaeology Celebration Month, National Native American Month, school field trips, RAP Camp, and other community outreach events
- Hosted two field schools in partnership with SOU—one to find the location of the Battle of Hungry Hill and the second to survey a 70-acre parcel of BLM land located along the Rogue River in an area where one prehistoric site had been heavily looted in the past

## Rural Interface Areas

The 1995 ROD/RMP objective for the rural interface areas is to consider the interests of adjacent and nearby rural residential land owners during analysis, planning, and monitoring activities occurring within managed rural interface areas. These interests include personal health and safety, improvements to property, and quality of life.

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In the past year, the BLM worked with numerous local individuals and groups such as watershed councils, fire protection groups, area citizen groups, and environmental coalitions to mitigate many features of land management 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 mitigate impacts to neighbors. The BLM is also attempting to reduce fuels hazards on public lands adjacent to private properties (see Wildfire and Fuels Management section).

## Socioeconomic

The Medford District continues to successfully contribute to local, state, national, and international economies through monetary payments, sustainable use of BLM-managed lands and resources, and use of innovative contracting as well as other implementation strategies.

The District provides employment opportunities for local companies, contractors, and individuals through a wide variety of contractual opportunities and through the harvest of forest products. These opportunities include selling commercial timber and other timber products (e.g., poles, small diameter timber, biomass); thinning and planting trees; repairing storm-damaged roads; and collecting special forest products such as ferns, mushrooms, and firewood. The District also provides developed and undeveloped recreation facilities (such as campgrounds, hiking trails, boat ramps, and wildlife viewing facilities) that bring visitors to the area, providing indirect benefits to tourism-related businesses.

## Monetary Payments

The BLM contributes financially to the local economy in a variety of ways. One of these ways is through monetary payments. They include Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and O&C Payments. Payments of each type were made in fiscal year 2012 as directed in current legislation.

### Revenues (Payments to State and Counties)

Proceeds generated by the sale of timber, grazing and mineral fees, payment in lieu of taxes, and other Federal fund sources are distributed to the state to produce revenues for schools, counties, and local taxing districts.

- \$285.5 million Secure Rural Schools Funds from 2008 to 2010
- \$25.5 million Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Oregon and Washington
- \$23.2 million Minerals Income, Grazing Fees, Public Land and Material Sales, and other collections
- \$251 million in annual expenditures for BLM resource management in Oregon and Washington (<http://www.blm.gov/or/socioeconomic/economic.php>)

The BLM provides these estimated payment values to help counties make informed decisions about elections and allocations. The Secure Rural Schools Act county payment calculation uses multiple variables, including acres of Federal land within an eligible county, a county's share of the counties' average of the 3 highest receipt and safety net payments during fiscal year 1986 through fiscal year 1999, and an income adjustment based on the per capita personal income for each county. The actual payment to be made for fiscal year 2012 also varies depending on the number of counties nationally that elect to receive a share of the state or county payment.

### Payments in Lieu of Taxes

PILT are Federal payments made annually to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes from the nontaxable Federal lands located within their boundaries. The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-565, dated October 20, 1976. This law was rewritten and amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982 and codified at U.S. Code 31(69). The Law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on federally owned land can create a financial impact.

PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. These payments are one of the ways the Federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities. This is an especially important role for the BLM, which manages more public land than any other Federal agency. The specific amounts paid to the counties under the PILT revenue-sharing program in fiscal year 2012 are displayed in Table 8.

**Table 8. Total Payments in Lieu of Taxes and Acres by County for Fiscal Year 2012**

County	Total Acres	BLM Acres	Payment 2012
Baker County	1,020,851	367,086	\$901,801
Benton County	73,460	56,573	\$24,951
Clackamas County	619,525	78,719	\$210,430
Clatsop County	1,504	42	\$12,964
Columbia County	10,961	10,961	\$27,047
Coos County	249,153	168,475	\$239,514
Crook County	939,136	496,649	\$318,989
Curry County	628,355	67,975	\$213,429
Deschutes County	1,431,259	457,872	\$730,983
Douglas County	1,676,105	667,379	\$569,310
Gilliam County	34,616	28,793	\$72,051
Grant County	1,752,210	171,211	\$595,159
Harney County	4,461,080	3,881,161	\$1,024,900
Hood River County	205,905	180	\$69,938
Jackson County	894,701	431,639	\$303,896
Jefferson County	297,088	27,268	\$268,925
Josephine County	701,953	312,228	\$238,427
Klamath County	2,216,039	283,669	\$752,704
Lake County	3,696,037	2,483,695	\$1,086,998
Lane County	1,744,549	291,714	\$592,557
Lincoln County	209,954	19,946	\$71,313
Linn County	561,806	87,655	\$190,824
Malheur County	4,299,134	4,260,283	\$2,392,940
Marion County	225,085	20,904	\$76,453
Morrow County	149,695	1,609	\$160,280
Multnomah County	80,347	4,208	\$27,291
Polk County	42,087	40,608	\$98,468
Sherman County	53,672	51,438	\$128,743
Tillamook County	131,247	48,312	\$44,580
Umatilla County	419,433	7,345	\$935,282
Union County	624,349	6,452	\$992,979
Wallowa County	1,173,250	18,207	\$398,508
Wasco County	221,700	45,824	\$75,303
Washington County	13,984	11,386	\$34,506
Wheeler County	301,927	131,498	\$102,553
Yamhill County	58,793	33,370	\$19,970
Total	31,220,951	15,072,418	\$14,004,966

## Payments to Counties

Payments are currently made to counties under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. The purpose of the act is “To restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the BLM for use by the counties for the benefit of public schools, roads and other purposes.” The public domain lands managed by the BLM refer only to Oregon and California Revested Grant Lands (O&C) and Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands (CBWR), not public domain (PD) lands. The O&C lands consist of approximately 2.5 million acres of federally owned forest lands in 18 western Oregon counties including approximately 74,500 acres of CBWR lands in the Coos Bay and Roseburg BLM Districts.

Fiscal year 2012 is the twelfth year payments were made to western Oregon counties under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393). Counties made elections to receive the standard O&C payment as calculated under the Act of August 28, 1937 or the Act of May 24, 1939, or the calculated full payment amount as determined under Public Law 106-393. All counties in the Medford District elected to receive payments under the new legislation. Beginning in fiscal year 2001 and continuing through 2012, payments are based on historic O&C payments to the counties. The Act provided transition payments to the O&C counties through Fiscal Year 2010 and established another formula for calculating O&C county payments for Fiscal Year 2011.

On July 6, 2012, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 was reauthorized for fiscal year 2012 as part of Public Law 112-141.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination payments are subject to sequester. In order to be prepared if there is a sequestration, Interior took the prudent step to hold back 10 percent of the scheduled payments. The BLM understands the importance of these funds to the viability of western Oregon counties in support of county projects and local schools. As of February 2013, the BLM issued payment to 18 counties in western Oregon eligible under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension. The amount paid to the O&C counties was approximately \$36 million (Table 9).

Title I payments are made to the eligible counties based on the three highest payments to each county between the years 1986 and 1999. These payments may be used by the counties in the same manner as previous 50 percent and “safety net” payments.

Title II payments are reserved by the counties in a special account in the Treasury of the United States for funding projects providing fish and wildlife habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement, and other natural resource objectives as outlined in Public Law 106-3983. The BLM is directed to obligate these funds for projects selected by local Resource Advisory Committees and approved by the Secretary of the Interior or a designee.

Table 9. Fiscal Year 2012 Secure Rural Schools Act Payments to Counties

County	Oregon & California Land Grant and Coos Bay Wagon Road Funds				Title II Funding by District RAC				
	Payments to Counties Title I	Retained by BLM for Title II Projects	Payments to Counties Title III	O & C total	Salem	Eugene	Roseburg	Medford	Coos Bay
Benton	\$621,515	\$58,496	\$51,184	\$731,194	\$58,496				
Clackamas	\$852,596	\$80,244	\$70,214	\$1,003,055	\$80,244				
Columbia	\$574,442	\$54,065	\$47,307	\$675,814	\$54,065				
Coos	\$1,892,927	\$334,046	\$0	\$2,226,974					\$334,046
Curry	\$1,162,829	\$109,443	\$95,762	\$1,368,034				\$54,721	\$54,721
Douglas	\$8,643,283	\$813,486	\$711,800	\$10,168,569		\$24,405	\$520,630	\$105,753	\$162,697
Jackson	\$4,398,143	\$776,143	\$0	\$5,174,286			\$7,839	\$768,304	
Josephine	\$4,443,760	\$418,236	\$365,957	\$5,227,953				\$418,236	
Klamath	\$865,454	\$152,727	\$0	\$1,018,182				\$152,727	
Lane	\$4,229,794	\$398,098	\$348,336	\$4,976,229		\$398,098			
Lincoln	\$103,143	\$18,202	\$0	\$121,345	\$18,202				
Linn	\$997,470	\$93,880	\$82,145	\$1,173,494	\$65,716	\$28,164			
Marion	\$417,654	\$39,309	\$34,395	\$491,358	\$39,309				
Multnomah	\$200,641	\$18,884	\$16,523	\$236,048	\$18,884				
Polk	\$723,901	\$68,132	\$59,615	\$851,648	\$68,132				
Tillamook	\$177,444	\$31,314	\$0	\$208,758	\$31,314				
Washington	\$114,585	\$20,221	\$0	\$134,806	\$20,221				
Yamhill	\$219,895	\$0	\$38,805	\$258,701					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,639,479</b>	<b>\$3,484,924</b>	<b>\$1,922,043</b>	<b>\$36,046,446</b>	<b>\$454,583</b>	<b>\$450,667</b>	<b>\$528,469</b>	<b>\$1,449,741</b>	<b>\$551,464</b>

Title III payments are made to the counties for uses authorized in Public Law 106-393 such as (1) search, rescue, and emergency services on Federal land; (2) community service work camps; (3) easement purchases; (4) forest-related educational opportunities; (5) fire prevention and county planning; and (6) community forestry.

## Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, directs all Federal agencies to “. . . make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing . . . disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities.”

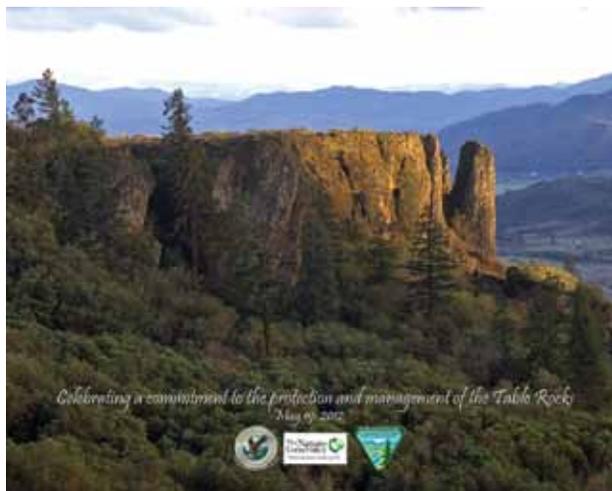
New projects with possible effects on minority populations, low-income populations, or both will incorporate an analysis of Environmental Justice impacts to ensure any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects are identified and reduced to acceptable levels, if possible.

## Recreation

The Medford District’s Recreation Management Program continues to be one of the most diverse in the state. BLM recreation staff provides a variety of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities throughout the Medford District.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Highlights

On May 19, 2012, the BLM’s Medford District, The Nature Conservancy, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in a ceremony at TouVelle State Recreation Site for management of the Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Signing the document were Oregon/Washington BLM State Director Ed Shepard, Oregon Director of The Nature Conservancy Russell Hoeflich, and Cow Creek Tribal Chairman Daniel Courtney. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the BLM, Cow Creek, and The Nature Conservancy in establishing, managing, and maintaining the Table Rocks Management Area. Witnessing the event were approximately 50 tribal members; Jackson County Commissioners; and staff from the BLM, The Nature Conservancy, and Oregon Parks and Recreation



Department. The ceremony took place on the banks of the Rogue River overlooking the Table Rocks.

In June, a Big Bend Trail Skills College was held within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in partnership with the Pacific Crest Trail Association. Approximately 35 volunteers learned and practiced new trail maintenance skills along the Pacific Crest Trail.

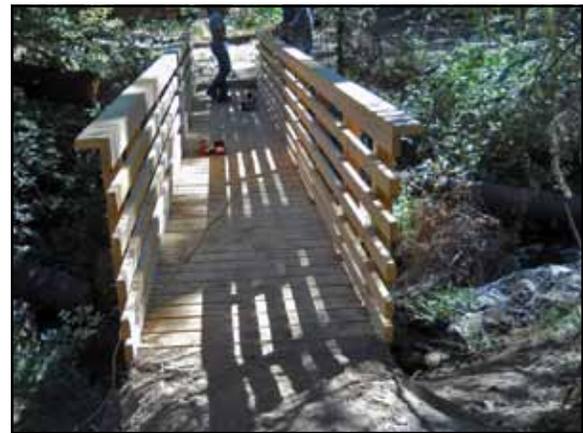


Big Bend Trail Skills College participants.



National Public Lands Day volunteers.

In September, the BLM hosted National Public Lands Day in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Volunteers completed fence and debris removal in the Box O Ranch area.



Wagner Creek Interpretive Trail.

The Wagner Creek Interpretive Trail and Bridge project reopened a 1-mile trail near the town of Talent.



Volunteers on the Lone Pilot Trail.

In the Soda Mountain Wilderness, volunteers and BLM employees worked to log out the Lone Pilot Trail, a road that is being converted to trail. Goats packed in food and supplies for the overnight trip.

The BLM reopened 1.5 miles of the Wolf Gap Trail in the Applegate Valley, which accesses the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail (open to horses and hikers), with help from contractors, Siskiyou Uplands Trail Association, and The Job Council.

The recreation site and boardwalk at Eight Dollar Mountain got a facelift this past year when The Job Council of Josephine County and BLM staff repainted the restrooms and kiosk, removed graffiti from handrails, and restained handrails.

The BLM resurfaced the London Peak Accessible Trail to continue to provide an accessible recreation experience. BLM, The Job Council, and Jefferson Youth Corps staff also replaced vandalized signs, installed cribbing along the trail to reduce erosion, and repainted handrails at the overlook.



Trail work on the London Peak Trail.

## Developed Recreation

Medford District BLM provides developed campgrounds at Hyatt Lake, Tucker Flat, Elderberry Flat, and Skull Creek. Developed day-use sites occur along the Recreation Section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and at Gold Nugget, Elderberry Flat, and Hyatt Lake. Interpretive trails and sites are located at Eight Dollar Mountain, Table Rocks, Hyatt Lake, Gold Nugget, Rand Administrative Site, and three National Register Sites—Whisky Creek Cabin, Rogue River Ranch, and Smullin Visitor Center at Rand. The Medford BLM maintains a hang-gliding site at Woodrat Mountain and a winter tubing hill and system of cross country and snowmobile trails near Hyatt Lake. The recreation developments at Hyatt Lake are located within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

## Rogue National Wild and Scenic River

The 84-mile Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, one of the eight original rivers designated in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, is jointly managed by the Medford District's Rogue River Program and the Forest Service. The BLM manages the upper 50 miles of river and the Forest Service manages the lower 34 miles. The BLM administers both commercial and private boating permits. Rafting, boat and bank fishing, motorized tour boating, river trail hiking, and all other manner of water-related activities continue to flourish and grow.

## Wilderness

The Soda Mountain Wilderness was created in March 2009 under the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-011). The law designated approximately 24,100 acres within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as wilderness.

The BLM completed the Soda Mountain Wilderness Final Stewardship Plan in April 2012. This plan provides the primary guidance for the Soda Mountain Wilderness. The goal of this plan is to provide for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of nondegradation. Key issues addressed in this plan

include restoration, visitor use, wildfire management, and valid existing rights. The plan also addresses actions outside the wilderness area, including wilderness access, trailheads, and interpretive and educational information provided to the public.

## Trails

The Medford District is home to two nationally designated trails: Rogue River National Recreation Trail and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The Medford BLM maintains 20 miles of the 40-mile Rogue River Trail and 40 miles of the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail. Another 100+ miles of trails are managed and maintained on the District. A 2-person trail crew coordinated and supervised a variety of trail maintenance projects with The Job Council Youth Crew, Northwest Youth Corps, and Jefferson Youth Corps, as well as volunteer groups.



The Medford District's trail crew.

## Back Country Byways

For visitors who enjoy viewing outstanding scenery from their vehicle, the District provides two Back Country Byways—Galice-Hellgate and Grave Creek to Marial—and a segment of the Rogue-Umpqua National Scenic Byway. In addition to Back Country Byways, the Timber Mountain Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Area offers trails of varying skill levels for OHV enthusiasts, while the 74-mile Glendale to Powers Bicycle Route provides bicyclists with a challenging back country bicycle ride on a paved route.

## Winter Recreation

The Medford District continues to offer diverse winter recreation opportunities to skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers, and sledgers. The Table Mountain Winter Play Area is specifically designed for snow tubing and supplies a warming shelter overlooking the tubing hill. The Buck Prairie Nordic Trails furnish access to over 20 miles of cross-country ski trails. The BLM also provides more than 60 miles of snowmobile trails.

## Environmental Education

The BLM's Environmental Education program supplies outstanding opportunities for the public to learn about BLM lands and resources. BLM environmental educators conducted interpretive hikes on the Table Rocks for more than 4,000 school children.



Students participating in the BLM's Table Rocks Environmental Education program.

Environmental education opportunities were also provided for 4,700 children and adults during the summer and fall months at McGregor Visitor Center, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility operated by the BLM. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument's environmental education program includes the "Fall in the Field" program in collaboration with Southern Oregon University, as well as work with the Pinehurst School to provide environmental education to over 1,000 students in 2012.

## Dispersed Recreation

Dispersed recreation use throughout the District includes hunting, fishing, camping, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hang gliding, shooting, mountain biking, water play, sightseeing, hiking, rock hounding, geocaching, off-highway vehicle use, recreational mining, and mushroom and berry gathering. The types of use increase every year as does the amount of use. As the outdoor recreation equipment industry continues to develop newer and more effective equipment, new unanticipated recreation activities emerge.

## Special Recreation Permits

The Medford District issues approximately 150 Special Recreation Permits for commercial use, group events, and competitive activities. The majority of these permits are issued to commercial outfitters and guides on the Rogue River. Permits are also issued for archery events, hunting guides, equestrian events, bicycle events, automobile road races, and off-highway vehicle events.

In fiscal year 2012, special recreation permits were issued for events that included Cycle Oregon, Greensprings Mountain Music Festival, Enchanted Forest Wine Run, May Day Poker Run, Hare Scramble, Ghost and Goblin Poker Run, Sportscar Hillclimb, Salmon Derby, Hydroplane Races, Endurance Run, Tour De Fronds Bicycle Ride, and Rogue Valley Walkers.



Hydroplane races on the Rogue River.

## Forest Management

The Medford District manages 866,000 acres of land located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos counties. Under the Medford District ROD/RMP and Northwest Forest Plan, lands administered by the Medford District are assigned specific land-use allocations as part of the strategy for ecosystem management. Lands are designated as late-successional reserve, managed late-successional area, riparian reserve, adaptive management area, congressionally reserved area, administratively withdrawn area, and matrix. Matrix lands, including northern and southern general forest management areas (GFMA), were anticipated to provide most of the timber harvest volume. Approximately 191,000 acres (or 22 percent of the Medford District land base) are managed for timber production.

The Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District ROD/RMP provide for a sustainable timber harvest, known as the allowable sale quantity (ASQ), from Medford District lands of 57.1 MMBF (million board feet) annually. Due to a number of legal challenges affecting western Oregon, the District has not offered its full ASQ for several years. In fiscal year 2012, Medford was committed to offering 19 MMBF.

The Medford District held 10 public timber sale auctions in fiscal year 2012, offering a total volume of 21.5 MMBF for sale. Additional volume from negotiated sales, stewardship contracts, and modifications to ongoing sales brought the total offered volume up to 23.4 MMBF (Table 10), or about 41% of the target volume provided in the Northwest Forest Plan and ROD/RMP. Table data are for all advertised “Offered” timber sales.

**Table 10. Timber Harvest Volume Offered for Sale on Medford District by Land-Use Allocation**

Land Use Allocation	Offered Volume (MMBF) Fiscal Year 2012	Total Volume (MMBF) 2005 to 2014
Adaptive Management Area	1.3	20.9
Northern GFMA	6.1	108.1
Southern GFMA	8.1	36.1
Connectivity/Diversity Block	4.5	7.3
Miscellaneous*	1.9	19.5
Total from ASQ Lands	21.9	191.9
Late-Successional Reserve/ Adaptive Management Area	1.5	9.5
Riparian Reserve	0	0
Hardwood	0	5
Total District Volume	23.4	201.4
District Target Volume	57.1	285.5

\*“Miscellaneous” includes volume from special forest products sold as saw timber, and stewardship contract saw logs.



# Special Forest Products

In fiscal year 2012, the Medford District sold a wide variety of products under the Special Forest Products Program. Among these products were boughs, burls, Christmas trees, floral and greenery, mushrooms, seeds and seed cones, and a variety of wood products (Table 11).

**Table 11. Special Forest Products Sold in Fiscal Year 2012**

Product	Quantity	Value
Boughs—Coniferous	59,050 pounds	\$1,264
Burls—Miscellaneous	3,700 pounds	\$220
Christmas Trees	712 permits	\$3,560
Floral and Greenery	221,600 pounds	\$6,691
Mushrooms—Fungi	2,745 pounds	\$2,345
Seeds and Seed Cones	0.5 bushels	\$10
Whip Stock	1,630 cubic feet	\$198
Fuel Wood	1,731 green tons	\$10,056
Small Poles	6,305 linear feet	\$1,164
Saw Timber	2,685 board feet	\$5,972
Arrow Stock	163 cubic feet	\$50
Bolts and Shakes	81 cubic feet	\$40
Fence Stays	896 cubic feet	\$110
Large Poles	4,112 cubic feet	\$979
Ties	.06 cubic feet	\$63

## Energy and Minerals

### Energy

The Federal energy resources managed nationally by the BLM include oil and gas, helium, coal, and renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, and biomass. Rising energy prices have increased interest in alternative, renewable energy sources.

Biomass is energy derived from plants. Biomass, removed from the woods during fuel reduction thinning and forest management activities, is used locally to produce energy. Biomass material is converted to electrical energy through burning in closed systems. Biomass can also be converted into fuels such as methane, ethanol, and hydrogen.

### Mineral Materials

The Medford District manages three types of minerals—locatable, salable, and leasable. Locatable minerals include minerals such as gold and silver that are subject to exploration, development, and disposal through staking mining claims. Salable minerals

are high volume, low value mineral resources including common varieties of rock, clay, decorative stone, sand, and gravel. Leasable minerals include oil, gas, geothermal, and coal. These may be leased to private interests by the Federal government. The District contains no leasable minerals.

The BLM geologists are responsible for a wide variety of activities within the minerals program. They administer or adjudicate issues on Federal mining claims, validate title evidence, review mineral validity reports, and provide guidance for surface use management and use and occupancy under the mining laws.

## Mining

The Medford District had 911 mining claims in fiscal year 2012, an increase of about 80 claims from fiscal year 2011. The price of gold in fiscal year 2012 remained extraordinarily high; the highest closing price in 2012 was \$1,781 per ounce, as compared to \$1,895 per ounce in 2011. Recreational suction dredging remains active, likely due to both the value of gold and California's continued state-wide ban on suction dredging. Mining continues to be under additional scrutiny from local environmental groups. The 22 authorized notices on the District have a combined proposed disturbance of less than 15 acres. There are 8 pending plans of operation with a total proposed disturbance of an estimate 36 acres (23 acres are contained in one proposal). These are the highlights that have kept the geology team busy in addition to the workload accomplished below.

### Pending Patents and Court Cases

- The field part of the Prow patent began and the results are currently being analyzed.
- The Waters mineral report was signed by the Certified Review Examiner.
- Assisted the Office of the Regional Solicitor (SOL) with briefs and reply briefs on two Equal Access to Justice Act cases. In Waters, Administrative Law Judge Sweitzer denied Waters' petition for reimbursement of attorney fees and expenses. In Byrd, the Interior Board of Land Appeals affirmed Judge Pearlstein's decision in favor of the BLM regarding attorney's fees.
- Assisted the SOL with the patent process for the Byrd case.
- Assisted the SOL on the Nicore, Dusty Ford, and Don Bean cases.
- Assisted the SOL and completed a declaration on the Stark mining claim boundary case.

### Surface Management

- Processed 19 new or extended notices of operation.
- Established a procedure for processing Plans of Operation through Instruction Memorandum ORM-IM-2013-001.
- Completed 130 routine inspections on mining claims.

- Removed one nonresidential occupancy and one residential unauthorized occupancy on Dads Creek, a site that had been occupied for over 30 years.
- Presented “Minerals 101” course, an overview of mining on and off the District.

## Other Fiscal Year 2012 Accomplishments

- Completed 37 mineral disposals and 2 permits for quarry rock.
- Started the Copeland Quarry expansion request.
- Hired two pathways students.
- Answered an estimated 5 to 10 calls or visits per day regarding mining.
- Completed eight mineral potential reports for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, a land sale in Grants Pass, and the Table Rocks.
- Completed the free use permit on the Reese Creek Quarry for Jackson County.
- Responded to over 10 Freedom of Information Act requests.

## Abandoned Mine Lands

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program supports the BLM’s core programs by mitigating physical safety risks at AML sites on or affecting lands administered by the BLM, and providing solutions to degraded water quality and other environmental impacts. It supports the mission of public lands conservation and water quality reclamation through partnerships with government and nongovernmental organizations.

The AML program addresses mine sites that were abandoned prior to January 1, 1981, the effective date of the BLM’s surface management regulations (43 CFR 3809) that implement the “unnecessary or undue degradation” provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. 1700, et seq.). With 11,000 known sites in the entire BLM’s AML inventory database (as of September 2006), thousands of sites not inventoried, and limited resources, the BLM must establish program priorities in the context of the broader BLM mission.

Many AML sites previously considered “remote” are now accessible to people due to population expansion and increased recreational use. According to the 2000 Census, the West—where most public land is located—is the fastest-growing region in the nation with 9 of the 12 fastest growing states. Today, more than 63 million people live in the West, and growth is expected to continue. More than 22 million people live within 25 miles of public lands.

Increased population growth in the West is also reflected in higher demand for outdoor recreation on public lands (e.g., recreation areas, national byways, and campground facilities), which can be located in proximity to AML sites. As western population centers grow and recreation pressures increase on public lands, potential exposure to contamination and accidents at AML sites becomes more commonplace. For example,

off-highway vehicles (OHVs) are often used at AML sites amid risks of open shafts and potential exposure to contaminated soils, water, and air. Other recreational activities can place people in proximity to AML sites. Recreational events, historic commemorations, and other organized events on public lands can expose visitors to AML risks.

The AML Program consists of the following general activities:

- Identifying sites and establishing a site inventory
- Prioritizing sites based on risk
- Remediating sites with available resources
- Conducting education and outreach activities

A **site** is a geographic area representing a grouping of adits, shafts, mills, and/or other “features” commonly associated with mining activities.

**Monitoring** is visiting a site where remediation has occurred to ensure the closure is still in place and has not failed due to natural causes (weather, land slide, etc.) or man-made causes (contractor performance, vandalism, etc.).

**Remediation** is the permanent closure of a feature at an AML site. Some of the more common closure methods are fill material including dirt and polyurethane foam, and wildlife (bat) friendly closures including gates, cupolas, and other similar closures. Fencing or posting warnings signs at a site is not considered remediation because it is temporary.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Accomplishments

- New Sites or Features Identified at Previously Recorded Sites: 64
- Features Monitored: 316
- Remediated Features: 24
- Completed quality assurance on data base and updated national Abandoned Mine Site Cleanup Module (AMSCM) data base
- Responded to public and media inquiries including response to FOIA requests. The program also participates in the Youth Initiative providing opportunities for engaging, educating, and employing youth.

## Support Activities

The AML program supported the Medford District Cultural Resources program by continuing the preparation of cultural site reports for the AML sites inventoried in fiscal year 2009. The program also supported the Minerals Program by conducting Claims Inspections and participating in tribal consultation with the cultural resources program.

## Almeda Mine

- Continued work on the contract for Engineer Estimate/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for remediation alternatives
- Completed Human Health Risk Assessment to supplement EE/CA alternatives analysis
- Awarded contract and initiated work for Ecological Risk Assessment to supplement EE/CA alternatives analysis
- Awarded contract to continue Water Quality Monitoring

## Zoned Activities

- Completed Inventory Report for Roseburg District using reference sources
- Supported Project Management of Formosa Mine

## Land Tenure Adjustments

The BLM provides for land use, purchase, exchange, donation, and sale; determines the boundaries of Federal land; and maintains historic records for these ownership transactions. Land ownership transfer through purchase, exchange, donation, and sale is an important component of the BLM's land management strategy. The BLM completes ownership transactions involving land and interests in land when such transactions are in the public interest and consistent with land-use management plans.

In fiscal year 2012, the BLM purchased parcels of land totaling 1,274 acres for inclusion in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. These parcels helped to consolidate ownership in and around the monument.

## Access and Rights-of-Way

Land ownership within the Medford District is a checkerboard pattern of intermingled public and private lands. In order to access their lands and resources such as timber, a landowner may need to cross the lands of other landowners. Throughout most of the District, this access is accomplished through reciprocal rights-of-way agreements between the BLM and neighboring private landowners. The individual agreements and associated permits (a total of 103 on the District) are subject to the regulations that were in effect when they were executed or assigned. Additional rights-of-way have been granted for projects such as driveway construction, residential utility lines, domestic and irrigation water lines, and legal ingress and egress.

## Transportation and Roads

During fiscal year 2012, the District continued developing Transportation Management Objectives for the 4,700 miles of road controlled by the BLM. Transportation management objectives are used to support watershed analysis and to determine candidate roads for the decommissioning 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. The BLM identified the following activities to reduce the risk:

- Surfacing dirt roads.
- Replacing deteriorated culverts.
- Replacing log fill culverts.
- Replacing undersized culverts in perennial streams to accommodate 100-year floods.
- Other efforts to reduce overall road miles by closing or eliminating roads.

The District decommissioned 1.85 miles of road and closed 3.1 miles of road with barricades or a gate. The District constructed no new roads in fiscal year 2012. Since the Medford District ROD/RMP was signed in 1995, approximately 192 miles of roads have been decommissioned and 450 miles have been closed.

## Wildfire and Fuels Management

### Wildfire

The 2010 fire season began June 20 and ended October 16, lasting 127 days. Wildland fire potential indicators predicted below normal activity for large fires throughout the Pacific Northwest due to the effects of the La Nina weather pattern. Southwest Oregon had a lower than average fire starts and acres burned even as hot weather and extreme fire danger persisted later in the season. In 2012, 27 occurred, well below the 10-year average of 44. Of the 27 fires, 10 were caused by lightning and 17 by humans. Fires burned less than 166 acres this season, a fraction of the 10-year average. Human-caused fires still make up a majority of acres burned (147 acres or 88%), while human-caused starts continue to decline. There was large fire potential with hot weather and record setting dry fuels across Oregon. Locally, we had fuels meet a previous record for dryness set in 2002, and set new daily Energy Release Component records late in the season. Aircraft continue to be an excellent initial attack resource in the area by quickly engaging the fire.

### Fuels Management

The Medford District has seen a steady decrease in hazardous fuels funding over the past three years; although, fiscal year 2012 resulted in a 25% reduction to the overall District hazardous fuels budget and approximately 35% reduction in operational dollars. This is in part due to the new Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System,

a national budget allocating model that focussed priority treatments in the brush/sage vegetation types in response to concern over the loss of sage grouse habitat. The western Oregon Districts and Oregon State Office have been working diligently with the National Office to refine the model to more accurately depict the high fire hazards and effects of crown fire in the western forests, which are not well represented in the current models.

Despite the declining budgets, the Medford District continues as a leader in southwest Oregon in aggressive fuels management with the continued implementation of landscape-scale projects focused on fire hazard reduction under the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative, and Healthy Forest and Restoration Act. Medford has become a leader in innovative treatment and contracting methods. Increased focus has been placed on integrated vegetation management (IVM) projects seeking opportunities for jointly funded projects to meet multiple resource objectives. Current IVM projects have shown reduced costs per acre to implement due to the efficiencies realized from using one contractor to complete all the necessary work on a site. This reduces the costs to “move in” equipment and people. In addition, off-sets are gained from the sale of the by-products produced during implementation.

Since 1996, when landscape-scale projects began reporting accomplishments, the Medford District has completed 268,095 reportable acres of hazardous fuels reduction (treatment acres often overlap with numerous treatments). In 2012, the BLM treated 5,408 acres using prescribed fire and 7,059 acres by hand or with mechanical methods. The majority (92%) of hazardous fuels reduction was completed on BLM lands located in the wildland-urban interface around communities at risk.

## Rangeland Management

The Medford District rangeland program administers grazing leases for 50 livestock grazing authorizations on 50 active allotments and 41 vacant allotments. Two allotments that have been absorbed into other allotments are currently active but are represented under the larger allotments names. These grazing allotments include approximately 293,051 acres (about 34%) of the Medford District’s 863,095 total acres.

Grazing is one of the many uses of the public lands as required under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The primary goal of the grazing program is to provide livestock forage while maintaining or improving upland range conditions and riparian areas. To ensure that these lands are properly managed, the BLM conducts monitoring to help 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.

Current grazing regulations direct the BLM to manage livestock grazing in accordance with the August 12, 1997 *Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock*

*Grazing Management for Public Lands in Oregon and Washington.* 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 are underway and will be completed on grazing allotments over a 10-year period.

Following evaluation and determination of rangeland health, lease renewals are subject to the appropriate level of environmental analysis as prescribed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under existing Law (Public Law 108-108, Section 325), grazing leases that are about to expire prior to the completion of the lease renewal process will be extended. The existing terms and conditions of these leases will continue in effect until the lease renewal process is completed in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

An update of the Medford District Rangeland Program Summary was completed in the year 2001 and summarized the changes that occurred since the previous update. Copies of this document are available by contacting our office. Future updates will be reported annually in this report, the Medford District Annual Program Summary.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Accomplishments

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### Rangeland Health Assessments

Rangeland Health Assessments are completed on each allotment prior to environmental analysis and issuance of a grazing decision for lease renewal. These assessments are conducted by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists, assessing ecological processes, watershed functioning condition, water quality conditions, special status species, and wildlife habitat conditions on an allotment. Assessments include field visits to the allotments and evaluation of all available data. The following Rangeland Health Assessments (RHA), Evaluations, and Decision Records (Table 12), Evaluations, and Determinations (Table 13) and their status for 2012 are explained below.

**Table 12. Rangeland Health Assessment Status as of 2012**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Field Evaluation	Determination
Conde Creek	20117	5,346	Under Revision	EA will be issued Winter/Spring 2013
Lake Creek Spring	10121	4,679	Field Work Completed	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Lake Creek Summer	10122	5,561	Field Work Completed	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Deer Creek–Reno	10124	4,026	Field Work Completed	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Howard Prairie	10116	320	Completed	Issued with Final Decision December 2011

**Table 12. Rangeland Health Assessment Status as of 2012**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Field Evaluation	Determination
Grizzly	10119	5,167	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Lower Big Applegate	20206	11,712	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Billy Mountain	20203	4,758	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Bear Mountain	10037	1,008	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Vestal Butte	10035	2,240	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Crowfoot	10038	7,393	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Moser Mountain	10041	40	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Neil-Tarbell	10008	552	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Clear Creek	10013	3,790	In Process	Pending additional field work
Lost Creek	10001	11,518	In Process	Pending additional field work
Sugarloaf	10019	1,566	In Process	Pending additional field work

**Table 13. Decision Records (NEPA)/Grazing Decisions Status as of 2012**

Allotment Name	BLM Acres	Decision type	Date Issued	Status
Cove Creek	1,207	Final Decision	December 2011	Final Decision Issued, Lease Being Renewed
Deadwood	7,928	Decision Being Revised	Winter/Spring 2013	Final Review in Process
Conde Creek	5,346	Final Decision	January 2012	Final Review in Process
Howard Prairie	320	Final Decision	January 2012	Final Review in Process

### Leases Renewal

At this time, lease renewals are pending review of NEPA documents published for public comment, and protests of Grazing Decisions or Decision Records (Table 14). Planned progress toward lease renewals is moving forward allowing time for the process to be completed and questions and concerns to be resolved. While only two lease renewal processes were completed in 2012, several were presented to the public where public feedback identified the need for revision or further work.

**Table 14. Lease Renewal Status**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Status	Determination
Deadwood	20106	7,928	Completed	Public reviewing Final Decision
Conde	20117	5,346	Completed	Public reviewing Final Decision
Lake Creek Spring	10121	4,679	Ongoing	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Lake Creek Summer	10122	5,561	Ongoing	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Deer Creek Reno	10124	4,026	Ongoing	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Cove Creek	10112	1,207	Completed	Public reviewing Final Decision
Lower Big Applegate	20206	11,712	Ongoing	Draft EA in progress
Howard Prairie	10116	320	Completed	Final Decision Issued, Lease Being Renewed
Flat Creek	10002	12,421	Completed	Draft Proposed/Final Decision
Summit Prairie	10031	30,743	Completed	Draft Proposed/Final Decision
Bear Mountain	10037	1,008	Completed	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Vestal Butte	10035	2,240	Completed	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Crowfoot	10038	7,393	Completed	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Moser Mountain	10041	40	Completed	Draft EA/Decision in progress
Neil-Tarbell	10008	552	Completed	Draft EA/Decision in progress

## Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 provided for voluntary grazing lease donations in 15 allotments located within and adjacent to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. As of year-end 2012, six lessees from the Soda Mountain, Keene Creek, and Jenny Creek Allotments have relinquished their grazing leases. The Deadwood Allotment Boundary has been adjusted as part of the lease renewal effort to exclude the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lands from the allotment, ending the grazing authorizations on 32 acres within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The Box R Allotment has been proposed by the lease holder for grazing lease relinquishment pending negotiations that would authorize the proposal. The Buck Mountain and Dixie

Allotments managed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area remain active and will begin the renewal process in 2013. Other allotments that have common boundaries with Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lands remain authorized for relinquishment as defined by the 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act.

## Allotment Monitoring

Monitoring data for Rangeland Health and other assessment purposes was collected on several Butte Falls Resource Area allotments, focusing on sensitive botany species and as part of RHA monitoring of general conditions for functionality and compliance across allotments and specifically in areas where animal concentration have been identified. Rangeland and other staff members visited over 28 allotments in the Ashland and Butte Falls Resource Areas, monitoring effects and collecting data. This information is being used in evaluations to determine whether or not allotments are meeting BLM's Oregon/Washington Standards for Rangeland Health and for completion of the lease renewal process.

## Fiscal Year 2013 Planned Work

The following Rangeland Health Assessments, Evaluations, and Determinations, and NEPA requirements for lease renewals are planned for 2013 (Table 15).

**Table 15. Rangeland Health Assessments and Lease Renewals Planned for Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Field Evaluation	Determination
Lake Creek Spring	10121	4,679	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Lake Creek Summer	10122	5,561	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Deer Creek–Reno	10124	4,026	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Grizzly	10119	5,167	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Lower Big Applegate	20206	11,712	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Billy Mountain	20203	4,758	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Bear Mountain.	10037	1,008	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Vestal Butte	10035	2,240	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Crowfoot	10038	7,393	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)

**Table 15. Rangeland Health Assessments and Lease Renewals Planned for Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Field Evaluation	Determination
Moser Mtn.	10041	40	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Neil-Tarbell	10008	552	In Process	Pending NEPA Document (in process)
Clear Creek	10013	3,790	In Process	Pending additional field work
Lost Creek	10001	11,518	In Process	Pending additional field work
Sugarloaf	10019	1,566	In Process	Pending additional field work

Although this list is unchanged from 2012, workload and rates of production of lease renewals in 2012 were delayed due to processing time for public responses and to allow periods from litigation filings to run their course. With the completion of the Rangeland Health Assessments above, Environmental Assessments, Decision Records and Grazing Decisions will be issued to renew the following grazing leases in 2013 (Table 16).

**Table 16. Rangeland Health Assessments for Lease Renewal Scheduled for Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres	RHA Field Evaluation	Determination
Brownsboro Park	10016	381	Planned for 2013	To follow field analysis 2013
Kanutchan Fields	10017	2,419	Planned for 2013	To follow field analysis 2013
Longbranch	10004	320	Planned for 2013	To follow field analysis 2013
Meadows	10007	1,564	Planned for 2013	To follow field analysis 2013
North Sams Valley	10009	120	Planned for 2013	To follow field analysis 2013

**Table 17. Lease Renewals Projected for Completion in Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres
Lake Creek Spring	10121	4,679
Lake Creek Summer	10122	5,561
Deer Creek Reno	10124	4,025
Grizzly	10119	5,167
Lower Big Applegate	20206	11,712
Billy Mountain	20203	4,758
Bear Mountain	10037	1,008
Vestal Butte	10035	2,240
Crowfoot	10038	7,393
Moser Mtn.	10041	40
Neil-Tarbell	10008	552

**Table 17. Lease Renewals Projected for Completion in Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres
Clear Creek	10013	3,790
Lost Creek	10001	11,518
Sugarloaf	10019	1,566
Flat Creek	10002	12,421
Summit Prairie	10031	30,743

**Additional Lease Renewals for 2013**

The Medford District Rangeland Management Program has submitted requests that may increase workload in the event funding is approved from future Appropriations Act Riders to aid in the completion of lease renewal activities. The workload would increase by adding the following allotments (Table 18) to the lease renewal process.

**Table 18. Allotments to be Considered for Lease Renewal in Fiscal Year 2013**

Allotment Name	Allotment Number	BLM Acres
Cobleigh Road 80	10040	80
Derby Road Sawmill	10029	521
Section 7	10022	371
Section 9	10021	404

## Wild Horse and Burro Program

A portion of the wild horse program consists of performing compliance checks on wild horses and burros adopted by individuals residing within the Medford District. Adopters are eligible to receive title to the animal after 1 year of care. The Medford District sponsored an adoption event in April 2012 at the Grants Pass Fairgrounds Arena where approximately 6 horses and burros were selected by the public and taken home. Also, compliance checks were completed on over 28 adopted horses to ensure proper care of adopted animals.

No adoption event is planned for 2013 in the Medford area but one is anticipated for 2014 or 2015.

## Cadastral Survey

Survey crews stationed in Medford are part of the OR/WA Branch of Geographic Sciences that is organizationally located within the BLM's State Office in Portland. Crews not only completed work for the Medford District this fiscal year, but also performed survey work for the Lakeview District.

Crews surveyed 30 miles of line and monumented 36 corners in support of the Medford District timber program and other non-timber project work that included a survey of an encroachment, survey of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and survey

and platting of 5 road easements for the Grants Pass Resource Area. Crews also surveyed and platted a road easement for the Butte Falls Resource Area. Staff prepared and approved 25 Boundary Risk Assessment Certificates for the District. Additionally, crews surveyed 12.75 miles of survey line and monumented 7 corners in support of the Klamath Falls Resource Area (Lakeview District) timber sale program. Total fiscal year 2012 accomplishments include 42.75 miles of line surveyed, 43 corners monumented, and 21.5 miles of line posted and blazed.

Cadastral survey also responded to numerous questions and inquiries from landowners, timber companies, private land surveyors, and District personnel regarding surveying procedures, status of ongoing surveys, boundary risk assessments, and information about official plats and field notes.

## Education and Outreach

In fiscal year 2012 the District accomplished 490,078 outreach contacts! These contacts do not include contacts from media including radio, television, magazines, or newspapers.

This outreach was accomplished within the District on several levels and includes outreach and education accomplishments from 8 different categories: Events and Shows, Volunteer Work Days, Family Events, Environmental Education, School Outreach, Youth Crews, public contacts at the Front Desks and Visitor Centers, and Web sites (Table 19). District outreach focused on youth engagement, employment, and education across all program areas in fiscal year 2012

### Outreach Events and Shows (5 Events)

In 2012, the Medford District participated in fewer outreach events and shows than past years due to budget and staffing deficits. The District continued to create event-related displays and educational exhibits, distribute educational materials, and provide professional staffing for each event. The Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument staff embarked on building membership through staffing a booth at the annual Ashland Earth Day Fair and at Ashland First Friday Art Walks. New publications and outreach material were debuted during these events and highlighted the BLM's role in protecting this special area.

### Volunteer Work Days (9 Events)

#### National Public Lands Day

Volunteers with the Pacific Crest Trail Association and the BLM worked together to maintain sections of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. This event was held as a part of a trail skills college; 35 volunteers attended the event and learned trail maintenance and construction skills.

## **Rogue River Cleanup**

More than 240 volunteers attended the 20th Annual Rogue River Cleanup and worked from the mouth of the Applegate River to Grave Creek (27 miles). In addition, students from the University of Oregon cleaned another 20 miles of the Rogue River from Grave Creek to Marial.

## **Josephine County Annual Tree Plant**

Each year, the BLM and Josephine County organize an annual tree seedling planting and education day. Students from all over Josephine County learned about forest management and the importance of planting and caring for trees.

## **Family Events (4 Events)**

Along with partners, the Medford District cosponsored two national annual events at Hyatt Lake—Free Fishing Day and CAST Day (focusing on special needs youth)—that encouraged families to experience the outdoors and learn to fish. The participants and volunteers also learned about watershed restoration and forest management.

## **Environmental Education (15 Events)**

Environmental education encompasses interpretive and educational hikes and presentations given by professional environmental education and District resource specialists and program/project leads throughout the Medford District. The public participants in these programs include students, service organizations, special interest groups, politicians, and interested local residents.

### **Table Rocks Environmental Education Program**

For more than 20 years, the District's Table Rocks Environmental Education program and The Nature Conservancy have offered a rich, field-based classroom using hands-on programs to present the diverse natural and cultural history of our area and the complexity of public land management. The program provides guided hikes for individuals, schools, and community groups during the spring season. The guided hike program consists of two components: a weekend hike series led by volunteer specialists and weekday school hikes.

### **Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument**

In 2012, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, in partnership with Southern Oregon University, continued its Fall in the Field environmental education program. The program began the last 2 weeks of fiscal year 2012 and continued into fiscal year 2013. The program featured field-based environmental education lessons for students in Kindergarten through 7th grade. In concert with agency staff, programs were taught by Environmental Education graduate students from Southern Oregon University. Over 30 classes were able to explore the Monument's diverse and scenic landscapes.

## School Outreach (13 Events)

A very important component of public outreach is providing ongoing environmental education for local schools. Many city, county, and private schools throughout the District participated in BLM educational programs, either at the schools or in an outdoor environment on BLM lands.

## Youth (7 Events)

The BLM has employed youth crews over the past several years to get work completed and, more importantly, provide education and stewardship to the youth who serve on the crews. Youth participated in projects such as trail maintenance, noxious weed eradication, facility maintenance, construction projects, tree planting, and watershed restoration, all while learning about the management and stewardship of public lands. The District directly employed 38 youth during fiscal year 2012.

## Public Contacts/Visitor Center/Web Site

The largest outreach efforts come from the front desks at the Medford Interagency Office, Grants Pass Interagency Office, and various visitor centers in the communities in which we serve. The Internet is also playing a larger role in outreach, with more services being offered every year.

**Table 19. Estimated Number of People Reached through District Outreach Efforts in Fiscal Year 2012**

Outreach Area	Outreach Category	Number of People
Applegate Middle School Education Program	School	56
Archaeology Field School	School	15
Battle of Hungry Hill Field School—SOU	School	8
Bats and Butterflies—McGregor Program	Environmental Education	12
Bear Creek Salmon Festival	Events	500
Bear Creek Watershed Symposium	Environmental Education	300
Botany and Wildlife Day at McGregor	Environmental Education	20
CAST For Kids	Family	77
Crater High School AML Workplace Student Internship	School	1
Crater High School Mini Internships	School	20
CSNM/SOU Field Exercises	School	13
CSNM/SOU Fall in the Field	Environmental Education	808
CSNM Student Mentorship	School	3

**Table 19. Estimated Number of People Reached through District Outreach Efforts in Fiscal Year 2012**

Outreach Area	Outreach Category	Number of People
Eagle Scout Project—Wagner Creek	Environmental Education	10
Earth Day Event—CSNM and Table Rocks	Event	2,400
Free Fishing Day	Family	113
Future Farmers of America Forestry Competition	School	70
Habitat Restoration at Hobart Bluff	Volunteer	4
History of Grazing on CSNM	School	11
Jefferson Youth Corps	Youth	7
Josephine County Job Council—Grants Pass Resource Area Trail Work	Youth	6
Josephine County Job Council—Rogue River and Rainie Falls Trails	Youth	7
Josephine County Job Council—London Peak and Eight Dollar Mountain Trails	Youth	8
Josephine County Tree Plant	Volunteer	1,050
Junior Ranger Program at Stewart State Park	Environmental Education	40
Latino Kids and Bugs	Environmental Education	25
Little Butte Creek Watershed Festival	Event	100
Loving the Land	Event	138
McGregor Park Environmental Education Program	Environmental Education	1,617
McGregor Park Visitor Center	Public Contact	3,155
National Public Lands Day—Big Bend Trails Skills College	Volunteer	37
National Public Lands Day—Rogue River Cleanup	Volunteer	23
North Valley High School Science Class	School	48
Northwest Youth Corps—Green Springs Mountain Noxious Weed Removal	Youth	13
Northwest Youth Corps—Bolt Mountain Trail Construction	Youth	12
Northwest Youth Corps—Rogue River Trail	Youth	12
Noxious Weeds Program—Hanby Middle School	Environmental Education	14
Oregon Recreation and Parks Association Hike	Public Contact	25
Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance	Volunteer	20
Rand Visitor Center	Public Contact	15,000

**Table 19. Estimated Number of People Reached through District Outreach Efforts in Fiscal Year 2012**

Outreach Area	Outreach Category	Number of People
Resources and People Camp	Environmental Education	90
Rogue River Cleanup	Volunteer	241
Rogue Valley Earth Day	Environmental Education	1,400
Salmon Viewing at McGregor Park	Family	13
Shady Cove Wildflower Show	Event	180
SOREEL August Institute Resource Fair	School	30
Southern Oregon Nordic Club Work	Volunteer	9
SOU Student Mentor—Archaeology	School	3
Stewart State Park Campfire Program	Environmental Education	156
Senior Project Judging at North and South High Schools	School	80
Table Rocks Environmental Education Program and Weekend Hikes	Environmental Education	5,916
Valley of the Rogue State Park Campfire Program	Family	3
Vineyard Middle School Education Program	School	33
Vineyard Middle School Fish/Hydrology Field Trip	School	29
Watershed Exploration Day	Environmental Education	30
Willow Wind CSNM Service Learning Project	School	20
Winter Trails Grooming	Volunteer	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,577</b>
Medford District Web	Web	67,117
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Web	Web	35,420
Rogue River Program Web	Web	195,221
McGregor Visitor Center Web	Web	2,251
Table Rocks Program Web	Web	32,492
<b>Total Web-based Hits</b>		<b>332,501</b>
MIO/GPIO—Front Desk and Telephone Outreach		125,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>490,078</b>

Media information and articles were prepared for television, magazines, newspapers, Congressional briefings, and radio. These materials included production of interpretive plans, brochures, informational flyers, educational displays, classroom curricula, and educational web sites.

## Outreach Partners

The District could not have achieved the extensive outreach we did without our partners who complement BLM's resource management message and increase the overall effectiveness and success of the many events in which we participated. Our partners include local, state, and Federal agencies; special interest groups and organizations; watershed councils; SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism); public and private schools; private businesses; service organizations; and many others. The Medford District's Outreach Program continues to be one of the most diverse in the state.

## Hazardous Materials

The Medford District's Hazardous Materials (HazMat) program adheres to Federal and state laws, and BLM policy set forth in Department of the Interior Manuals, BLM handbooks, and Instruction Memoranda. Program duties include emergency response operations for releases or substantial threats of hazardous substances (including hazardous materials threats from abandoned mines), managing District hazardous materials and waste, facility environmental compliance, employee training, coordination with other agencies, contingency planning, environmental site assessments for land acquisitions and disposal, and long-term environmental cleanup projects.

There has been a continuous reduction of HazMat funds on the District and these funds will continue to diminish, which can result in a reduction in our ability to respond to HazMat cleanup. This indicates the need to prioritize, yet the waste disposal comes in sporadically and often requires an immediate cleanup response.

The Medford District had a Compliance Assessment—Safety, Health and the Environment audit in the beginning of fiscal year 2012 that included the Medford and Grants Pass Interagency Offices and outlying recreation areas. The audit resulted in an annual report that concluded that within 30 days of the assessment, 40% of the audit's findings were in compliance, and when the final report was received, 95% of findings were in total compliance.

The HazMat program completed six Environmental Site Assessments in fiscal year 2012 for easements including four carryovers from 2011. The HazMat program completed Environmental Site Assessments and Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey for six acquisitions in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The BLM's policy is to determine through Pre-Acquisition Liability Surveys whether there may be any hazardous substances, petroleum products, or other environmental problems on the property. This is to ensure that the BLM does not unknowingly acquire contaminated property and also to limit exposure to environmental liability. The Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey is intended to allow the BLM to meet all the requirements for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act defenses. The Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey process is used as a screening level of evaluation to determine whether a Phase I Environmental Site

Assessment will be needed. A Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey is used when the likelihood of contamination is low because there is little possibility that human intrusion may have resulted in hazardous substances or petroleum products affecting the subject property. If there is a low likelihood that contamination is present on the site, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment may not be necessary. The Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey may indicate there is a potential for contamination being present on-site. In that case, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment would be performed using ASTM 1527 Standard, which 40 CFR Part 312 acknowledges to meet the All Appropriate Inquiry standards. All Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument easements and acquisitions in 2012 were completed with a Pre-Acquisition Liability Survey. Four acquisitions and easements carried over into 2013 and one may require a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

Other HazMat program fiscal year 2012 accomplishments include the following:

- Activated and administered the emergency response contract for removal of hazardous waste, including a petroleum spill above the Butte Falls Watershed and a barrel of unknown contents, from BLM lands.
- Ensured that aerosol paint cans used for timber marking are kept below the threshold of waste (less than 500 cans on site).
- Recycled 22 tires found on BLM lands; this was down from 280 tires in 2008 and 80 tires in 2010.
- Recovered three abandoned vehicles, which was a reduction from the recovery of eight abandoned vehicles in 2008.
- Cleaned up illegal dumps of approximately 1,800 pounds of household items including electronics, mattresses, and appliances. This was completed using Title II funds, which will no longer be available in 2013. This has implications on newly discovered hazardous solid waste dump sites that may not be cleaned up immediately.
- Assisted the Lands and Realty program in the cleanup and restoration of illegal occupancy mining sites. One mining site building containing hazardous waste to be cleaned up and followed through in fiscal year 2013.
- Assessed and cleaned up five marijuana grow sites; two sites were large scale and required outside assistance for eradication and three were smaller scale where outside assistance was not necessary for eradication and cleanup.

## Coordination and Consultation

Consultation and coordination with all levels of government are ongoing and are a standard practice in the Medford District. On the Federal level, the District consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries Service on matters relating to federally listed threatened or endangered species. The District coordinates its activities with the Forest Service on matters pertaining to the Applegate Adaptive Management Area and other land allocations where BLM lands are adjacent to Forest Service lands, and also through

development of interagency watershed analyses. State-level consultation and coordination occurs with the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. On a local level, the District consults with Native American tribal organizations and with Jackson and Josephine counties.

Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) provide local community collaboration with the BLM and the Forest Service to support projects on Federal or private lands that benefit resources on Federal lands. The Committee members review project proposals and make recommendations on spending county-designated funds to the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture. Project proposals are developed by Federal agencies, participating counties, State and local governments, watershed councils, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners.

The following projects were selected and funded at the listed level for fiscal year 2012 (Table 20):

**Table 20. Resource Advisory Committee Selected Projects for Fiscal Year 2012**

Project Name	County	RAC Recommended Funding
Lincoln Creek Road Obliteration	Jackson	\$19,800
Elk Creek Fish Culverts	Jackson	\$53,460
Lost Creek Large Wood Projects	Jackson	\$13,500
Roadside Brushing	Jackson	\$18,000
South Cascades Lakes Noxious Weed Mapping and Control	Jackson	\$17,883
Middle Applegate Pilot Multiparty Monitoring Initiative	Jackson	\$39,799
Butte Falls Helispot Improvement	Jackson	\$15,000
Murphy Gulch Road Surfacing	Jackson	\$63,000
Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Part II	Jackson	\$20,500
Butte Falls Resource Area Culvert Replacement in Evans Creek Watershed (II)	Jackson	\$81,000
Master Key Change for Gate Padlocks	Jackson	\$19,500
Table Rocks Environmental Education Program Support	Jackson	\$45,000
McGregor Park Education Program Outreach Support	Jackson	\$22,500
Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument-SOU Youth Education Partnership	Jackson	\$17,199
Community Justice Fuels Reduction and Fire Management	Jackson	\$45,000
Fielder Creek Fuel Hazard Reduction and Integrated Vegetation Management	Jackson	\$54,000
Galls Fuelwood	Jackson	\$9,000
Medford District Recreation and Trail Maintenance	Jackson	\$14,680
Roadside Brushing—Butte Falls Resource Area	Jackson	\$18,000
Jackson County Oak Initiative	Jackson	\$22,500

**Table 20. Resource Advisory Committee Selected Projects for Fiscal Year 2012**

Project Name	County	RAC Recommended Funding
Evans Creek Pump Chance Restoration	Jackson	\$27,000
Beaver Creek Watershed Road Sediment Reduction	Jackson	\$22,824
Mobile Reusable Temporary Bridge	Jackson	\$45,000
Mine Closures in Jackson County	Jackson	\$22,500
Outdoor Environmental Education Program—Wild and Scenic Rogue River Hike	Jackson	\$1,500
Mountain of the Rogue Trails System	Jackson	\$9,900
Cantrall-Buckley Park Campground Road Paving	Jackson	\$32,400
Josephine County Culvert Replacement	Josephine	\$90,000
Roadside Brushing—Josephine County	Josephine	\$45,000
Alyssum Project	Josephine	\$8,000
Medford BLM Trail Maintenance and Construction—Northwest Youth Corps	Josephine	\$27,000
Cooperative Law Enforcement and Patrol	Josephine	\$31,500
French Flat ACEC Improvements	Josephine	\$9,000
Asphalt Patching (Galice, Pickett, Jack, and Powell creeks)	Josephine	\$50,000
Savage Creek/Rock Creek Chipseal	Josephine	\$41,000
Revegetation of Disturbed Sites	Josephine	\$12,632
Mount Sexton Automated Smoke Detection Site	Josephine	\$26,625
Old Baldy Automated Smoke Detection Site	Josephine	\$75,218
Roadside Brushing—Douglas County	Douglas	\$36,000
Middle Cow Creek and West Fork Cow Creek Watershed Restoration	Douglas	\$38,288
Law Enforcement Resource Deputy	Douglas	\$27,000
Curry County Culvert Replacement	Curry	\$39,000
Roadside Brushing—Curry County	Curry	\$6,701

## 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 established 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.

### **Plan Maintenance for Fiscal Year 2012**

Previous plan maintenance has been published in past Medford District Annual Program Summaries. Plan maintenance on the Medford District for fiscal year 2012 included removing watersheds from deferral status and incorporating Best Management Practices into the 1995 RMP.

In the Medford District, 12 watersheds were deferred from management activities for 10 years, starting in 1993 (1995 RMP, p. 42-44), because of high watershed cumulative effects. The RMP states the deferred watersheds would be reevaluated during the next planning cycle or by January 2003. The following deferred watersheds were reevaluated and removed from deferral status:

- 2007—Upper Louse Creek and Upper Jumpoff Joe Creek
- 2011—Sprignett Creek, West Fork Evans Creek Headwaters, West Skeleton Mountain, Ash Flat, Cold Creek, and Upper Lake Creek
- 2012—Clark Creek, Vine Maple, and Lost-Floras

Deferred watersheds were not identified in the 2008 RMP, which provided the Medford District management direction in fiscal year 2011; therefore, plan maintenance was not necessary during fiscal year 2011. As a court order vacated the 2008 RMP on May 16, 2012, the Medford District reverted back to the 1995 RMP and plan maintenance was completed to remove these watersheds from deferral status.

The BLM completed a review of Best Management Practices to minimize or reduce the conveyance and delivery of sediment to the waters of the United States. Plan maintenance was completed to incorporate updated Best Management Practices into the 1995 RMP as per IM-OR-2011-074. These had previously been incorporated into the 2008 RMP in September 2011.

### **Plan Amendment**

Amendment actions respond to major changes such as the need to change land-use allocations; changes in the scope of resource uses or restrictions; or changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved resource management plan. Amendment actions usually require formal public involvement and interagency coordination, and additional NEPA analysis prior to making these changes.

### **Plan Amendments for Fiscal Year 2012**

No plan amendments were undertaken in fiscal year 2012.

## Resource Management Plan Evaluations

National BLM policy and Federal regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §1610.4-9) require that resource management plans be evaluated every five years. Plan evaluation is the process of determining if land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented. The Medford District last evaluated its RMP in 2011 in conjunction with evaluations on the Resource Management Plans for the other Western Oregon BLM Districts. The Resource Management Plan Evaluation Report for Western Oregon Districts was finalized in August 2012. The report can be found on the Oregon BLM's planning Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/>.

The plan evaluations showed that timber sales associated with the lands allocated to sustained yield timber production have continued to depart substantially from the assumptions of the 1995 RMP determination of the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ). The reduced levels of regeneration harvest sales and acceleration of thinning from the harvest land base has been a long-term trend since 1999. Accelerated rates of thinning without replenishment of younger forest stands through regeneration harvest means that opportunities for thinning will eventually be exhausted. The current approach to a forest management regime that deviates so considerably from the RMP assumptions used in determination of the ASQ is not sustainable at the declared ASQ level.

There is new information and changed circumstances relevant to management direction and land-use allocations for the northern spotted owls. The new Recovery Plan for the northern spotted owl was completed in 2011 and includes recovery actions not addressed in the 1995 RMP. Current and proposed spotted owl critical habitat does not align with land-use allocations in the 1995 RMP. There are new listings, recovery plans (or draft recovery plans), and designations of critical habitat for other fish, plant, and terrestrial species.

The evaluations concluded that most decisions in the current RMPs are still valid and that BLM can continue to implement them; however, based on the above information, it found a need for changes to the timber and wildlife programs, and minor changes to most other programs. A plan revision is warranted. This is the appropriate mechanism for the BLM to comprehensively review the mix of resource uses and protections and adjust RMP objectives and associated land-use allocations and management direction as needed.

## Resource Management Plans for Western Oregon

The BLM initiated a new RMP revision effort with the issuance of a Notice of Intent on March 9, 2012. The BLM held seven public meetings throughout western Oregon in May 2012. Public comments on issues, planning criteria, and other management guidance were requested by July 5, 2012; however, the timeline was later extended until October 5, 2012. Almost 90% of the comments were submitted via email, and approximately 45% of all responses were *form letters*. In total, 584 comments were received. These comments will be analyzed to help develop the Proposed Planning Criteria and State Director Guidance, identify planning issues, and refine the scope of planning effort.

A final Scoping Report is currently being written and, when complete, will be available on the BLM's RMP revision Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/scoping.php>.

The current goal is to have a Draft RMP/EIS available for public comment in 2014 and a final plan by 2015.

# Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2012

## Introduction

This document represents the sixteenth monitoring report of the 1995 Medford District ROD/RMP. This monitoring report compiles the results of implementation monitoring for the seventeenth year of RMP implementation (monitoring reports for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 were combined into the 2010-2011 Annual Program Summary). Included in this report are the projects that occurred from October 2011 through September 2012. 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.

This report compiles the results and findings of implementation monitoring of projects initiated during fiscal year 2012 as part of the Medford District RMP. It meets the requirements for monitoring and evaluation of resource management plans at appropriate intervals within BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-9). This monitoring plan does not identify all the monitoring conducted on the Medford District as activity and project plans may identify monitoring needs of their own.

## 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 management actions:

- follow prescribed management direction (implementation monitoring),
- meet desired objectives (effectiveness monitoring), and
- are based on accurate assumptions (validation monitoring) (see Appendix L, 1995 Medford District ROD/RMP).

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

## Province-Level Implementation Monitoring

No provincial-level monitoring was performed this past year or is planned for the next year.

## Effectiveness Monitoring

The Interagency Regional Monitoring Program continues to conduct effectiveness monitoring of the Northwest Forest Plan. Monitoring results have been evaluated and reported in one- and five-year intervals. The first comprehensive analysis of 10 years of Northwest Forest Plan monitoring data was published in a series of monitoring reports in 2005 and 2006. Since then, monitoring has continued and a new set of reports analyzes 15 years of monitoring data (1994-2008), with a focus on the last 5 years.

This collection of reports on the 15-year anniversary of the Northwest Forest Plan provides an analysis of monitoring data since the 1994 Record of Decision with a focus on the last 5 years. The reports attempt to answer questions about the effectiveness of the Northwest Forest Plan from new monitoring and research results. The set includes a series of status and trends reports, and a summary report. These reports can be found online at <http://reo.gov/monitoring/reports/15yr-report/index.shtml>.

## Monitoring Overview

This monitoring report focuses on the implementation questions contained in the RMP. Questions were separated into two lists, those that are project related and those that are more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary, such as accomplishment reports. Both lists are included in Appendix B. The monitoring plan for the RMP incorporates the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan.

Monitoring at multiple levels and scales and 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 fifteenth year.

Monitoring during fiscal year 2012 concentrated on projects that were being implemented or had been completed in 2012.

## Monitoring Results and Findings

Implementation monitoring was based on a process developed by the Medford District Research and Monitoring Committee. Projects were randomly selected for implementation monitoring for the period from October 2011 to September 2012.

The NEPA documents, watershed analysis files, and Late-Successional Reserve Assessments applicable to each of the monitored projects were reviewed and compared to answer the first part of the implementation monitoring question:

Were the projects prepared in accord with the underlying ROD requirements, NEPA or watershed analysis documentation, or Late-Successional Reserve Assessment documentation?

## Summary of District Monitoring

**Note:** Appendix A contains lists of all projects considered and projects selected for monitoring. These projects were either initiated or implemented in FY 2012.

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.

For each project selected, we answered relevant 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 separated into three resource areas and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Projects were selected from all resource areas and answers to the monitoring questions for the individual actions were based on a review of the NEPA documentation and field review. 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. Necessary monitoring field trips were conducted over the entire Medford District.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Monitoring Report

### Monitoring Overview

Prior to 2011, selecting projects for implementation monitoring was conducted by identifying 20% of projects approved in that fiscal year and supplementing that selection with additional individual projects needed to fulfill the 20% requirement. In fiscal year 2012, monitoring focused on projects that had been implemented or were in process of implementation during the fiscal year. Implementation of projects is of interest to both external and internal audiences. To that end, this and future field monitoring efforts will focus primarily on project implementation. Monitoring of silviculture and restoration projects during the past 16 years has demonstrated consistent compliance with RMP monitoring requirements with most projects being continuations of previously monitored projects and, in most instances, contain very similar contractual requirements.

Projects selected in previous years, but not completed during that year, were carried forward into the current monitoring cycle. These projects are being monitored for actual on-the-ground implementation.

## Monitoring Results and Findings

As stated above, monitoring concentrated on projects that were being implemented or had been completed in 2012. Projects that were monitored in fiscal year 2012 focused on timber sales, ecological forestry projects, stewardship projects, silviculture projects, and road decommissioning.

The Medford District initiated 62 projects from October 2011 through September 2012 that required Environmental Assessments or Categorical Exclusions. These projects included timber sales, ecological forestry projects, silviculture projects, road decommissioning, road rights-of-way, riparian and fish habitat restoration, and recreation projects (Table 21). Road right-of-way authorizations completed under Categorical Exclusions are listed under “other” in this list. The projects were sorted into the following categories:

- Timber Sales
- Silviculture Projects
- Riparian/Fish Habitat
- Botanical/Wildlife Habitat
- Prescribed Burns and Fuel Hazard Reduction
- Road Restoration and Decommissioning
- Road Construction
- Grazing
- Recreation
- Other

**Table 21. Projects Initiated in Fiscal Year 2012 by Resource Area**

Project Type	Resource Area				District Total
	Ashland	Butte Falls	Grants Pass	CSNM*	
Timber Sale	4	1	3	0	<b>8</b>
Silviculture	1	2	1	0	<b>4</b>
Riparian/Fish Habitat	2	2	3	0	<b>7</b>
Botanical/Wildlife Habitat	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Prescribed Burns/ Fuel Hazard Reduction	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
Road Restoration/Decommission	2	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
Road Construction	1	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
Grazing	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Recreation	2	2	3	2	<b>9</b>
Other	10	5	7	4	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>62</b>

\*Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Several projects selected for monitoring are being implemented under stewardship contracts. These projects include a combination of commercial timber extraction, silviculture treatments, road decommissioning, and fuel hazard reduction; therefore, the number of projects is less than shown in Table 22. See Appendix A for project details.

**Table 22. Fiscal Year 2012 Projects Selected for Monitoring by Resource Area**

Project Type	Resource Area				District Total
	Ashland	Butte Falls	Grants Pass	CSNM	
Timber Sale	1	3	3	0	7
Silviculture	0	1	0	0	1
Riparian/Fish Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Botanical/Wildlife Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burns/ Fuel Hazard Reduction	0	0	0	0	0
Road Restoration/Decommission	1	1	1	0	3
Road Construction	0	0	0	0	0
Grazing	0	0	0	0	0
Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

## Findings for Fiscal Year 2012 Monitoring

The Medford District found a high level of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines contained in the Medford District ROD/RMP and the Northwest Forest Plan. The results of our seventeenth year of monitoring evaluation continues to support our earlier observations that overall the District is doing a good job of implementing the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District RMP. The District has planned and executed many ecologically sound management and restoration projects.

Field review of the timber sales and projects indicates that the intent and requirements of the Standards and Guidelines were met for the sampled and completed projects.

All projects were found to be in full compliance with the Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan ROD and, with the exception of minor issues with new contractor's implementation, all projects were found to be consistent with the NEPA documentation for each project. Effects appeared to fall within what was analyzed in the respective Environmental Assessments; based on project monitoring, no indirect effects beyond what were analyzed are expected. As a result of the observed very high compliance with management action/direction in the past 17 years, no implementation or management adjustments are recommended.

# Appendix A. Monitoring

## Projects Initiated in Fiscal Year 2012 Available for Monitoring

This list includes projects initiated or with Decision Records signed in fiscal year 2012. Some fall into multiple categories. Monitoring was also completed on projects initiated in previous years, but implemented in fiscal year 2012; therefore, the Monitored Projects table below includes projects carried over from previous years.

### Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

Many projects on the Medford District incorporate aspects of IVM into project development. The projects in this category have a major focus on integrated vegetation management.

- District Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project
- Williams Integrated Vegetation Management Project

### Ecological Forestry Projects

Many projects on the Medford District incorporate ecological forestry principles espoused by Drs. Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. In 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced a series of ecological forestry projects would be implemented in Oregon. Six of those are on the Medford District.

- Pilot Thompson
- Vine Maple (Friese Camp EA)
- Jumping Bean
- Friese Camp
- Middle Friese (Friese Camp EA)
- East West Junction

### Timber Sales

- MC Thin (Conde Forest Management EA)
- Sampson Cove
- Sterling Sweeper Forest Management
- Heppsie Forest Management
- Speaking Coyote Project
- McKnabe Thin

### Silviculture Projects

- Butte Falls Resource Area Planting and Scalping
- McKnabe Thin

- FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices (Butte Falls)
- 2012 Tree Planting (Gopher Trap)

### **Riparian/Fish Habitat/Botanical Restoration Projects**

- Rock Creek Aquatic Restoration
- Vine Maple Culverts
- Riparian Restoration Lost Creek
- 2012 Middle Cow Creek and West Fork Cow Creek Instream Restoration Project
- North Fork Galice Creek Restoration Project
- Shan Creek Instream Restoration Project
- Logan Cut Fence Installation
- 2012 Crooks Creek Riparian Restoration Project

### **Prescribed Burn Projects**

- Sprigg Morr Fuel Hazard Reduction

### **Recreation**

- Echelon-Stagecoach XC Mountain Bike event
- Wagner Creek Trail Bridge Replacement
- Cathedral Hills Park Trail Relocation
- Rogue Valley Walkers Volkswalk
- Swiftwater Safety Institute Rescue Course
- 2012 Tour de Fronds Cycling Event
- Travel Oregon Filming
- BFRA Special Recreation Permits
- Lower Table Rock Filming
- Greensprings Mountain Festival
- Mountain Lakes Challenge Special Recreation Permit

### **Road Decommission/Renovation**

- Ashland RA Road Decommissioning
- Middle Applegate Drainage Improvement—Road/Culvert Renovation
- Brushy Gulch Creek Slide Removal and Bank Stabilization
- Brushy Gulch Creek Temporary Road Closure

## Road Construction

- Hoxie Road Construction and ROW
- Indian Hill Road Construction and ROW

## Other Projects

- Reese Creek Quarry Free Use Permit
- PacifiCorp ROW Grant OR97043
- O&C Logging Road Permit No. M-5040
- ROW Grant OR67162
- O&C Logging Road Permit No. M-5061
- China Gulch Telephone Line
- Lower Big Applegate Grazing Lease
- De-limber Vehicle Removal
- Mt. Isabelle Electrical Distribution and Communication Site
- O&C Logging ROW Shale City (OR67225)
- O&C Logging ROW Lost Creek (OR67247)
- O&C Logging ROW Cove Creek (OR67294)
- Residential ROW Assignment Foothills Creek
- O&C Logging ROW (OR67365) Upper Jenny Creek
- Arrasta Creek Cabin Removal
- Indian Hill Road Construction and ROW
- O&C Log Haul Permit Aleda Denton
- O&C Log Haul Permit Tony Lee ROW
- Pre-historic Field School
- Dayton O&C ROW
- 2012 Historic Preservation Field School
- Soda Mountain Communications Site Winter Access
- Singer Properties, LTD Right-of-Way Grant
- Kurt Stark Right-of-Way (OR45999) Amendment
- Pilot Rock Land Association, LLC Right-of-Way Grant

## Fiscal Year 2012 Monitored Projects (by category)

### Timber Sales

- East Fork Illinois
- Twin Ranch
- Deer North
- Tennessee Lime
- Pilot Joe
- Ranch Stew
- Ranch Stew II

### Ecological Forestry Projects

- Pilot Joe

### Silviculture Projects

- Ranch Stew

### Road Decommission

- Ashland RA Road Decommissioning
- Ranch Stew
- East Fork Illinois

## Fiscal Year 2012 Projects Initiated

The following projects were initiated in fiscal year 2012 on the Medford District:

Project	NEPA #	Project Type
<b>District-wide</b>		
District Programmatic Integrated Vegetation Management Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2012-0001-EA	Restoration, Timber, Stewardship, Fuel Hazard Reduction, Special Forest Products
<b>Butte Falls Resource Area</b>		
Reese Creek Quarry Free Use Permit	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0001-CX	Quarry
Butte Falls Resource Area Planting and Scalping	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0002-CX	Silviculture
PacifiCorp ROW Grant OR67043	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0003-CX	Right-of-Way
BFRA Special Recreation Permits	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0004-CX	Recreation

Project	NEPA #	Project Type
O&C Logging Road Permit No. M 5040 (OR066650)	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0005-CX	Right-of-Way
Right-of-Way Grant OR 67162	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0006-CX	Right-of-Way
FY 2012-2014 Silviculture Practices	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0007-CX	Silviculture
Rock Creek Aquatic Restoration	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0008-DNA	Restoration
O&C Logging Road Permit No. M 5061	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0009-CX	Right-of-Way
Lower Table Rock Filming	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0010-CX	Recreation
Vine Maple Culverts	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0011-DNA	Restoration
Sprigg Morr Fuel Hazard Reduction	DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2012-0012-DNA	Fuel Hazard Reduction
<b>Ashland Resource Area</b>		
Conde Forest Management	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0002-EA	Timber
China Gulch Telephone Line OR24285 (Quest)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0003-CX	Right-of-Way
Hoxie Road ROW (OR65809)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0004-EA	Right-of-Way, Road Construction
Sampson Cove	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0005-DNA	Timber
De-limber Vehicle Removal	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0006-DNA	Vehicle Removal
Lower Big Applegate Grazing Lease	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0007-DNA	Grazing
2012 Tree Planting/Gopher Trap	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0008-CX	Silviculture
Echelon-Stagecoach XC Mountain Bike event	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0009-CX	Recreation
Ashland RA Road Decommissioning	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0010-DNA	Road Decommissioning
Sterling Sweeper Forest Management	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0011-EA	Timber
Mt. Isabelle Electrical Distribution and Communication Site	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0012-CX	Right-of-Way
O&C Logging ROW Shale City (OR67225)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0015-CX	Right-of-Way

Project	NEPA #	Project Type
O&C Logging ROW Lost Creek (OR67247)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0016-CX	Right-of-Way
Heppsie Forest Management	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0017-EA	Timber
O&C Logging ROW Cove Creek (OR67294)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0018-CX	Right-of-Way
O&C Logging ROW Keno Access (OR67265)	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0019-CX	Right-of-Way
Residential ROW Assignment Foots Creek	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0020-CX	Right-of-Way
Riparian Restoration Lost Creek	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2010-0021-DNA	Restoration
Middle Applegate Drainage Improvement—Road/Culvert	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2010-0022-DNA	Road Maintenance
O&C Logging ROW (OR67365) Upper Jenny Creek	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0023-CX	Right-of-Way
Arrasta Creek Cabin Removal	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2011-0024 CX	Structure Removal
Wagner Creek Trail Bridge Replacement	DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2011-0025-CX	Recreation
<b>Grants Pass Resource Area</b>		
Cathedral Hills Park Trail Relocation	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-0001-DNA	Recreation
Speaking Coyote Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-0002-EA	Timber
Jumping Bean Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-0003-EA	Timber
Indian Hill Road Construction/ROW	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-0004-EA	Road Construction/Right-of-Way
2012 Middle Cow Creek and West Fork Cow Creek Instream Restoration Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-0005-DNA	Restoration
McKnabe Thin	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-006-CX	Timber/Silviculture
Rogue Valley Walkers Volkswalk	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-007-CX	Recreation
O&C Log Haul Permit Aleda Denton	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-008-CX	Right-of-Way
Williams IVM Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-009-EA	Timber/Stewardship
Swiftwater Safety Institute Rescue Course	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-010-CX	Recreation

Project	NEPA #	Project Type
O&C Log Haul Permit Tony Lee ROW	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-011-CX	Right-of-Way
Pre-historic Field School CX	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-012-CX	Field School Permit
2012 Tour de Fronds Cycling Event	DOI-BLM-OR-M080-2012-013-CX	Recreation
North Fork Galice Creek Restoration Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-014-DNA	Restoration
Dayton O&C ROW CX	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-015-CX	Right-of-Way
Shan Creek Instream Restoration Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-016-DNA	Restoration
Travel Oregon Filming	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-017-CX	Recreation
Logan Cut Fence Installation	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-018-CX	Botany/ACEC
2012 Crooks Creek Riparian Restoration Project	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-019-DNA	Restoration
Brushy Gulch Creek Slide Removal and Bank Stabilization	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-020-DNA	Maintenance/ Restoration
2012 Historic Preservation Field School	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-021-DNA	Field School Permit
Brushy Gulch Creek Temporary Road Closure	DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2012-022-CX	Road Closure
<b>Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument</b>		
Soda Mountain Communications Site Winter Access	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0001-CX	Right-of-Way
Singer Properties, LTD Right-of-Way Grant	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0002-CX	Right-of-Way
Mountain Lakes Challenge Special Recreation Permit	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0004-CX	Recreation
Kurt Stark Right-of-Way (OR45999) Amendment	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0005-DNA	Right-of-Way
Greensprings Mountain Festival Exclusive Use of Hyatt Lake Campground	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0006-CX	Recreation
Pilot Rock Land Association, LLC Right-of-Way Grant	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2012-0007-CX	Right-of-Way
Soda Mountain Wilderness Stewardship Plan (signed April 2012)	DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2011-0001-EA	Wilderness

# Appendix B. Monitoring Questions

## Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2012

The following two lists of questions were used to record the Medford District Implementation Monitoring question results for fiscal year 2012. The first list, Project-Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, was used for monitoring specific projects. The second list, APS-Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, was addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

### Medford District Project-Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

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

#### All Land Use Allocations

##### Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

Protection of SEIS special attention species so as not to elevate their status to any higher level of concern.

##### Implementation Monitoring

1. Are surveys for Special Status Species (Sensitive and Survey and Manage Species) conducted before ground-disturbing activities occur as per current guidance (S&M Settlement Agreement; IM-2012-018)?

**Finding:** Surveys were completed for all projects in Appendix A as appropriate.

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

**Finding:** Appropriate protection buffers were provided for species on all projects in Appendix A.

**Conclusion:** RMP requirements have been met.

#### Riparian Reserves

##### Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

See Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

##### Implementation Monitoring

1. Are watershed analyses being completed before on-the-ground actions are initiated?

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Watershed analyses were completed for all projects prior to implementation. For most projects, the watershed analysis is of an older vintage and concerns specific to the current activity are not often identified. However, the watershed analysis process is of marginal utility as a source of *new* information. Watershed analysis was intended to form the basis for understanding ecological functions, processes, and their interactions on a watershed scale. These first iteration analyses have been completed for most watersheds. Watershed analysis was not intended to analyze information at the project scale for a proposed activity; that is the role of NEPA. Analytical questions necessary for the Decision process are being addressed in the accompanying NEPA documentation and the NEPA addresses cumulative effects at an appropriate scale commensurate with the project.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (East Fork Illinois, Twin Ranch, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Pilot Joe, Ranch Stew, Ranch Stew II) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Riparian Reserve widths were based on the established guidelines from the RMP and site-specific assessment.

3. Are management activities in Riparian Reserves consistent with Northwest Forest Plan ROD Standards and Guidelines?

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (Ashland Road Decommissioning) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Roads that traversed Riparian Reserves were decommissioned. Appropriate Project Design Features were incorporated to minimize sedimentation into streams. While some sedimentation is expected from project activities, long-term sedimentation is expected to decrease.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (Ashland Road Decommissioning) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Roads that traversed Riparian Reserves were decommissioned. Appropriate Project Design Features were incorporated to minimize sedimentation into streams. While some sedimentation is expected from project activities, long-term sedimentation is expected to decrease.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (Ashland Road Decommissioning) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Management activities in Riparian Reserves were consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. Appropriate assessment of ACS objectives was included in project-specific Environmental Assessments or in the project record. Roads that traversed Riparian Reserves were decommissioned. Appropriate Project Design Features were incorporated to minimize sedimentation into streams. While some sedimentation is expected from project activities, long-term sedimentation is expected to decrease.

6. Are new structures and improvements in Riparian Reserves constructed to minimize the diversion of natural hydrologic flow paths, reduce the amount of sediment delivery into the stream, protect fish and wildlife populations, and accommodate the 100-year flood?

**Monitoring Performed:** No monitoring was performed on instream structural improvements.

7. (a) Are all mining structures, support facilities, and roads located outside the Riparian Reserves?  
(b) Are those located within the Riparian Reserves meeting the objectives of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy?  
(c) Are all solid and sanitary waste facilities excluded from Riparian Reserves or located, monitored, and reclaimed in accordance with the Northwest Forest Plan ROD Standards and Guidelines and Medford District RMP management direction?

**Monitoring Performed:** No monitoring was performed on mining operations.

### Late-Successional Reserves

1. Were activities performed within Late-Successional Reserves (LSR) compatible with objectives of LSR plans, the Northwest Forest Plan ROD Standards and Guidelines, RMP management direction, and LSR Assessments?

**Monitoring Performed:** No monitoring was performed on projects in LSRs.

### Matrix

1. 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?

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (East Fork Illinois, Twin Ranch, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Pilot Joe, Ranch Stew, Ranch Stew II) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Snags were retained where they were available except where felled for safety reasons. Felled snags were retained as coarse woody debris. Green trees were retained at appropriate levels. Existing coarse woody debris was retained in all projects. Coarse woody debris levels met or exceeded RMP standards in all projects.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (East Fork Illinois, Twin Ranch, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Pilot Joe, Ranch Stew, Ranch Stew II) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** All projects were designed to meet ecosystem goals for wildlife, soils, hydrology, plants, cultural resource, and other objectives. Environmental analysis addresses relevant issues for these resources at relevant temporal and spatial scales, and as applicable for each project.

3. Are late-successional stands being retained in fifth-field watersheds in which Federal forest lands have 15% or less late-successional forest?

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (East Fork Illinois, Twin Ranch, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Pilot Joe, Ranch Stew, Ranch Stew II) of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** No regeneration harvests were planned in any watersheds that had 15% or less late-successional forest in them. RMP objectives were met.

## Air Quality

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A that included treatment of activity generated slash were reviewed.

**Finding:** Prescribed burns to treat harvest slash are primarily planned pile burning, but not all of the projects were complete. In observed pile burns, as anticipated, not all of the piled material was burned. Coarse wood was consumed in some areas, but still remained at acceptable levels. Burn plans were prepared for all projects. The piles that have been burned were done so in prescription and according to their individual burn plans when prescribed conditions were available. Overall particulate emissions from prescribed burning can be minimized through ignition timing, aggressive mop-up, and reducing large heavy fuels consumed by fire.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** The timber sales contain abatement specifications as part of the contract. Water, lignin, or other appropriate dust abatement treatment is required to abate dust during all phases of the contract.

**Compliance/Monitoring Results:** All projects monitored demonstrated high compliance with RMP requirements and Standards and Guidelines. All projects implementation and observed effects were within those disclosed in the project-specific NEPA documents.

## Soil and Water

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** In ground-based operations (e.g., East Fork Illinois, Twin Ranch, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Pilot Joe, Ranch Stew, Ranch Stew II), skid trails were less than 12% of the area and existing skid roads were used when available. Timber hauling and tractor and cable yarding were seasonally limited appropriate to site-specific conditions. Cable yarding corridors were an appropriate width for safe operations.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Watershed analyses were completed for all projects prior to implementation. For most projects, the watershed analysis is of an older vintage and concerns specific to the current activity are not often identified. However, the watershed analysis process is of marginal utility as a source of *new* information. Watershed analysis was intended to form the basis for understanding ecological functions, processes, and their interactions on a watershed scale. These first iteration analyses have been completed for most watersheds. Watershed analysis was not intended to analyze information at the project scale for a proposed activity; that is the role of NEPA. Analytical questions necessary for the Decision process are being addressed in the accompanying NEPA documentation and; the NEPA addresses cumulative effects at an appropriate scale commensurate with the project.

## Wildlife Habitat

1. 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 Northwest Forest Plan ROD Standards and Guidelines and ROD/RMP management direction?

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Snags were retained where they were available except where felled for safety reasons. Felled snags were retained as coarse woody debris. Green trees were retained at appropriate levels. Existing coarse woody debris was retained in all projects. Coarse woody debris levels met or exceeded RMP standards in all projects.

2. Are special habitats being identified and protected?

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Seasonal restrictions are in place for spotted owl sites consistent with consultation requirements. Activities in spotted owl habitat are being implemented consistent with USFWS consultation Project Design Criteria; target canopy retention is being met. Buffers on Riparian Reserves and for special status plants have been implemented.

## Fish Habitat

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** All projects considered at-risk fish species and incorporated appropriate Project Design Features to avoid adverse effects on fish and fish habitat including Essential Fish Habitat.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** All projects considered at-risk fish species and incorporated appropriate Project Design Features to avoid adverse effects on fish and fish habitat including Essential Fish Habitat. All projects were designed to have *no effect* on fish or Essential Fish Habitat.

## Special Status Species and SEIS Special Attention Species and Habitat

1. Are special status species being addressed in deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions? During forest management and other actions that may disturb special status species, are steps taken to adequately mitigate disturbances?

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** The Medford District consulted with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on various management projects. All major ground-disturbing activities involve discussion with U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service concerning Threatened and Endangered species. This ranges from a verbal discussion up to and including formal consultation.

**Compliance/Monitoring Results:**

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** The Medford District works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during project development and appropriate consultation was completed for each project. The District also works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reach a common understanding and consistent implementation of the new Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan (2011), particularly in regards to Recovery Actions 10 and 32.

**Special Areas (e.g., ACECs, RNAs)**

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** No projects monitored were implemented in special areas. NEPA analysis for projects in special areas was consistent with management direction for the specific area to maintain or improve values or resources for which they were designated.

**Compliance/Monitoring Results—N/A**

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** No projects monitored were implemented in special areas. NEPA analysis for projects in special areas was consistent with management direction for the specific area to maintain or improve values or resources for which they were designated.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** No projects monitored were implemented in special areas. NEPA analysis for projects in special areas was consistent with management direction for the specific area to maintain or improve values or resources for which they were designated.

## Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Cultural resource surveys were completed and effects analyzed as appropriate in the context of proposed activities for all projects.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** All cultural resources were buffered from project activities.

## Visual Resources

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Timber harvest and other activities for all projects met VRM requirements.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

1. Are BLM actions and BLM authorized actions consistent with protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of designated, suitable, and eligible, but not studied, rivers?

**Monitoring Performed:** No monitored projects occurred within eligible or designated Wild and Scenic Rivers.

**Finding:** N/A

## Rural Interface Areas

1. 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 management?

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** All projects that were in close proximity to private land contained design features that minimized impacts.

## Noxious Weeds

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

**Monitoring Performed:** All projects in Appendix A of this Annual Program Summary were reviewed.

**Finding:** Noxious weed control measures are compatible with ACS objectives for all projects occurring on the Medford District BLM

## Medford District APS-Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

This list of questions is 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, re establish 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 Northwest Forest Plan ROD Standards and Guidelines, RMP management direction, Regional Ecosystem Office review requirements, and 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 an 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 Management 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 that 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 Outstanding Natural Areas being protected from damage?
56. What environmental education and research initiatives and programs are occurring in the Research Natural Areas and Environmental Education Areas?
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 Northwest Forest Plan 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 resources?

### **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 Northwest Forest Plan 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)

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

## NEPA Documentation

The review of the environmental effects of a proposed management action can occur in any of four ways: Categorical exclusion (CX), administrative determination, environmental assessment (EA), or environmental impact statement (EIS).

A CX is used when the BLM determines the type of proposed activity does not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and is exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. CXs are covered specifically by Department of the Interior and BLM guidelines.

An administrative determination is a conclusion by the BLM that previously prepared NEPA documentation fully covers a proposed action and no additional analysis is needed. This procedure is used in conjunction with a Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) form. If an action is fully in conformance with actions specifically described in the RMP and analyzed in a subsequent NEPA document, a plan conformance and NEPA adequacy determination may be made and no additional analysis is needed.

An EA is prepared to assess the effects of actions that are not exempt from NEPA, categorically excluded, or covered by an existing environmental document. An EA is prepared to determine if a proposed action or alternative will significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, will require the preparation of an EIS.

Major proposals that will significantly affect the environment and were not previously analyzed in an EIS, require that an EIS be prepared.

## Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Plan

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Timber Mountain Recreation Management Area is available and the public comment period has been concluded. This site-specific analysis is available on the Medford District BLM Web site. The comment period was extended until May 13, 2009. A Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision should be available in 2013.

The District has initiated a collaborative process with stakeholders to develop a modified alternative that the BLM would analyze as part of the final EIS, an alternative that would be acceptable to the broader community. This would be considered in final decision making for the plan. The management plan will offer an alternative that will provide for a recreational opportunity in a forest, mountain, and trail environment. The area offers a quality riding experience for users of Class I (all-terrain vehicles), Class II (four-wheel drive vehicles), and Class III (motorcycles) vehicles. Visitor information would

be provided to ensure proper use of public lands. Law enforcement measures would be employed, as appropriate. The BLM will cooperate with county and private landowners to preserve and maintain the character of the area.

## **Soda Mountain Wilderness: Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment**

The Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Plan for the Soda Mountain Wilderness has been published and was available for public comment from September 22 through November 8, 2011. The decision was signed in April 2012.

## Appendix D. Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACS	Aquatic Conservation Strategy
AMA	Adaptive Management Area
AML	Abandoned Mine Lands
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CBWR	Coos Bay Wagon Road
CCF	Hundred Cubic Feet
CSNM	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
CWD	Coarse Woody Debris
CX	Categorical Exclusion
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEA	Environmental Education Area
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
GeoBOB	Geographic Biotic Observations
GFMA	General Forest Management Area
KBO	Klamath Bird Observatory
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve
MBF	Thousand Board Feet
MMBF	Million Board Feet
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NWFP	Northwest Forest Plan
O&C	Oregon and California Revested Lands
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OR/WA	Oregon/Washington BLM

PD.....	Public Domain Lands
PILT .....	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
REO .....	Regional Ecosystem Office
RIEC .....	Regional Interagency Executive Committee
RMP.....	Resource Management Plan
RNA.....	Research Natural Area
ROD.....	Record of Decision
ROD/RMP.....	Medford District ROD and RMP
R&PP.....	Recreation and Public Purposes
S&G .....	Standards and Guidelines
USFS .....	US Forest Service
USFWS .....	US Fish and Wildlife Service
WOPR .....	Western Oregon Plan Revisions
WQMP.....	Water Quality Management Plan
WQRP .....	Water Quality Restoration Plan

## Appendix E. Definitions

**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**—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 US Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats 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 designation of approximately 20 to 200 square miles in size.

**Fiscal year**—The Federal financial year. 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.

**Late-successional reserve**—A forest in its mature or old-growth stages that has been reserved.

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

**Noxious plant or 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 Northwest Forest 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**—Species identified in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Northwest Forest Plan as needing special management attention. 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 groundcover, 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.



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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