

**Fiscal Year 2013**

# **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*

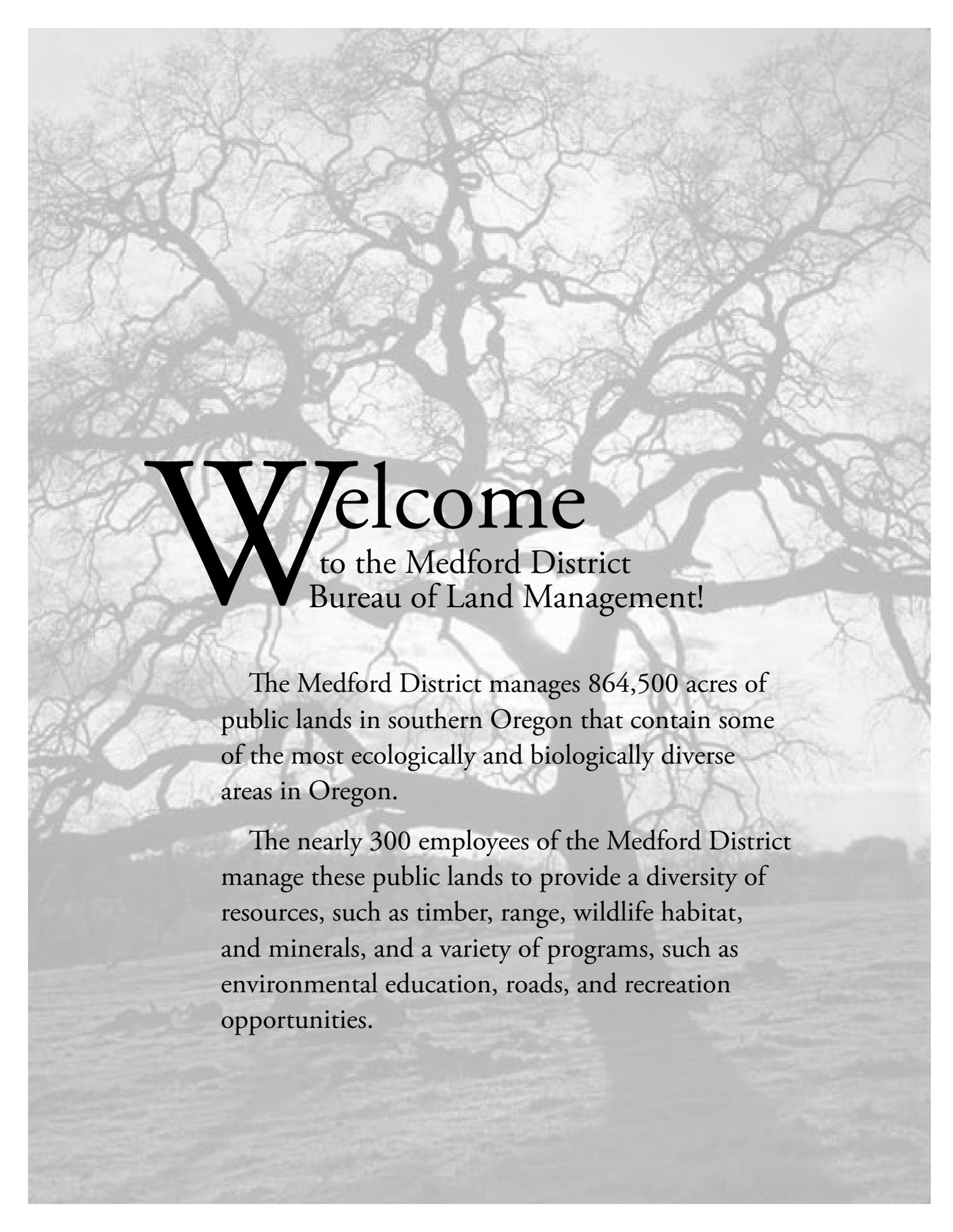
We are dedicated to professional management of the public lands by sustaining a wide variety of uses to serve the American people, now and in the future. We do this with a land ethic of balanced resource management in an environmentally, socially, and economically sound manner.

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 2013 | Cumulative Practices (2005-2013) | Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014) |
|---|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Forest and Timber Resources</b>  |                    |                  |                                  |   |
| Regeneration harvest offered  | acres              | 23               | 1,259                            | 11,277                                  |
| Commercial thinning/density management/uneven age harvest offered (harvest land base) | acres              | 2,348            | 14,858                           | 18,584                                  |
| Other   | acres              | 0                | 6,427                            | 548                                     |
| Timber volume offered (harvest land base)   | million board feet | 23.6             | 195.5                            | 570.2                                   |
| Timber volume offered (other)   | million board feet | 0.5              | 9.4                              | N/A                                     |
| Precommercial thinning (harvest land base)  | acres              | 1,537            | 8,764                            | 78,000                                  |
| Precommercial thinning (reserves)   | acres              | 342              | 2,183                            | 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              | 0                | 995                              | 1,000                                   |
| Fuels Treatments  |                    |                  |                                  |   |
| Slash and hand pile   | acres              | 3,617            | 103,187                          | 150,000                                 |
| Burn (hand pile or underburn)   | acres              | 4,009            | 59,926                           | 85,000                                  |
| Fuels Treatment (other methods)   | acres              | 0                | 0                                | 0                                       |
| <b>Silviculture</b>   |                    |                  |                                  |   |
| Planting—regular stock  | acres              | 166              | 3,392                            | 2,700                                   |
| Planting—genetically selected   | acres              | 390              | 3,722                            | 10,300                                  |
| Maintenance/Protection  | acres              | 2,583            | 31,159                           |   |
| Fertilization   | acres              | 0                | 0                                | 57,000                                  |
| Pruning   | acres              | 11               | 3,074                            | 18,600                                  |
| <b>Noxious Weeds</b>  |                    |                  |                                  |   |
| Noxious weeds control   | acres              | 6,000            | 47,641                           | N/A                                     |
| <b>Native Plants Program</b>  |                    |                  |                                  |   |
| Wildland native seed collections  | collections        | 96               | 530                              | N/A                                     |
| Native seed produced  | pounds             | 7,000            | 113,240                          | N/A                                     |
| Native seed applied   | acres/<br># seeded | 980/<br>7,500    | 8,340/<br>78,204                 | N/A                                     |

**Table S-1. Medford RMP Planning Area,  
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| RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity | Activity Units                                      | Fiscal Year 2013 | Cumulative Practices (2005-2013) | Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014) |
|--|---|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Range</b>   |   |                  |                                  |   |
| Livestock grazing permits or leases                        | annual leases/<br>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/<br>acres                                   | 1                | 21                               | N/A                                     |
| Land purchase  | acres   | 2,874            | 8,378                            | N/A                                     |
| Land exchanges   | actions/<br>acres<br>acquired/<br>acres<br>disposed | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| R&PP leases/patents  | actions   | 0                | N/A                              | N/A                                     |
| Road easements acquired for public/<br>agency use          | acres   | 2                | 41                               | N/A                                     |
| Road rights-of-way granted                                 | actions   | 25               | 531                              | N/A                                     |
| Utility rights-of-way granted<br>(communication sites)     | actions   | 6                | 60                               | N/A                                     |
| Special use permits  | actions   | 0                | 26                               | N/A                                     |
| Withdrawals completed                                      | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| Withdrawals revoked  | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| <b>Minerals/Energy</b>                                     |   |                  |                                  |   |
| Oil and gas leases   | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| Other leases   | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| Mining plans approved                                      | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 1                                | N/A                                     |
| Mining claims patented                                     | actions/<br>acres                                   | 0                | 0                                | 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 2013 | Cumulative Practices (2005-2013) | Projected Decadal Practices (2005-2014) |
|--|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Mineral materials sites opened                             | actions/<br>acres | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |
| Mineral material sites closed                              | actions/<br>acres | 0                | 0                                | N/A                                     |

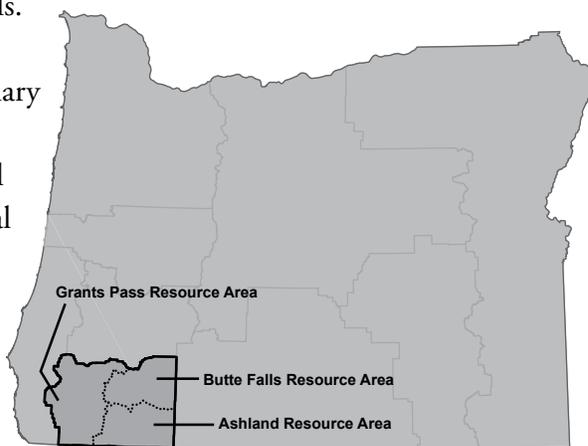
# Introduction

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management for the period of October 2012 through September 2013. 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 2013. This report addresses the accomplishments for the Medford District in such areas as watershed analysis, forestry, recreation, and other programs. Included in the Annual Program Summary is the Monitoring Report for the Medford District.

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 ROD (Record of Decision) and RMP (Resource Management Plan), approved in April 1995, adopted and incorporated the Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan in the form of Management Actions/Directions.

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. Land allocations also include the Applegate Adaptive Management Area, with an emphasis on development and testing of new forest management approaches, and Congressionally Reserved Areas—Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.



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 Annual Program Summary 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.

## Recent Court Rulings

### 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. Rey, et al.*, No. 08-1067 (W.D. Wash.) (Coughenour, J.), granting Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment and finding a variety of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) violations in the BLM and USFS 2007 Record of Decision eliminating the Survey and Manage mitigation measure.

Judge Coughenour deferred issuing a remedy in his December 17, 2009 order until further proceedings, and did not enjoin the BLM from proceeding with projects. Plaintiffs and Defendants entered into settlement negotiations that resulted in the 2011 Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement, adopted by the district court on July 6, 2011.

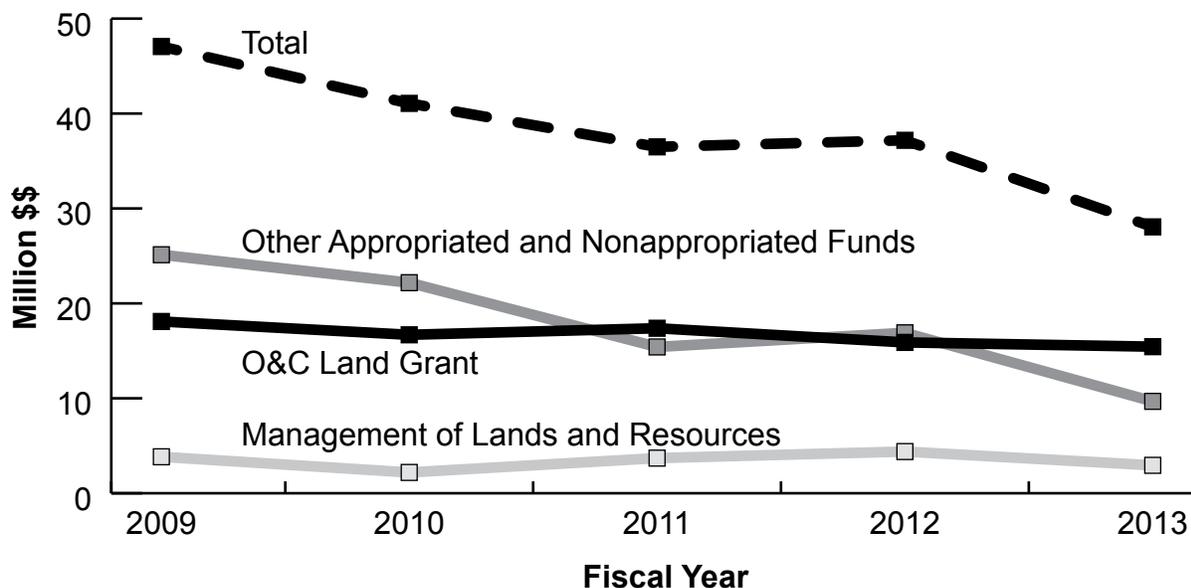
The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion on April 25, 2013 that reversed the District Court for the Western District of Washington's approval of the 2011 Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement. The case is now remanded back to the district court for further proceedings. This means that the December 17, 2009 district court order that found NEPA inadequacies in the 2007 analysis and records of decision removing Survey and Manage is still valid. At this time, BLM direction is that projects within the range of the northern spotted owl are subject to the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, as incorporated into the Medford District RMP.

## 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 2013, the Medford District received a total of \$15.4 million in Oregon and California Land Grant (O&C) direct appropriations; \$2.9 million in Management of Lands and Resources direct appropriations; and \$9.6 million in other appropriated and nonappropriated funds (Figure 1). These figures do not include carryover from prior fiscal years or fire suppression costs.

The other appropriations categories included \$5.5 million in hazard fuels reduction, emergency fire rehabilitation, and fire preparedness funds; \$0.16 million in land acquisition related funds; \$1.6 million in Secure Rural Schools Act funds; and \$1.8 million in deferred maintenance funds.

Figure 1. Medford District Budget for Fiscal Years 2009–2013



Permanent funds included \$0.31 million 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.

Total monetary resources (excluding prior year carryover) available to the Medford District in fiscal year 2013 equaled \$28.1 million. The district had an additional \$5.7 million in prior year carryover funds available in fiscal year 2013, including \$0.92 million in land acquisition funds; \$0.68 million in Secure Rural Schools Act funds; and \$1.4 million in deferred maintenance funds. Carryover also included, but was not limited to, \$0.14 million of timber sale pipeline restoration funds; \$0.64 million of forest ecosystem health and recovery funds; \$0.31 million in road use fee collections; and \$0.21 million in recreation fee collections.

## 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 1).

**Table 1. Major Land Use Allocations on the Medford District**

| Allocation  | Acres          |
|---|----------------|
| Congressional Reserves  | 14,267         |
| Late-Successional Reserves  | 178,467        |
| Late-Successional Reserves within Adaptive Management Areas   | 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 which overlap all of these major land use allocations. |                |

## Late-Successional Reserves

Late-successional reserves are areas established by the Northwest Forest Plan and 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 have been completed for all late-successional reserves.

In 2013, the Big Windy Complex of wildfires burned in the Galice Block Late-Successional Reserve. The BLM is assessing the late-successional reserve to determine if a Late-Successional Reserve Assessment update is necessary because of the wildfires.

## Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The Northwest Forest Plan developed the ACS (Aquatic Conservation Strategy) to restore and maintain the ecological health of watersheds on public lands and aquatic ecosystems contained within them. 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.

The BLM has implemented silviculture practices, including timber harvest, 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, commercial and 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.

## Watershed Council Coordination

The District coordinates with and offers assistance to a number of watershed 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 associations.

## Air Quality

For all prescribed burning activities, the Medford District BLM is required to be in compliance with the Oregon Smoke Management Plan (OAR 629-048-0010). The Oregon Smoke Management Plan designates Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas, which are areas designated for the highest level of protection under the smoke management plan, as described and listed in OAR 629-048-0140. The Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas in the Medford District are the Bear Creek Valley, Rogue River Valley, and Grants Pass.

The Medford District BLM is also required to be in compliance with the Oregon Visibility Protection Plan (OAR 340-200-0040, Section 5.2), which mandates that prescribed burning does not affect the visibility of Class I areas. Class I areas are defined as Forest Service wildernesses and national memorial parks over 5,000 acres, National Parks over 6,000 acres, and international parks. Class I areas in or near the Medford District are Crater Lake National Park and Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area.

All prescribed fire activities conformed to the Oregon Smoke Management and Oregon 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 2013. Ocular monitoring ensuring smoke did not impact the Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas reducing visibility as well as on-site and permanent nephelometer monitoring, which measures smoke particulates in the air.

# Water and Soils

There are approximately 321 miles of stream included on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) 2010 Clean Water Act 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waterbodies on BLM-managed lands in the Medford District. However, many of these stream miles are duplicative as some streams are listed for multiple pollutants. 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, *Escherichia coli*, and sedimentation.

The Medford District has worked cooperatively with the Oregon DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP), and Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRP) for watersheds containing 303(d) listed streams. These TMDLs, WQMPs, and WQRPs detail the limits of what a stream system can process for certain pollutants and how the BLM can manage its lands and not exceed these limits. TMDLs and WQMPs have been previously completed for the Umpqua and Rogue Basins and the Upper Klamath Subbasin; all have been approved by the Oregon DEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Medford District did not complete any additional WQRPs in 2013 and the total number of WQRPs remains at 30. These WQRPs can be found at the following Web sites:

- Medford District BLM at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/activityplans.php>
- Oregon DEQ at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/WQ/TMDLs/basinlist.htm>

The BLM implemented the following restoration projects (Table 2) in 2013 to improve water quality on or adjacent to water quality limited streams.

**Table 2. Medford District 2013 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

| Watershed                 | Stream Name                                      | Water Quality Limited Parameter   | Restoration Project  |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Applegate Subbasin</b> |  |   |  |
| Middle Applegate River    | Chapman Creek<br>Keeler Creek<br>Applegate River | Summer stream temperature<br>pH<br>Fecal coliform<br>Sedimentation<br>Ammonia<br><i>E. coli</i><br>Phosphorus<br>Alkalinity<br>Chlorophyll A<br>Toxics<br>Dissolved oxygen<br>Flow modification | Replaced six culverts to accommodate 100-year flood flows and provide for improved aquatic organism passage. |

**Table 2. Medford District 2013 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

| Watershed  | Stream Name                         | Water Quality Limited Parameter   | Restoration Project   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Middle Applegate River   | Ninemile Creek                      | Summer stream temperature<br>Habitat modification   | Decommissioned 1.2 miles of BLM road #39-4W-32.0, including culvert removal at every stream crossing.   |
| Upper Applegate River  | Beaver Creek                        | Sedimentation<br>Habitat modification<br>pH (summer only)<br>Dissolved oxygen<br>Ammonia<br>Biological criteria <sup>1</sup><br>Alkalinity<br>Flow modification<br>Chloride | Stormproofed and closed to traffic 0.55 miles of BLM road #40-3W-11 (Segment A2).   |
| Upper Applegate River  | Star Gulch                          | Flow modification<br>Habitat modification<br>Summer stream temperature  | Replaced two culverts with bridges to accommodate 100-year flood flows and provide for improved aquatic organism passage.   |
| <b>Middle Rogue Subbasin</b>   |                                     |   |   |
| Evans Creek  | West Fork Evans Creek<br>Salt Creek | Summer stream temperature<br>Sedimentation<br>Biological criteria<br>Habitat modification   | Decommissioned 0.6 miles of the following BLM roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33-3W-13.0</li> <li>• 33-3W-31.5</li> <li>• 34-3W-3.6</li> </ul> Remove 10 culverts associated with road decommissioning. |
| <b>Upper Klamath Subbasin</b>  |                                     |   |   |
| Cottonwood Creek<br>Iron Gate Reservoir - Klamath River<br>Jenny Creek | Soda Mountain Wilderness            | Summer stream temperature<br>Sedimentation  | Decommissioned 4.6 miles of roads   |

**Table 2. Medford District 2013 Water Quality Restoration Projects**

| Watershed                   | Stream Name                               | Water Quality Limited Parameter   | Restoration Project   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Upper Rogue Subbasin</b> |   |   |   |
| Little Butte Creek          | Lick Creek                                | pH<br>Dissolved oxygen<br><i>E. coli</i><br>Biological criteria<br>Ammonia<br>Chloride<br>Alkalinity<br>Summer stream temperature | Blocked unauthorized OHV trails and access points along Worthington and Obenchain Roads.<br><br>Improved one access point at existing gate on Obenchain Road.   |
| South Fork Rogue River      | South Fork Rogue River<br>Rancheria Creek | Summer stream temperature<br><br>Biological criteria  | Decommission 3.5 miles of the following BLM roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33-2E-25.1</li> <li>• 33-3E-29.0</li> <li>• 33-3E-33.2</li> <li>• 33-3E-33.3</li> <li>• 34-3E-3.0</li> <li>• 34-3E-7.3</li> <li>• 35-3E-3.0</li> </ul> Remove 10 culverts associated with road decommissioning. |

## Monitoring

The BLM conducted 18 miles of stream surveys and surveyed channel cross-sections at two sites in fiscal year 2013. The information collected is being used for project planning, updating the National Hydrography Database, and long-term baseline monitoring.

The BLM, through a contract, is measuring 15 water quality parameters at 89 locations on a quarterly basis at the abandoned Almeda Mine. This data is collected to determine the extent of acid mine drainage and whether or not impacts are changing from baseline conditions.

Water resource monitoring was conducted at sites across the district for various parameters, as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Medford District Water Resource Monitoring in Fiscal Year 2013**

| Parameter Monitored                                   | Number of Monitoring Sites |
|---|----------------------------|
| Summer stream temperature using recording instruments | 69                         |
| Stream stage  | 7                          |
| Turbidity   | 45                         |
| Conductivity  | 48                         |
| pH  | 49                         |
| Dissolved oxygen                                      | 28                         |
| Precipitation   | 7                          |
| Discharge   | 6                          |

<sup>1</sup> According to Oregon State Administrative Rules, “waters of the state shall be of sufficient quality to support aquatic species without detrimental changes in the resident biological communities.”

## 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 the Medford District’s three resource areas review those projects using 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 (GFMA), Adaptive Management Areas (AMA), 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 (CWD) management. Specific measures were provided in the Northwest Forest Plan to meet the needs of most priority wildlife species found in the District.

In 2013, the Medford Wildlife program continued to work on several wildlife-related lawsuits, including project-level cases involving northern spotted owl, fisher, and the Survey and Manage issues.

### Snags and Snag Recruitment

Dead wood provides 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 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. Regeneration harvest areas in connectivity/diversity blocks maintain a minimum of 12 to 18 green trees per acre. Additional connectivity is provided by the riparian management network (up to 2 site-potential tree lengths on each side of a stream) and by 250, 100-acre known northern spotted owl activity centers that are managed as late-successional reserves.

## Survey and Manage Wildlife Species

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. A revised Survey and Manage species list was included in the settlement agreement and implemented by the BLM. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion on April 25, 2013 that reversed the 2011 Survey and Manage Settlement Agreement. The District Court issued an order on February 18, 2014 that vacated the 2007 Survey and Manage Record of Decision. As a result of the recent court ruling, BLM projects must meet the direction in the 2001 *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*.

Surveys for Survey and Manage species, including red tree voles, great gray owls, and mollusks, were performed for projects prior to ground-disturbing activities. Protection buffers according to species-specific management recommendations were applied as needed to maintain persistence. General regional surveys are normally coordinated and funded through the BLM's Oregon State Office. The Medford District did not assist with any regional surveys in fiscal year 2013.

## Special Status Wildlife 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>). The last list was distributed on December 21, 2011.

Medford conducted work on the following special status species projects during fiscal year 2013:

- **Bald eagle** (District-wide): Continued to monitor 15 known sites and conduct three mid-winter eagle counts.
- **Golden Eagle** (Grants Pass and Butte Falls Resource Areas): Monitored two sites .
- **Peregrine falcon** (District-wide): Continued to monitor 10 known sites. Occupation was confirmed at a new site in the Grants Pass Resource Area (Stratton Butte).
- **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. Biologists surveyed 27 sample units and documented fishers at 2 sample units.

A new fisher detection northwest of the town of Grants Pass is 23 miles north of the nearest previously known location and represents the farthest north confirmed fisher location in the Klamath Mountains. BLM employees also assisted the US Forest Service in a trapping effort to place GPS collars on fisher.



Fisher detected from survey camera set-up

**Sensitive Butterfly Surveys**—Inventory and monitoring of two subspecies of butterflies, the Coronis Fritillary (*Speyeria coronis coronis*) and the Gray Blue butterfly (*Plebejus podarce klamathensis*) were conducted across the Medford District BLM (Ashland and Grants Pass Resource Areas) and Rogue River–Siskiyou National Forest under a Service First arrangement. These surveys confirmed presence of these sensitive species at several locations, and added newly discovered populations into the distribution. The range of the Gray Blue butterfly was extended by 13 miles and accounted for a new Josephine County record!



Gray Blue Butterflies  
Photo by Jason Reilly, Grants Pass Resource Area



Coronis Fritillary  
Photo by Jason Reilly, Grants Pass Resource Area

## Federally-listed Species Management

The Medford District contains three species listed as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA): northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and vernal pool fairy shrimp. An additional species located on the district, Oregon spotted frog, was proposed for listing as Threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in 2013. The final ruling will be made by the Service in 2014. 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 at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/consultation.php>.

### Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)

Northern spotted owls are federally listed as threatened. On February 28, 2012, the Service released the proposed critical habitat in the form of maps and the draft form of the Federal Register publication. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on March 8, 2012 (77 Federal Register 46:14062-14165). The final CHU rule was published in the Federal Register on December 4, 2012 (77 Federal Register 233:71876-72068) and became effective January 3, 2013. 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. Surveys to historic sites and unsurveyed suitable habitat were conducted throughout the District to assist with project planning.

The BLM participated in a northern spotted owl study with the Service, Oregon State University and Forest Service in the Thompson Creek drainage of the Applegate Watershed. The objective of the study is to identify both direct and indirect effects on spotted owls from the ecological forestry treatments. This was the first year of a potential 3-year study and the initial data will serve as a baseline for future surveys and occupancy dynamics during and after treatments have occurred. Calling stations were placed 1,640 to 2,625 feet (500-800 meters) apart along logging roads and forest trails within randomly selected 1,235 acres (500 hectare) hexagonal sample units. Approximately 399 points were surveyed during the 2013 season. One nesting spotted owl pair was located at a historic site within the survey area. One other pair was located within the study area, but did not nest. Barred owls were also observed within the study area, including one pair confirmation.



**Northern Spotted Owl**

Photo by Zia Fukuda, Grants Pass Resource Area

## Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan

On June 30, 2011, the US Fish and Wildlife Service released the *Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl*. The Notice of Final Revised Recovery Plan Availability was published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2011 (76 FR 127:38575-38576) for the Northern Spotted Owl. The 2011 Recover 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. Within the administrative units of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and the Medford District BLM, an interagency, interdisciplinary team was created to develop a methodology for identifying Recovery Action 32/structurally complex forest for project level planning and NSO consultation needs in southwest Oregon. The most current methodology (version 1.3, January 2010) was used in 2013 to identify Recovery Action 32 stands for proposed projects within the Medford District.

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 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. The southwest Oregon methodology is in draft form and was released to the Medford District in 2013.

## Marbled Murrelet

Marbled murrelets are federally listed as threatened. No surveys were done in 2013 in marbled murrelet habitat for projects within the required survey zone. No murrelets have ever been located in the Medford District, despite significant survey efforts. 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 BLM continues its partnership with The Nature Conservancy to manage the Table Rocks and associated vernal pool habitat.

The Butte Falls Resource Area installed fencing, stepping stones, and a boardwalk on and along trails on top of Upper and Lower Table Rocks. Sensitive vernal pool habitat on the tops of both Table Rocks is in need of protection from off-trail hiking impacts. At Upper Table Rock the BLM installed 700 feet of low buck and pole fencing along the trail and partially around the first vernal pool. Stepping stones were placed along 400 feet of the wettest part of the trail around the same vernal pool to encourage hikers to stay on the existing trail. At Lower Table Rock, the BLM installed 100 feet of 4-foot-wide Trex®-like boardwalk on a section of trail that passes between two vernal pools that commonly flow together for part of the year. Signs were installed at the top of both trails and along the fence and boardwalk to educate people about the vernal pools and the importance of staying on the existing trails.

## Oregon Spotted Frog

The Oregon spotted frog, was proposed for listing by the Service as Threatened in 2013. Proposed critical habitat was also designated around the known spotted frog locations in the Federal Register critical habitat proposed designation (78 FR 168:53538-53579). There is one known Oregon spotted frog location on the Medford District, within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The site is generally monitored annually by the BLM or Southern Oregon University personnel, but was not monitored in fiscal year 2013.

## Special Habitats and Restoration

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

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

created 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.

### Gate Repair

A gate designed to protect a natural cave complex known as No Name Cave was repaired with Damaged Lands funding. This natural cave is highly sensitive to disturbance and harbors sensitive bat species, as well as a newly described spider species, *Trogloaptor marchingtonii*.

### Habitat Damage Prevention

BLM biologists, with assistance from the Medford District road crew, used boulders to block off off-highway vehicle access to the Buck Prairie Mardon skipper (*Polites mardon*) site. Off-highway vehicle use had been an ongoing and persistent threat to this site. This boulder project represented one of the last steps in implementing the Mardon Skipper Management Plan drafted by the Xerces Society for the 14 Mardon skipper locations on the Medford District.



**Boulder placement along the road**

Photo by Jeff Stephens,  
Ashland Resource Area

## Big Game and Furbearers

Big game and mammal habitat objectives were included in fuels treatment prescriptions that focused primarily on the Wildland-Urban Interface across much of the District.

### Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area

A portion of the Medford District lands are included in the Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area where Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 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.

**Wildlife habitat Enhancement Project**—Partnership with the Josephine County Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.

Fire suppression has resulted in over-dense forest stands and encroachment of shrubs and trees into historically more open meadow and shrub/grass plant communities. As a result, the wildlife habitat, and species diversity and richness have declined while fire hazards and fire severity in those communities have increased. The purpose of wildlife habitat restoration is to reduce tree encroachment, stimulate browse species, and improve access for wildlife. Treatments will restore meadows, shrub/grass, forests, particularly pine forests and oak woodlands to conditions closer to historic levels. Approximately 3 acres were completed using volunteer labor in the Cheney Slate Project Area on the Grants Pass Resource Area. This was the second year of this partnership with the Josephine County Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.

## Neotropical Migratory Birds

The Grants Pass Area conducted fall and spring population and avian productivity monitoring in partnership with Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) at one site. 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.

## 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 between the BLM and Forest Service 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 abandoned mine reclamation address a safety hazard to people that might fall into the old shafts and tunnels. Some of these abandoned mines have been inactive since the early 1900s. New estimates suggest we have 1,833 mining features across the District, but only 383 are open adits. The open adits also 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. Adits that may support bats use closures that allow bat passage while providing for human safety. The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program used a Forest Service Enterprise team to install bat friendly closures on 11 AML features across the Medford District. The AML program contracted bat survey work with Bat Conservation International (BCI) in fiscal year 2012 to do preclosure surveys. The BCI team analyzed each adit for bat habitat potential and recommended proper closure procedures based on bat observations and habitat status. Closure work started across the District in fiscal year 2012. Approximately 73 AML features were surveyed by the BCI team in fiscal year 2013.

## Aquatic Habitat and Species Management Watershed Council Cooperation

All three resource areas cooperated with the Upper Rogue Watershed Association, Middle Rogue, Williams Creek, Illinois Valley, Seven Basins, and Applegate Watershed Councils on fish habitat restoration projects.

## Fish Passage

### Grants Pass Resource Area

- cooperated with ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) screening program on a fish screen at White-Brown Ditch and
- cooperated with ODFW on passage issues at a water diversion on Beech-Platter Ditch on Althouse Creek.

### Ashland Resource Area

- replaced three partial barrier culverts with bottomless structures in Star Gulch on the Upper Applegate watershed and
- conducted planning on options to replace a passage culvert on Deer Creek which is has a complete passage blockage.

### Butte Falls Resource Area

- collaborated with ODFW planning the Gold Hill irrigation diversion and fish screen.

## Population Monitoring

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### Grants Pass Resource Area biologists monitored

- fall chinook spawning in the Recreation Section of the Wild and Scenic Rogue River, as required for the Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan, and
- conducted coho spawning surveys on streams with previously replaced culverts, and fish habitat projects.

### Ashland Resource Area biologists monitored

- coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout spawning from late fall through middle spring on two Applegate River tributaries;
- the effectiveness of recent passage and instream projects on Star Gulch and Yale, Fooths, Keeler, and Ninemile Creeks; and
- collaborated with private citizens to design a sucker tagging study with the capture of 500 Jenny Creek suckers and 100 Redband trout.

### Butte Falls Resource Area biologists, with the assistance of ODFW, monitored

- pre- and post-project habitat surveys and snorkel surveys for the work on West Fork Evans Creek, Rock Creek, and Cold Creek.

## Instream and Riparian Projects

The Butte Falls Resource Area used Title II funding to place boulders at 12 dispersed campsites to prevent vehicles from driving in West Fork Evans Creek. Butte Falls also worked with a contractor to build 12 large wood jams along 1 mile of West Evans Creek to improve fish habitat.

The Ashland Resource Area implemented riparian and upland road obliterations in the Soda Mountain Wilderness Area, which permanently removed 3.8 miles of road in the Klamath–Iron Gate Watershed and included three perennial stream crossings on Baldy Creek. These projects included planting with appropriate riparian vegetation. Ashland Resource Area also completed a project to disconnect a gullied ditch on a riparian road which was inputting turbid water and road sediments into fish habitat on Yale Creek. The project was completed by outsloping the road approach, constructing a rolling dip, and rocking the road surface.

The Grants Pass Resource Area conducted riparian thinning to enhance tree growth for fish habitat along Crooks Creek and monitored the Draper Road decommissioning project.

## Endangered and Threatened Species (ESA)

ESA assessments were conducted for more than 46 NEPA documents, including timber sales, mining plans of operation, and Wild and Scenic River projects.

## NEPA Planning

Biologists analyzed impacts from

- major timber sale projects, including Trail Creek, Lower Graves Integrated Vegetation Management, East West Junction, Williams Integrated Vegetation Management, Jumping Bean, Howard, and Pilot Thompson;
- more than a dozen 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, Starveout Creek, and French Flat Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Ashland Resource Area additionally performed analyses on a Resource Area Watershed Restoration plan and range lease renewals. District-wide analysis was performed for stream and riparian fish habitat restoration projects.

## Public Outreach

Grants Pass Resource Area continues the educational fish tank display in the lobby as a demonstration of salmon life history. 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 biologist led a macroinvertebrate field day on Jenny Creek with students from Lincoln School.

# Native Plant Program

The Medford District's native plant program produces high quality native plant seeds that are used for rehabilitation and restoration projects on BLM, State, and private lands throughout southwest Oregon. In 2013, native grass seeds of local and regional genotypes were selected from the Medford District inventory for emergency slope stabilization and fire line and staging area revegetation in the Big Windy and Douglas wildfire complexes. The program also coordinated the purchase and delivery of nearly 50 tons of straw for stabilization and revegetation projects in these burned areas. In 2014 and subsequent years, additional native grass and forb seed from the inventory will be planted to ensure successful rehabilitation of sites severely burned in these fires.

Other notable program accomplishments in 2013 included the following:

- Completed 96 wildland seed collections from 83 species, including 5 collections from Bureau Sensitive species, with help from 2 Chicago Botanical Garden interns.
- Contracted 23 acres of native seed production.
- Produced approximately 7,000 pounds of native seeds.
- Facilitated cleaning of seed accessions and testing of seed lots to ensure quality and purity.
- Managed seed increase fields of approximately 80 species and 91 different accessions.
- Managed a seed inventory of over 42,000 pounds and 590 different germplasms.
- Seeded approximately 980 acres with 7,500 pounds of native seed.
- Purchased 85 tons of certified weed-free straw for use in rehabilitation and restoration projects.



# Weed Management

The Medford District uses a variety of approaches to reduce the impacts of noxious weeds and other nonnative plants on natural communities and commercial forests: (1) predisturbance project surveys for weeds, (2) mapping and characterizing weed infestations, (3) implementing project

design features to reduce the spread of weeds, (4) control treatments, (5) monitoring, and (6) education and outreach with local communities. 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 U.S. Forest Service, among others.

In 2013, Medford District botanists and contractors surveyed for noxious weeds on over 39,000 acres of proposed project areas and documented more than 800 noxious weed sites. Meadow knapweed, Scotch broom, bull thistle, Himalayan blackberry, and yellow star-thistle were the most frequently discovered weed species. Of the newly discovered infestations, none contained new noxious weed species not previously known to exist on the Medford District.

In 2013, Medford District staff, contractors, and partners treated approximately 6,000 gross acres of noxious weeds, primarily by spot-spraying with approved herbicides (99%) and pulling by hand (<1%). In order to evaluate the effectiveness of weed treatments, Medford District staff conducted post-treatment monitoring on over 10% of treated acres in 2013. 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 retreated or scheduled for additional future treatment and monitoring.

Preventing the spread of weeds was an important focus for Medford District staff who acted as Resource Advisors during the Big Windy and Douglas wildfire incidents in summer 2013. Resource Advisors briefed incoming crews on weed issues, quarantined weed infestations, and encouraged the use of vehicle wash stations. District staff took similar proactive steps to reduce the chances of spreading the introduced fungal pathogen, *Phytophthora lateralis*, into uninfected watersheds that support Port Orford cedar, which is highly susceptible to the root disease caused by the pathogen.

Another notable accomplishment in 2013 was the completion of fieldwork to refine a predictive habitat model for the noxious weed yellow tuft. Yellow tuft has escaped from experimental cultivation in the Illinois Valley and now threatens the many rare species and unique natural communities that occur there on serpentine soils. In summer 2013, the Oregon Department of Agriculture collected vegetation data and soil samples in order to more accurately identify soil types that may have serpentine influence, even if they are not described as being derived from serpentine geology. These data will allow managers to more accurately predict where yellow tuft could invade, thereby focusing management efforts.

## Special Status Plants and Fungi

In compliance with BLM Manual 6840 (Special Status Species Management), Medford District coordinates and implements a program for special status plants and fungi that includes surveys, monitoring, consultation, and conservation actions. In 2013, Medford District botanists and contractors surveyed nearly 40,000 acres 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 allotment renewals. Surveyors located approximately 500 new special status species sites (some species have status in more than one

category): nine federally listed Gentner's fritillary sites, 41 Bureau Sensitive sites, 83 Bureau Strategic sites, and 443 Survey and Manage sites.

## Federally Listed Plants

In 2013, some notable conservation projects continued to support the recovery of the federally listed plant species Gentner's fritillary and Cook's desert parsley.

### Gentner's fritillary (*Fritillaria gentneri*)—Endangered

- **Annual population monitoring:** The Medford District monitored 57 Gentner's fritillary sites, all of which have been monitored annually since 2008, including some sites that have been monitored annually since 1998. In 2012, a mean of 32.3 flowering plants per site, up from 27.0 plants in 2011, continued a 6-year upward trend. However, the mean was strongly influenced by high flower counts at a few sites, while flowering was actually below average for many sites. As in previous years, a majority of sites (72%) had fewer than 10 flowering plants, including 23 sites with zero flowering plants.
- **Bulb collection and outplanting:** In collaboration with Oregon Department of Agriculture, BLM continued to assist with recovery actions for Gentner's fritillary in 2013. The 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. To date, over 35,000 bulbs have been planted at 22 sites. Survivorship of transplants has been variable across outplanting sites, with larger bulbs more likely to survive than small bulbs. Many transplants from previous years remain vigorous in 2013, suggesting that this method may be an effective way to increase population size and accelerate recovery.

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

- **Reintroduction study and monitoring:** Working with the Institute for Applied Ecology, the Medford District continued 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. Monitoring results suggest that both methods can be used to establish new plants and that a combination of methods may be desirable. The report documenting 2013 accomplishments is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.
- **Population monitoring in Illinois Valley:** The Institute for Applied Ecology, with assistance from the Medford District, continued to monitor three occurrences of Cook's desert parsley in the Illinois Valley in 2013. Deteriorating habitat conditions from encroaching shrubs and conifers could be adversely affecting some occurrences. The BLM is currently planning habitat improvement projects. The report documenting the 2013 monitoring results is available at <http://www.appliedeco.org/reports>.

## Special Management Areas

The Medford District currently manages 26 designated ACECs (Area of Critical Environmental Concern), including 12 RNAs (Research Natural Area). In 2013, an additional nine sites were

evaluated and placed in interim ACEC status, pending a decision on formal designation in the Medford District Resource Management Plan, which could occur under the RMP Revision currently in process.

In cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Interagency Natural Areas Network, the Medford District is conducting long-term vegetation monitoring of RNAs following a standard protocol for natural areas throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2013, monitoring plots were installed and sampled at Grayback Glades RNA, Holton Creek RNA, Lost Lake RNA, and Old Baldy RNA. Guidebooks to these sites are also under development.

Medford District staff and partners also monitored 10 other ACECs in 2013 for a variety of reasons, including assessing the status of rare plant and weeds populations; assessing the impacts of recreation and off-highway-vehicle trespass; and investigating reports of other illegal activity.

## Cultural Resources

### Site Monitoring

**Wild and Scenic Rogue River**—Work in the Rogue River corridor continued this year with the monitoring of 7 sites and approximately 10 acres of survey. Tribes have been involved with projects in the corridor and have taken an active role in monitoring sites.

**Box O Ranch**—Several prehistoric sites and a couple historic structures were monitored in the Box O Ranch Complex. Grand Ronde Tribal members have indicated that the prehistoric sites in the area are of significance to the tribe.



Rogue River near Battle Bar

### Field Schools

The Battle of Hungry Hill field school was conducted in July in the Grave Creek Hills and the final key battle locale was discovered on the last day of the field school. This locale is known as Bloody Springs; the discovery means all three primary battle site locations have been identified. This project greatly strengthened working relations with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community, Confederated Tribes of



Corrals at Box "O" Ranch



Grave Creek Hills after wildfire

the Siletz, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, as well as the State Historic Preservation Office. The Dad's Creek Fire burned over portions of the battlefield, creating a new opportunity to continue metal-detecting surveys due to the removal of dense brush

The Waldo and Chinese Historic Cemeteries field school was conducted in fall 2012. The work was partially funded under a partnership with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The 37th Annual State of Jefferson Meeting—several papers pertaining to cultural resources managed by the Medford District were presented at the meeting. Topics included mining and Abandoned Mine Lands work, the Waldo Cemetery, and the Marial site.

## Resources and People (RAP) Camp 2013

In fiscal year 2013, BLM archaeologist Lisa Rice participated in the annual RAP Camp. Lisa discussed archaeological work with high school students and provided them with a “hands on” opportunity to learn.



BLM archaeologist Lisa Rice and students at RAP Camp

## Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory

In 2013, 4 of the 17 reports for mining districts were written and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office with concurrence on all of the National Register of Historic Places recommendations made by the Abandoned Mine Lands crew. The State Historic Preservation Office reviewer had high praise for the detail and quality of the reports. The crew is busy working on new reports that will be submitted as they are completed.

## Zane Grey Cabin

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for Zane Grey Cabin has been completed and reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office. The nomination is now ready



AML Crew Recording “Dick” Mine

to be sent to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places who decides on the eligibility of historic properties for inclusion on the National Register. The Big Windy fire burned close to the site, so the cabin and other outbuildings were wrapped with fire-resistant material to protect them from falling cinders and ash.

## Work with Tribes

**Table Rocks**—Archaeologists participated in a survey conducted by the Grand Ronde tribe to discover the place where the “Treaty with the Rogue River, 1853” was signed. Based on historical accounts and interviews with living local community members, a potential site was located.

The BLM took two field trips to the Table Rocks with members of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to discuss potential vegetation projects that could be completed in cooperation with the tribes. An Interagency Agreement with the Grand Ronde has been started that would provide funding opportunities to complete such work.

**Rogue River Ranch**—The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Tribal Archaeologist monitored work at the ranch, and had a tour of the nearby Marial site. She also completed monitoring work at the Rand National Historic Site.

**Interpretive and Printed Materials**—A recreation brochure for the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail discusses Native American use of the area as well as the construction and use of the ditch. It highlights the importance of protecting and preserving cultural resources. The BLM is designing two interpretive panels for the trail that will also provide brief descriptions of the same topics. The panels will be installed at the trailhead once completed.



Zane Grey Cabin “wrapped” for protection from fire



Lower Table Rock

## Fiscal Year 2013 Cultural Resources Program Accomplishments

- Worked with the Oregon BLM’s Data Steward to scan all site records and cultural resource reports to incorporate into the Oregon Historical Information Management data base
- Solicited tribal input on various undertakings and planning efforts 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 and kept an updated list of interested tribes and tribal officials

- Strengthened tribal relationships through consistent communication on projects, the RMP, and monitoring opportunities. Conducted a number of staff-to-staff meetings with tribal partners to discuss cultural resources
- Completed Archaeological Resource Protection Act consultation with Tribes for two field schools
- Completed surveys in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Provided Cultural Resource Management support to the District's Abandoned Mine Land Inventory effort
- Communicated with individual Resource Area staff about project treatments that could affect cultural resources
- Completed cultural resource evaluations in advance of project proposals
- Consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office for proposed project undertakings and site evaluations
- Made progress to evaluate more sites for National Register of Historic Places eligibility; over 100 sites were evaluated as a result of Abandoned Mine Lands work
- Submitted four Abandoned Mine Lands reports to the State Historic Preservation Office and received concurrence on all National Register of Historic Places determinations
- Conducted inventories for projects on more than 1,000 acres of previously unsurveyed land.
- Made progress to compile baseline cultural resource information for the Wild and Scenic Rogue River corridor
- Improved data management to more easily consolidate information across the District and track information more consistently
- Public outreach and education goals were addressed by supporting Southern Oregon University's curation facility and field schools; providing "shadowing" learning experiences for young adults; and conducting 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 Southern Oregon University—one to find the location of the 1855 Battle of Hungry Hill and the second to survey a 70-acre parcel of BLM land located along the Rogue River where one prehistoric site had been heavily looted

## 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.

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 PILT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) and O&C Payments. Payments of each type were made in fiscal year 2013 as directed in current legislation. The specific amounts paid to the counties under the PILT revenue-sharing program in fiscal year 2013 are displayed in Table 4.

### 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
- \$15.6 million Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Oregon and Washington in FY 2013 (Table 4)
- \$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

**Table 4. Total Payments in Lieu of Taxes and Acres by County for Fiscal Year 2013**

| County            | Total Acres       | BLM Acres         | Payment             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Baker County      | 1,020,851         | 361,073           | \$651,070           |
| Benton County     | 73,460            | 58,064            | 94,905              |
| Clackamas County  | 619,770           | 76,306            | 404,022             |
| Clatsop County    | 1,504             | 39                | 12,416              |
| Columbia County   | 10,961            | 10,842            | 26,397              |
| Coos County       | 249,151           | 162,995           | 378,821             |
| Crook County      | 939,136           | 508,677           | 311,645             |
| Curry County      | 628,527           | 67,394            | 208,571             |
| Deschutes County  | 1,431,259         | 484,874           | 1,753,135           |
| Douglas County    | 1,676,105         | 654,477           | 556,203             |
| Gilliam County    | 34,616            | 56,762            | 74,690              |
| Grant County      | 1,752,210         | 173,926           | 581,458             |
| Harney County     | 4,461,075         | 3,973,227         | 1,001,367           |
| Hood River County | 205,905           | 367               | 68,328              |
| Jackson County    | 897,263           | 456,231           | 765,726             |
| Jefferson County  | 297,088           | 43,040            | 325,266             |
| Josephine County  | 701,953           | 299,742           | 580,715             |
| Klamath County    | 2,216,039         | 241,720           | 735,376             |
| Lake County       | 3,696,037         | 2,600,948         | 1,062,047           |
| Lane County       | 1,744,454         | 288,235           | 578,883             |
| Lincoln County    | 209,954           | 20,175            | 69,672              |
| Linn County       | 561,806           | 87,084            | 186,431             |
| Malheur County    | 4,299,166         | 4,599,249         | 2,297,293           |
| Marion County     | 228,566           | 21,015            | 75,848              |
| Morrow County     | 149,695           | 4,026             | 129,957             |
| Multnomah County  | 80,345            | 4,130             | 26,662              |
| Polk County       | 42,087            | 40,191            | 97,455              |
| Sherman County    | 53,672            | 55,299            | 126,102             |
| Tillamook County  | 131,255           | 48,468            | 43,556              |
| Umatilla County   | 419,433           | 23,172            | 922,681             |
| Union County      | 624,349           | 6,404             | 815,239             |
| Wallowa County    | 1,174,891         | 17,037            | 389,879             |
| Wasco County      | 221,700           | 82,055            | 73,569              |
| Washington County | 13,984            | 11,527            | 33,675              |
| Wheeler County    | 301,927           | 140,209           | 100,192             |
| Yamhill County    | 58,793            | 32,590            | 19,510              |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>31,228,762</b> | <b>15,711,570</b> | <b>\$15,578,762</b> |

[http://www.doi.gov/pilt/county-payments.cfm?term=county&state\\_code=OR&fiscal\\_yr=2013](http://www.doi.gov/pilt/county-payments.cfm?term=county&state_code=OR&fiscal_yr=2013)

multiple variables, including acres of Federal land within an eligible county, a county's share of the counties' average of the three highest receipt and safety net payments during fiscal years 1986 through 1999, and an income adjustment based on the per capita personal income for each county. The actual payment for fiscal year 2013 also varies depending on the number of counties nationally that elect to receive a share of the State and/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, public schools and roads construction, 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.

## Payments to Counties

Payments are currently made to counties under the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* (Public Law 106-393). 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 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.

Payments under the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* authorized for the fiscal year are usually paid the following fiscal year. As publication of this Annual Program Summary often occurs prior to finalization of payments, the numbers below reflect payments from fiscal year 12 that were paid in fiscal year 13. Payments authorized for fiscal year 13 that are paid in fiscal year 14 will be reported in subsequent Annual Program Summary reports.

Fiscal year 2013 is the thirteenth year payments were made to western Oregon counties under the *Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000*. 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 January 3, 2013, Congress passed a one-year reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act as part of the Helium Stewardship Act, Public Law 113-40

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 prepare for a sequestration, the Department of the 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 payments to 18 counties in western Oregon eligible under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act extension. The amount paid to the Oregon & California (O&C) counties, including Coos Bay Wagon Road funds paid to Coos and Douglas counties, was \$36 million (Table 5). Additional payments were made on May 28, 2013 (Table 6) bringing the total up to \$38 million.

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.

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.

**Table 5. Fiscal Year 2013 Secure Rural Schools Act Payments to Counties (February 5, 2013)**

| County       | Oregon & California Land Grant and<br>Coos Bay Wagon Road Funds |   |                                      |                         | Title II Funding by District RAC |                  |                  |                    |                  |
|--------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
|              | Payments to<br>Counties<br>Title I                              | Retained by<br>BLM for Projects<br>Title II | Payments to<br>Counties<br>Title III | O & C and<br>CBWR Total | Salem                            | Eugene           | Roseburg         | Medford            | Coos Bay         |
| Benton       | 621,515   | 58,496                                      | 51,184                               | 731,194                 | 58,496                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Clackamas    | 852,596   | 80,244                                      | 70,214                               | 1,003,055               | 80,244                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Columbia     | 574,442   | 54,065                                      | 47,307                               | 675,814                 | 54,065                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Coos         | 1,892,927   | 334,046                                     | 0                                    | 2,226,974               | 0                                | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 334,046          |
| Curry        | 1,162,829   | 109,443                                     | 95,762                               | 1,368,034               | 0                                | 0                | 0                | 54,721             | 54,721           |
| Douglas      | 8,643,283   | 813,486                                     | 711,800                              | 10,168,569              | 0                                | 24,405           | 520,630          | 105,753            | 162,697          |
| Jackson      | 4,398,143   | 776,143                                     | 0                                    | 5,174,286               | 0                                | 0                | 7,839            | 768,304            | 0                |
| Josephine    | 4,443,760   | 418,236                                     | 365,957                              | 5,227,953               | 0                                | 0                | 0                | 418,236            | 0                |
| Klamath      | 865,454   | 152,727                                     | 0.00                                 | 1,018,182               | 0                                | 0                | 0                | 152,727            | 0                |
| Lane         | 4,229,794   | 398,098                                     | 348,336                              | 4,976,229               | 0                                | 398,098          | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Lincoln      | 103,143   | 18,202                                      | 0                                    | 121,345                 | 18,202                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Linn         | 997,470   | 93,880                                      | 82,145                               | 1,173,494               | 65,716                           | 28,164           | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Marion       | 417,654   | 39,309                                      | 34,395                               | 491,358                 | 39,309                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Multnomah    | 200,641   | 18,884                                      | 16,523                               | 236,048                 | 18,884                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Polk         | 723,901   | 68,132                                      | 59,615                               | 851,648                 | 68,132                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Tillamook    | 177,444   | 31,314                                      | 0                                    | 208,758                 | 31,314                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Washington   | 114,585   | 20,221                                      | 0                                    | 134,806                 | 20,221                           | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| Yamhill      | 219,895   | 0   | 38,805                               | 258,701                 | 0                                | 0                | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| <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> |

Table 6. Fiscal Year 2013 Secure Rural Schools Act Payments to Counties (May 28, 2013)

| County        | County Title I     | Election Title II | to County Title III | O&C /CBWR Grand Total | CBWR Title I    | CBWR Title II  | CBWR Title III | CBWR Grand Total |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Benton        | 33,838             | 3,185             | \$2,787             | 39,809                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Clackamas     | 46,419             | 4,369             | 3,823               | 54,611                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Columbia      | 31,275             | 2,944             | 2,576               | 36,794                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Coos          | 90,943             | 16,049            | 0                   | 106,991               | 12,117          | 2,138          | 0              | 14,255           |
| Curry         | 63,310             | \$5,959           | 5,214               | 74,485                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Douglas       | 468,388            | 44,084            | 38,573              | 551,045               | 2,190           | 206            | 180            | 2,577            |
| Jackson       | 239,454            | 42,257            | 0                   | 281,711               | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Josephine     | 241,938            | 22,771            | 19,924              | 284,633               | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Klamath       | 47,119             | 8,315             | 0                   | 55,434                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Lane          | 230,289            | 21,674            | 18,965              | 270,928               | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Lincoln       | 5,616              | 991               | 0                   | 6,607                 | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Linn          | 54,307             | 5,111             | 4,472               | 63,890                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Marion        | 22,739             | 2,140             | 1,873               | 26,752                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Multnomah     | 10,924             | 1,028             | 900                 | 12,852                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Polk          | 39,412             | 3,709             | 3,246               | 46,368                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Tillamook     | 9,661              | 1,705             | 0                   | 11,366                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Washington    | 6,239              | 1,101             | 0                   | 7,339                 | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| Yamhill       | 11,972             | 0                 | 2,113               | 14,085                | 0               | 0              | 0              | 0                |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>\$1,653,842</b> | <b>\$187,390</b>  | <b>\$104,464</b>    | <b>\$1,945,697</b>    | <b>\$14,307</b> | <b>\$2,344</b> | <b>\$180</b>   | <b>\$16,832</b>  |

# 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.

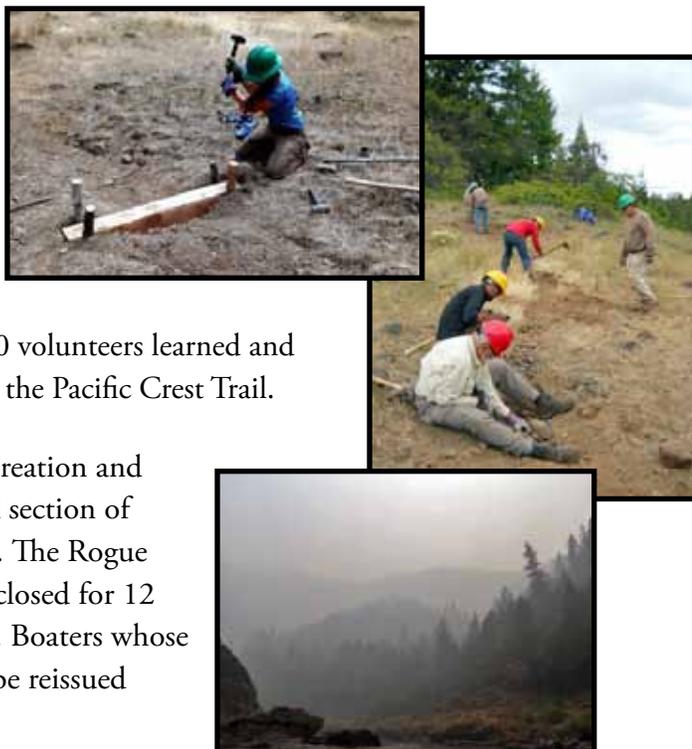
## Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights



This year, several National Public Lands Day events were held across the District. Elementary school students planted native vegetation at Cathedral Hills Park trailhead, a popular trail system in the urban growth boundary of the city of Grants Pass, and then enjoyed a guided nature hike. Volunteers completed trail maintenance along the Pacific Crest Trail. Volunteers also worked in conjunction with the Upper Rogue Watershed Council to clean up the Rogue River from Lost Creek Dam to just upstream of Gold Hill. A combined National Public Lands Day and Oregon Archaeology Celebration was held at Upper Table Rock with volunteers removing almost 1 mile of wire fencing on property the BLM acquired from The Nature Conservancy. Following the work project, a BLM archaeologist related the history of Camp White, a WWII training facility located on the property in the 1940s. Partners in the project included The Nature Conservancy, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Seven Basins Watershed Council, and Camp White Museum.

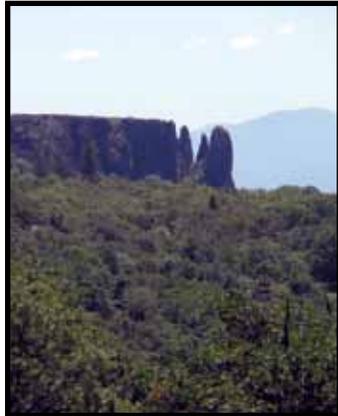
In June, the Big Bend Trail Skills College was held within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This event is led by the Pacific Crest Trail Association in partnership with BLM. Approximately 40 volunteers learned and practiced new trail maintenance skills along the Pacific Crest Trail.

This year, several wildfires impacted recreation and access, especially for those floating the wild section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. The Rogue River from Grave Creek to Foster Bar was closed for 12 days in August, due to wildfires in the area. Boaters whose permits were cancelled due to the fire will be reissued permits in 2014.



The BLM reopened the Hidden Creek Interpretive Trail, located west of Ashland near Anderson Creek. The trail was reconstructed and a bridge was replaced. An interpretive brochure is being prepared.

The BLM continues its valuable partnership with The Job Council, working on projects in Josephine and Jackson counties. This year, among many projects, crews completed the Bolt Mountain Trail, a 3.2-mile trail just south of Grants Pass.



The BLM completed the Table Rocks Management Plan in March 2013 with input from BLM partners, The Nature Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. The Management Plan presents a history of the Table Rocks; describes the current condition of their natural, cultural, and recreational resources; and recommends actions to be taken that will further protect and enhance those resources.



This year, Josephine County Parks, in partnership with the BLM, took the lead on the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Rogue River Cleanup. Approximately 200 people participated. BLM provided technical expertise, equipment, litter patrol, and trash pickup at boat ramps and along the roads. Leave No Trace principles were shared with volunteers. Commercial and private boats were used to pick up 150 tires and other trash. A total of 3 tons of trash was collected!



## 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. A hang-gliding site is maintained at Woodrat Mountain. A winter tubing hill and a system of cross country ski and snowmobile trails are managed 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 eight original rivers designated in the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968*, is jointly managed by the Medford District BLM 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 *Soda Mountain Wilderness Final Stewardship Plan*, approved in April 2012, 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. Over 100 miles of other 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 and Northwest Youth Corps, as well as volunteer groups.



## Back Country Byways

For users who enjoy driving for pleasure, the District provides three Back Country Byways, Galice-Hellgate, Grave Creek-Marial, and Cow Creek. For bicyclists, the 74-mile Glendale to Powers Bicycle Route is available.

## Winter Recreation

Winter recreation on the Medford District continues to increase. The Table Mountain Winter Play Area is designed for snow tubing. Buck Prairie Trailheads provide access to over 20 miles of cross-country ski trails. The BLM also provides over 60 miles of snowmobile trails.

## Environmental Education

The BLM's Environmental Education program provides 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 3,500 school children. Environmental education opportunities were also provided for 3,500 children and adults during the summer and fall months at McGregor Visitor Center, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer facility operated by the BLM. The Cascade Siskiyou National Monument's environmental education programs include the "Fall in the Field" program, as well as work with the Pinehurst School to provide environmental education to over 1,000 students. This year, a "Bigfoot" mascot shared Leave No Trace principles at the Annual Rogue River Cleanup, Cathedral Hills National Public Lands Day, Deer Creek Education Program, and Sportsman's Show.



## Dispersed Use

Dispersed use throughout the District includes hunting, fishing, camping, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hang gliding, caving, 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 equipment, new unanticipated recreation activities emerge.

## Special Recreation Permits

The 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, equestrian, bicycle, off-highway, and running events; hunting guide; and automobile road races.

Some of the events that were permitted in fiscal year 2013 included the 75-mile Glendale to Powers Tour de Fronds bicycle ride, Enchanted Forest Wine Run, Sterling Mine Ditch Run, Poker Runs, Hillclimbs, Salmon Derby, Rogue River Hydroplane Races, Pine to Palm 100-Mile Endurance Run, Limestone Challenge 50-mile Equestrian Endurance Ride, and Wild Rogue Relay, a 200-mile relay race from Ashland to Gold Beach.



# 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 were assigned specific land use allocations as part of the strategy for ecosystem management. Lands were 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, 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, 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 allowable sale quantity for several years. In fiscal year 2013, Medford was committed to offering 24 MMBF.

The Medford District held 9 public timber sale auctions in fiscal year 2013, offering a total volume of 23.6 MMBF. Additional volume from negotiated sales, stewardship contracts, and modifications to ongoing sales brought the total offered volume up to 25 MMBF (Table 7). Table data are for all advertised “Offered” timber sales.

**Table 7. Timber Harvest Volume Offered for Sale on the Medford District by Land Use Allocation**

| Land Use Allocation                             | Offered Volume (MMBF)<br>Fiscal Year 2013 | Total Volume (MMBF)<br>2005 to 2014 |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Allowable Sale Quantity Lands</b>            |   |                                     |
| Adaptive Management Area                        | 3.7                                       | 24.6                                |
| Matrix (Northern GFMA)                          | 10.5                                      | 118.6                               |
| Matrix (Southern GFMA)                          | 8.8                                       | 44.8                                |
| Matrix (Connectivity/Diversity Block)           | 0   | 7.3                                 |
| Miscellaneous*                                  | 1.5                                       | 20.9                                |
| <b>Total from Allowable Sale Quantity Lands</b> | <b>24.5</b>                               | <b>216.3</b>                        |
| Late-Successional Reserve/AMR                   | 0.001                                     | 13.0                                |
| Riparian Reserve                                | 0.5                                       | 1.1                                 |
| Hardwood  | 0   | 0.005                               |
| <b>Total District Volume</b>                    | <b>25.0</b>                               | <b>230.4</b>                        |
| District Target Volume                          | 57.1                                      | 285.5                               |

\*Includes volume from special forest products sold as saw timber, and stewardship contract saw logs.

# Special Forest Products

In fiscal year 2013, 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 8).

**Table 8. Special Forest Products Sold in Fiscal Year 2013**

| Product              | Quantity          | Value    |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Boughs—Coniferous    | 169,200 pounds    | \$5,317  |
| Burls—Miscellaneous  | 1,800 pounds      | \$192    |
| Christmas Trees      | 1,141 permits     | \$5,705  |
| Floral and Greenery  | 190,700 pounds    | \$5,696  |
| Mushrooms—Fungi      | 1,232 pounds      | \$1,345  |
| Seeds and Seed Cones | 17 bushels        | \$176    |
| Whip Stock           | 1,670 cubic feet  | \$215    |
| Fuel Wood            | 1,212 Green Tons  | \$7,654  |
| Small Poles          | 8,014 linear feet | \$1,787  |
| Saw Timber           | 6,749 board feet  | \$10,689 |
| Arrow Stock          | 163 cubic feet    | \$40     |
| Fence Stays          | 82 cubic feet     | \$10     |
| Large Poles          | 5,558 cubic feet  | \$1,384  |
| Marginal Logs        | 1 cubic feet      | \$275    |
| Pulp Wood            | 1,089 cubic feet  | \$605    |

## Energy and Minerals

### Energy

The Federal energy resources managed nationally by the BLM include nonrenewable resources such as oil and gas, helium, and coal, and renewable energy sources, such as geothermal, wind, solar, and biomass. The Medford District has few energy resources available and does not have any current projects for these resources.

### Mineral Materials

The General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, opened the public lands of the United States to mineral acquisition by the location of mining claims. Mining claims are for locatable minerals, which include precious metals (e.g., gold, silver, nickel, mercury, uranium), nonmetallic minerals (e.g., fluorspar, gemstones), and uncommon variety minerals (e.g., certain limestone, silica). A mining claim gives the owner a possessory interest in the minerals and the claimant is entitled to use as much of the surface of the land as is reasonably incident to mining activities. There are 840 mining claims on the District; a mining claim is from 20 to 160 acres in size.

The Minerals Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 601), provides the BLM authority to dispose of sand, gravel, and other salable mineral materials. The development of salable minerals is necessary to meet public, private, and governmental demands and infrastructure needs. The BLM has discretion over the development and use of aggregate sources. In 2013, the BLM used salable minerals for road repair and surfacing, rip rap for fish weir projects, and culvert replacement. Private use included 37 permits for the hand collection of decorative rock and one private lease. Jackson County uses rock from one quarry on BLM lands. No quarries were opened or closed in fiscal year 2013.

Leasable minerals include oil, gas, geothermal, and coal. The Medford District manages no leasable minerals.

BLM geologists are responsible for a wide variety of activities within the minerals program. They administer the surface management and use and occupancy of mining claims. They write validity reports and mineral potential reports. In fiscal year 2013, geologists completed an occupancy trespass case, continued work on one pending patent, and processed mining notices. The minerals team also completed 130 inspections of mining claims and wrote 5 mineral potential reports. The geologists assisted the Abandoned Mine Lands remediation crew, gave presentations on surface management of mining claims, and answered more than 600 public inquiries about mining.

## Abandoned Mine Lands

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program supports the BLM's core programs by mitigating physical safety risks at AML sites or on affected 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 nine 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 are often used at AML sites and the

drivers are exposed to risks of open shafts and potential exposure to contaminated soils, water, and air. Other recreation activities can place people in proximity to AML sites. Recreation 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
- Reporting program accomplishments
- Conducting education and outreach activities

A **site** is a geographic area representing a grouping of adits, shafts, mills, 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 (e.g., weather or landslide) or man-made causes (e.g., contractor performance or vandalism).

**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 2013 Accomplishments

- 22 new sites or features identified at previously recorded sites
- 95 features monitored
- 17 features remediated
- Completed quality assurance on data base and updated national Abandoned Mine Site Cleanup Module data base.
- Used newly acquired LiDAR technology to more efficiently locate and inventory hazards.
- Completed public outreach through presentations to local community organizations and participating in the youth Resources and People camp.
- Responded to public and media inquiries including response to Freedom of Information Act requests.

The AML program had several favorable front page articles in the local newspaper and was featured several times on the local news in fiscal year 2013.

## Support Activities

The AML program supports the Medford District Cultural program through preparation of cultural site reports for the AML sites inventoried in fiscal year 2009. The program also supports

the Minerals Program by conducting Claims Inspections, and participating in tribal consultation activities with the cultural resources program. The program provides support to fire by identifying hazards associated with mine features for fire staff; this was particularly important during the active 2013 fire suppression season and post-fire recovery. The program also participates in the Youth Initiative providing opportunities for engaging, educating, and employing youth. We assist planners with cultural, wildlife, hazardous materials, and other NEPA elements on AML sites within timber sale areas.

## Almeda Mine

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

## Zoned Activities

- Provided support during the active fiscal year 2013 fire suppression season by identifying hazards associated with mine features for fire staff in the Roseburg District BLM.
- Supported Project Management of Formosa Mine including award of contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for contracting support and completion of a pump test on the Formosa 1 Adit

## Land Tenure Adjustments

In fiscal year 2013, the BLM purchased 2,874 acres of privately held lands within the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Acquisition of these parcels furthers efforts to consolidate Federal ownership of lands within the monument boundary and facilitates seamless management of the monuments unique resources.

## Access and Rights-of-Way

Public lands, including O&C lands, form a myriad of ownership patterns within the Medford District. The District manages the requests from individuals and industry to access the Federal estate for private-residential uses, communication sites, energy transportation, timber production, management, and development, to name a few. To facilitate these requests, the access and right-of-way program operates through two distinct processes: the Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA) for non-timber-related actions, and the Reciprocal right-of-way process for timber management.

FLPMA actions were received, processed and issued for a variety of uses, including additions to communication sites, water pipelines, residential access, utility lines, and leases.

Timber management is a primary activity on adjacent private lands and to facilitate access, the BLM works under its reciprocal right-of-way agreements. There are 103 entities operating

within these agreements, which provides the basis for the use, maintenance, repair, replacement and construction of roads. Each of the agreements is subject to regulations in effect at the time the agreement was signed. Any modification to the agreements where new lands are added, subjects those new lands to current regulatory restraints. In 2013, a major corporate landholder reorganized into five new companies. Each company received a portion of the parent company lands, but retained all rights of the reciprocal agreement by assignment. The increased price of timber in 2013 also increased requests for use of roads to harvest timber through reciprocal rights-of-way as well as through unilateral permits issued to timber owners that do not enjoy the rights provided in the reciprocal agreements.

## Transportation and Roads

During fiscal year 2013, the District continued developing Transportation Management Objectives for all roads controlled by the Bureau. The Medford District controls about 4,700 miles of road. 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 flood events
- Other efforts reduced overall road miles by closing or eliminating roads.

The District decommissioned 2 miles of road, closed 3 miles of road with barricades or a gate, and constructed no new road. Since the ROD/RMP was signed in 1995, approximately 450 miles of roads have been closed and 202 miles have been decommissioned.

## Wildfire and Fuels Management

### Wildfire

The 2013 fire season began May 3 and ended September 23, lasting 114 days. The historical fire reports from 1967 show the average fire season is 141 days. Wildland fire potential indicators predicted above normal activity for large fires throughout the Pacific Northwest due to the effects of the La Niña weather pattern. A fire and fuels advisory confirmed the conditions were much drier earlier than normal. Three episodic rain events moderated what most expected to be one of the most devastating fire seasons in southwest Oregon in decades.

In 2013, southwest Oregon experienced 171% of normal fires with 348 recorded; 43,078 acres burned, which was 3,762% above historic averages. Southwest Oregon experienced a record year for the number of lightning days, fires caused by lightning, and down strikes. Human-caused fires were

on the decline in the past three years; however, 222 fires were recorded in 2013, a 145% increase. There was large fire potential with hot weather and record-setting dry fuels across Oregon. Locally, we had fuels exceed a previous record for dryness set in 2002 and set new daily Energy Release Component records late in the season. The Energy Release Component is a National Fire Danger Rating System index related to how hot a fire could burn. It is the best fire danger component for indicating the effects of intermediate to long-term drying on fire behavior.

Aircraft continue to be an excellent initial attack resource in the area and quickly engage the fire. Three Oregon Department of Forestry air tankers flew 23 days and delivered 414,000 gallons of retardant on over 20 separate fires.

## Fuels Management

The Medford District has seen a steady decrease in hazardous fuels funding over the past four years. In fiscal year 2013, the District's overall hazardous fuels budget received a 41% reduction. The District's hazardous fuels budget has declined 80% since 2010. This is in part due to the new Hazardous Fuels Prioritization and Allocation System, a national budget-allocating model that focuses priority treatments in the brush/sage vegetation types in response to the concern over the loss of sage grouse habitat. The BLM's western Oregon districts and Oregon State Office have been working diligently with the BLM's Washington Office to refine the model to more accurately depict the high fire hazards and the 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 projects that seek opportunities for jointly funded projects that will meet multiple resource objectives. Current integrated vegetation management projects have shown reduced costs per acre due to increased efficiency. For example, using one contractor to complete all the necessary work on a site reduces the costs of "moving in" equipment and people and costs are off-set by the sale of the by-products produced. The majority (92%) of hazardous fuels reduction was completed on BLM lands in the wildland-urban interface around communities at risk.

Since 1996, when landscape-scale projects began reporting accomplishments, the Medford District has completed 271,712 reportable acres of hazardous fuels reduction (treatment acres often overlap with numerous treatments). In 2013, the District treated 4,009 acres using prescribed fire and 3,617 acres by hand or with mechanical methods.

# 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 have been absorbed into other allotments; these are currently active, but are represented under the larger allotment's names. These grazing allotments include approximately 293,051 acres (about 34%) of the Medford District's approximately 860,000 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 Bureau conducts monitoring to help the manager determine if resource objectives are being met.

A portion of the grazing fees and operational funding is spent each year to maintain or complete rangeland improvement projects. These projects are designed to benefit wildlife, fisheries, and watershed resources while improving conditions for livestock grazing.

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 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 would be extended and renewed. 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.

## Fiscal Year 2013 Accomplishments

### Rangeland Health Assessments:

Rangeland Health Assessments are being completed on each allotment prior to an Environmental Assessment 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 available data. The following Rangeland Health Assessments (RHA), Evaluations, and Determinations (Table 9) and Decision Records (Table 10) and their status for 2013 are explained below.

**Table 9. Rangeland Health Assessment Status as of 2013**

| Allotment Name      | Allotment Number | BLM Acres | RHA Field Evaluation | Determination                                 |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|
| Conde Creek         | 20117            | 5,346     | Under Revision       | EA will be issued Winter 2013/<br>Spring 2014 |
| Lake Creek Spring   | 10121            | 4,679     | Field Work Completed | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Lake Creek Summer   | 10122            | 5,561     | Field Work Completed | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Deer Creek–Reno     | 10124            | 4,026     | Field Work Completed | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Howard Prairie      | 10116            | 320       | Completed            | Issued  |
| Grizzly             | 10119            | 5,167     | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Lower Big Applegate | 20206            | 11,712    | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Billy Mountain      | 20203            | 4,758     | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Bear Mountain       | 10037            | 1,008     | In-Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Vestal Butte        | 10035            | 2,240     | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Crowfoot            | 10038            | 7,393     | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Moser Mountain      | 10041            | 40        | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(in process)         |
| Neil-Tarbell        | 10008            | 552       | In Process           | Pending NEPA Document<br>(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 10. Decision Records (NEPA)/Grazing Decisions Status as of 2013**

| Allotment Name | BLM Acres | Decision Type          | Date Issued                 | Status                                  |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Cove Creek     | 1,207     | Final Decision         | September 2013              | Final Decision Issued,<br>Lease Renewed |
| Deadwood       | 7,928     | Decision being Revised | Winter 2013/<br>Spring 2014 | Final Review Underway                   |
| Conde Creek    | 5,346     | Final Decision         | May 2014                    | Final Review Underway                   |
| Howard Prairie | 320       | Final Decision         | September 2013              | Final Decision Issued,<br>Lease Renewed |

## Leases Renewal

At this time, lease renewals are pending review of NEPA documents published for public comment and protests of Grazing Decisions or the Decision Records (Table 11). 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 2013, several were presented to the public where public feedback identified the need for revision or further work.

## 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. By the end of 2013, six lessees from the Soda Mountain, Keene Creek, and Jenny Creek Allotments have relinquished their grazing leases. The Deadwood Allotment Boundary was adjusted as part of the lease renewal effort and 32 acres of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lands were excluded from the allotment, ending the grazing authorizations. 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 2014. 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.

## 2013 Allotment Monitoring

Monitoring data for Rangeland Health and other assessment purposes was collected only through allotment compliance checking in 2013. Personnel difficulties due to sequestration, trespass

**Table 11. Lease Renewal NEPA Status**

| Allotment Name      | Allotment Number | BLM Acres | RHA Status | Determination                                |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|------------|--|
| Deadwood            | 20106            | 7,928     | Completed  | Public review pending revised Final Decision |
| Conde               | 20117            | 5,346     | Completed  | Public review pending revised 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  | Lease Renewed, September 2013                |
| Lower Big Applegate | 20206            | 11,712    | Ongoing    | Draft EA in progress                         |
| Howard Prairie      | 10116            | 320       | Completed  | Lease Renewed September 2013                 |
| 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                |

investigation, and interruption to scheduled work due to fire response impacted planned monitoring activities. Over 50 allotments compliance visits in the Ashland and Butte Falls Resource Areas to monitor effects were completed by rangeland and other staff members; limited data collection was completed. Information gathered will be used where applicable 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 2014 Planned Work

The following Rangeland Health Assessments, Evaluations, and Determinations, and NEPA requirements (Table 12) for lease renewals are planned for 2014.

**Table 12. Rangeland Health Assessments and Lease Renewals Planned for Fiscal Year 2014**

| 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) |
| 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      |

Workload and rates of production of lease renewals in 2013 were delayed as noted above and 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, Environmental Assessments, Decision

Records, and Grazing Decisions will be issued to renew the following grazing leases in 2014 (Tables 13 and 14).

**Table 13. Rangeland Health Assessments for Lease Renewal Scheduled for Fiscal Year 2014**

| 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 14. Lease Renewals Projected for Completion in Fiscal Year 2014**

| 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 Mountain      | 10041            | 40        |
| Neil-Tarbell        | 10008            | 552       |
| 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 2014

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 following allotments (Table 15) could be added to the lease renewal process.

**Table 15. Allotments to be Considered for Lease Renewal in Fiscal Year 2014**

| 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. Also, compliance checks were completed on more than 10 adopted horses to ensure proper care of adopted animals.

At this time, no adoption event is scheduled for 2014, but one is anticipated for 2015.

## Cadastral Survey

The Cadastral Survey crews stationed in Medford completed work for the Medford District and the Lakeview District in fiscal year 2013.

Work for the Medford District included Crews 58.5 miles of line surveyed, 60 corners monumented, and 34.25 miles of line posted and blazed in support of the Medford District timber program. Non-timber project work included the survey and platting of three road easements, two for the Grants Pass Resource Area and the other for Lands and Resources, and survey of 6.75 miles. The Cadastral Survey crew also prepared and approved 22 Boundary Risk Assessment Certificates for the Medford District.

Work for the Klamath Falls Resource Area in the Lakeview District, in cooperation with Oregon Institute of Technology, included 2 miles of survey line, 3 corners monumented, and 1 mile of line posted and blazed in support of their timber sale program.

Total fiscal year accomplishments for the Cadastral Survey program include 67.25 miles of line surveyed, 63 corners monumented, and 35.25 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 assessment, and information about official plats and field notes.

## Education and Outreach

In fiscal year 2013 the District made 509,727 contacts through education and outreach! Contacts do not include contacts from media/radio/NEPA/TV/magazines or newspaper articles.

This outreach was accomplished within the District on several levels and includes outreach and education accomplishments from seven different categories: Events and Shows, Volunteer Work Days, Family Events, Environmental Education, School Outreach, Youth Crews, public contacts from the Front Desk, Visitor Centers and the internet. Within each category, a few events are highlighted. Table 16 includes all outreach efforts for fiscal year 2013.

The District focused on youth engagement, employment and education across all program areas in fiscal year 2013. The District also directly employed 127 youth during fiscal year 2013.

## Outreach Events and Shows

In 2013 the Medford District participated in fewer outreach events and shows than past years due to budget and staffing reductions, sequester, and government shutdown. The District continued to create event-related displays and educational exhibits, distributed educational materials, and provided professional staffing for the events employees were able to participate in. In October 2012, prior to the sequester, BLM staff participated in the annual Bear Creek Salmon Festival, which featured interactive workshops and exhibits for all ages that focused on improving salmon habitat in our region and on watershed stewardship in our own homes and yards.

## Volunteer Work Days

**National Public Lands Day Events:** The district was proud to host four successful events for National Public Lands Day in Fiscal Year 2013: Pacific Crest Trail work, Upper Table Rock fence removal, Cathedral Hills native species planting, and Upper Rogue River Cleanup. On the Pacific Crest Trail, volunteers came out in force to the Hobart Bluff trailhead to help reroute a stretch of trail that had previously been blazed through a meadow deemed habitat for the Bureau Sensitive Mardon skipper butterfly (*Polites mardon*). Near Upper Table Rock, volunteers that lent a hand to remove an old fence were treated to an archaeological interpretive hike on the old Camp White Army training camp. In the Grants Pass Resource Area, local elementary school students participated in a day full of service learning at the Cathedral Hills Trail System. The students planted 60 native shrubs that included Oregon grape, mock orange, ocean spray, and snowberry. Finally, volunteers worked along the Upper Rogue River to clean-up debris, fishing line, and trash from parks and river banks.



BLM Archeologist, Lisa Rice, interprets artifacts from the old Camp White Army base.

**Trails Skills College:** The BLM and volunteers with the Pacific Crest Trail Association worked together to maintain sections of the Pacific Crest Trail. This event was held as a part of a trail skills college, where 40 volunteers attended the event and learned trail maintenance and construction skills.

**Rogue River Cleanup:** For the past 20 years, BLM has taken the lead on organizing the annual river cleanup on the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. Due to the 2013 sequestration, the BLM considered cancelling the event. Fortunately, Josephine County Parks and Clean Forest Project stepped up and offered to host the annual event. The BLM supported their effort with technical expertise, equipment, litter patrol, and trash pickup up at the boat ramps.

## Family Events

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



**Doreen Ferguson, Josephine County Parks Director**  
**Barbara Zurhellen, Grants Pass Resource Area Permit Administrator, as Bigfoot**  
**Colby Hawkinson, Grants Pass Resource Area Park Ranger, as Bigfoot's Handler**

## Environmental Education

Environmental education encompasses interpretive and educational hikes and presentations given by professional environmental education and district specialists, and program or 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 (CSNM):** For 2013, CSNM continued its partnership with Southern Oregon University to launch the Fall in the Field Environmental Education program. The program began the last 2 weeks in fiscal year 2012 and continued into fiscal year 2013. Each day, graduate students operated two field trips simultaneously for two classes of up to 40 students each on the Pacific Crest Trail, beginning at the Hobart Bluff trailhead hiking in both north and south directions. Students participated in activities designed by the graduate students to learn how the local geology contributes to the biodiversity found at CSNM. Students also acted as citizen scientists by collecting data to determine the diversity of plant life in the section of CSNM they explored. The program served 704 students in grades 2-6 from Jackson and Josephine counties during 23 field trips.

In addition to the Fall in the Field school visits, BLM staff conducted four field trips in the CSNM with the Pinehurst School, the only school located within CSNM boundaries. CSNM

participated in outreach events such as Earth Day, Green Springs Festival, and Baccalaureate Child Welfare Education Program symposium, and hosted family events including Free Fishing Day and CAST for kids. CSNM staff and the Friends of CSNM hosted four Hike and Learn events. These events included a series of lectures followed by hikes lead by experts in the fields of botany, geology, and entomology.

## School Outreach

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 educational programs, either at the schools or in an outdoor environment on BLM lands.

## Youth

The BLM has employed youth crews over the past several years to work on projects, and provide education and stewardship opportunities for youth. The crews participate in projects such as trail maintenance, noxious weed eradication, facility maintenance, construction projects, tree planting, and watershed restoration, while learning valuable lessons about land management and public land stewardship.

## Public Contacts/Visitor Center/Web

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 we serve. The Internet is also playing a larger role in outreach, with more services being offered every year.

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 websites.

## 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.

**Table 16. Estimated Number of People Reached through District Outreach Efforts in Fiscal Year 2013**

| Outreach Area  | Category                | Number of People |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| Archaeology Class Guest Speaker—SOU  | School                  | 17               |
| Battle of Hungry Hill Field School—SOU   | School                  | 15               |
| Bear Creek Salmon Festival   | Public                  | 500              |
| CAST For Kids  | Family                  | 105              |
| CSNM/SOU Field Exercises   | School                  | 9                |
| CSNM/SOU Fall in the Field   | Environmental Education | 704              |
| CSNM BCWEP Symposium Booth   | Environmental Education | 295              |
| CSNM Earth Day Festival Booth  | Public                  | 460              |
| CSNM and Friends of CSNM Hike and Learn Series (4 events)  | Public                  | 133              |
| Free Fishing Day   | Family                  | 149              |
| Girls Rock! Digging to Interpret the Past  | Environmental Education | 140              |
| Green Springs Festival   | Public                  | 281              |
| Job Council (Jackson and Josephine counties)   | Youth                   | 54               |
| Josephine County Tree Plant  | Volunteer               | 1,050            |
| Kids and Creeks  | Environmental Education | 25               |
| Loving the Land  | Environmental Education | 72               |
| McGregor Park Environmental Ed Program   | Environmental Education | 1,669            |
| McGregor Park Summer Day Camps   | Environmental Education | 239              |
| McGregor Park Visitor Center   | Public                  | 2,116            |
| New Hope Christian School Program  | School                  | 45               |
| National Public Lands Day—Rogue River Cleanup  | Volunteer               | 35               |
| National Public Lands Day/Oregon Archeology Celebration Event—Camp White Fence Removal and Interpretive Talk | Volunteer               | 25               |
| National Public Lands Day—Cathedral Hills  | Volunteer               | 35               |
| NPLD—Pacific Crest Trail work  | Volunteer               | 21               |
| Northwest Youth Corps—Bolt Mountain and Rogue River Trails   | Youth                   | 33               |
| Northwest Youth Corps—Timber Mountain  | Youth                   | 40               |
| Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance  | Volunteer               | 10               |
| PCTA Big Bend Trail Skills College   | Volunteer               | 40               |

**Table 16. Estimated Number of People Reached through District Outreach Efforts in Fiscal Year 2013**

| Outreach Area  | Category                   | Number of People |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| Pinehurst School Frank Lake Cabin Archeology walk—<br>Historic Box O Ranch | School                     | 27               |
| Pinehurst School Box O Service Learning Weed Pull                          | School                     | 21               |
| Pinehurst School Fish Survey   | School                     | 24               |
| Pinehurst School Annual Macroinvertebrate BioBlitz                         | School                     | 27               |
| Rand Visitor Center  | Public                     | 15,000           |
| Resources and People Camp  | Environmental<br>Education | 120              |
| Rogue River Cleanup  | Volunteer                  | 220              |
| Rogue River Trail Maintenance—Boy Scouts                                   | Volunteer                  | 15               |
| Siskiyou Upland Trails Association   | Volunteer                  | 79               |
| SOREEL August Institute Resource Fair (teacher training)                   | School                     | 30               |
| SOREEL Teacher Workshop  | School                     | 18               |
| Southern Oregon Nordic Club Work   | Volunteer                  | 4                |
| Sterling Mine History Night  | Public                     | 140              |
| Stewart State Park Campfire Program  | Family                     | 38               |
| Stewart State Park Let's Go Camping Program                                | Family                     | 13               |
| Table Rocks Environmental Education Program and<br>Weekend Hike Series     | Environmental<br>Education | 4,727            |
| <b>Total</b>   |                            | <b>28,820</b>    |
| Medford District   | Web                        | 69,008           |
| Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument   | Web                        | 42,833           |
| Rogue River Program  | Web                        | 211,252          |
| McGregor Park Visitor Center   | Web                        | 2,395            |
| Table Rocks Program  | Web                        | 30,419           |
| <b>Total Web-Based Hits</b>  |                            | <b>355,907</b>   |
| MIO/GPIO—Front Desk and Telephone Outreach                                 |                            | 125,000          |
| <b>Total</b>   |                            | <b>509,727</b>   |

## Hazardous Materials

The 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 HazMat threats from abandoned mines), management of 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 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 response for cleanup.

The Medford District had a Compliance Assessment—Safety, Health, and the Environment (CASHE) in the beginning of fiscal year 2013. This included the Medford and Grants Pass Interagency Offices, and outlying recreation areas. The audit resulted in a report that concluded that within 30 days of the audit, 40% of 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 for easements, including four carryovers from 2011. The HazMat program completed Environmental Site Assessments and Pre-Acquisition Liability Surveys 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 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 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 study may indicate there is a potential for contamination being present onsite. In that case, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessments would be performed using ASTM 1527 Standard, which 40 CFR Part 312 acknowledges to meet the All Appropriate Inquiry standards. All easements and acquisitions completed for the Monument 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 accomplishments of the Hazardous Materials program included:

- Activated and administered the emergency response contract for removal of hazardous waste from our lands which included a petroleum spill above the Butte Falls Watershed and a barrel of unknown contents.
- Ensured the aerosol paint cans used for timber marking are kept below the threshold of waste on-site (less than 500 cans).
- Recycled 22 tires found on BLM lands; this was a large decrease from 2008 when we recycled over 280 tires throughout the year and from 2010 when we recycled 80.
- Recovered three abandoned vehicles, which was a reduction from 2008 when there were eight from illegal dumps found on BLM land,

- Cleaned up illegal dumps of approximately 1,800 pounds of household items including electronics, mattresses, and appliances. This was completed with Title II funds. The potential for reduced budgets has implications on newly discovered hazardous solid waste dump sites that may not be cleaned up immediately. We will continue to clean up the sites to reduce public perception as an eye sore and reduce the potential for continued use of dump sites for waste.
- Assisted the BLM's Lands and Realty program in the cleanup and restoration of illegal occupancy mining sites. One mining site building containing hazardous waste was to be cleaned up and followed through in fiscal year 2014.
- Assessed and cleaned up five marijuana grow sites; two sites were larger scale and needed outside assistance for eradication and three were smaller scale where outside assistance was not necessary for eradication and clean up.

## Coordination and Consultation

Consultation and coordination with all levels of government have been 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 U.S. Forest Service on matters pertaining to the Applegate Adaptive Management Area and other land allocations where BLM lands are adjacent to U.S. 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.

Projects in Table 17 were selected and funded at the listed level for fiscal year 2013.

**Table 17. Resource Advisory Committee Selected Projects for Fiscal Year 2013**

| Project Name                                      | County  | RAC Recommended Funding |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| West Evans Creek Large Wood Project               | Jackson | \$22,222                |
| Middle Applegate Pilot Environmental Monitoring   | Jackson | \$53,333                |
| West Evans Road Decommissioning                   | Jackson | \$16,667                |
| Jackson County Weed Treatments                    | Jackson | \$60,000                |
| Friese Camp Road Decommissioning                  | Jackson | \$50,000                |
| Medford District Recreation and Trail Maintenance | Jackson | \$33,333                |

**Table 17. Resource Advisory Committee Selected Projects for Fiscal Year 2013**

| Project Name   | County    | RAC Recommended Funding |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|
| Cascade Siskiyou National Monument-Southern Oregon University Youth Education Partnership      | Jackson   | \$19,111                |
| Table Rocks Environmental Education Program Support  | Jackson   | \$66,500                |
| McGregor Park Education Program Outreach Support   | Jackson   | \$33,333                |
| Cooperative Law Enforcement with Jackson County  | Jackson   | \$37,800                |
| Pilot Rock Trail Reroute   | Jackson   | \$55,111                |
| Seeding and Planting of Disturbed Sites  | Jackson   | \$45,000                |
| Jackson County BLM Road Maintenance  | Jackson   | \$75,600                |
| West Fork Evans Creek Campsite Delineation   | Jackson   | \$27,778                |
| Mine Closures  | Jackson   | \$44,444                |
| Cantrall-Buckley Park Campground Electrical Design   | Jackson   | \$9,683                 |
| Clean Forest Project   | Jackson   | \$44,444                |
| Northwest Youth Corps - Medford BLM Trail Maintenance and Construction                         | Jackson   | \$8,888                 |
| Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Restoration  | Jackson   | \$32,500                |
| Thompson Creek Riparian and Stream Restoration   | Jackson   | \$25,080                |
| Applegate Ridge Trailheads   | Jackson   | \$42,167                |
| Balls Branch Trail Obliteration  | Jackson   | \$13,000                |
| Southwest Oregon Wildfire Detection and Prevention   | Jackson   | \$293,167               |
| Hanby Middle School Outdoor Environmental Education Program - Wild and Scenic Rogue River Hike | Jackson   | \$1,667                 |
| Roadside Brushing  | Josephine | \$233,333               |
| Seeding and Planting of Disturbed Sites  | Josephine | \$45,000                |
| Abandoned Vehicle and Illegal Dump Cleanup   | Josephine | \$5,555                 |
| Medford District Recreation and Trail Maintenance  | Josephine | \$33,333                |
| Cook's Desert Parsley  | Josephine | \$15,555                |
| Cooperative Law Enforcement with Josephine County  | Josephine | \$36,667                |
| Rogue River Recreation Section Noxious Weed Treatments   | Josephine | \$11,556                |
| Black Bar Broom and Noxious Weed Treatments  | Josephine | \$7,755                 |
| Youth Education Forestry Stewardship   | Josephine | \$27,778                |
| Rogue River Recreation Site Access   | Josephine | \$44,444                |
| Grants Pass Resource Area Trail Maintenance  | Josephine | \$33,407                |
| Clean Forest Project   | Josephine | \$44,444                |
| Northwest Youth Corps - Medford BLM Trail Maintenance and Construction                         | Josephine | \$53,331                |
| Bonnie Riffle Reconstruction and Pump Chance Maintenance                                       | Josephine | \$25,568                |
| Bridgeport and Williams Creek Restoration Projects   | Josephine | \$8,333                 |
| Southwest Oregon Wildfire Detection and Prevention   | Josephine | \$293,167               |
| Bear Camp Automated Smoke Detection  | Josephine | \$200,000               |
| Roadside Brushing  | Douglas   | \$116,667               |

**Table 17. Resource Advisory Committee Selected Projects for Fiscal Year 2013**

| Project Name   | County  | RAC Recommended Funding |
|--|---------|-------------------------|
| Abandoned Vehicle and Illegal Dump Cleanup                 | Douglas | \$5,555                 |
| Law Enforcement Resource Deputy - Douglas County           | Douglas | \$50,000                |
| Bonnie Riffle Reconstruction and Pump Chance Maintenance   | Douglas | \$12,784                |
| South Douglas County Weed Control                          | Douglas | \$62,509                |
| Roadside Brushing  | Curry   | \$57,778                |
| Rogue River Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction           | Curry   | \$9,445                 |
| Medford District Recreation and Trail Maintenance          | Curry   | \$16,667                |
| Cooperative Law Enforcement with Curry County              | Curry   | \$9,444                 |
| Noxious Weed Treatment by Oregon Department of Agriculture | Klamath | \$16,667                |
| Stove Spring Meadow  | Klamath | \$75,439                |
| Clean Forest Project                                       | Klamath | \$23,638                |

## Planning and NEPA Documents

### Plan Maintenance

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

Previous plan maintenance has been published in past Medford District Annual Program Summaries. One plan maintenance action was completed on the Medford District in fiscal year 2013, changing the Land Tenure Zone of 0.66 acres to Land Tenure Zone 3 because of an encroachment. This encroachment met the criteria to automatically assign the land to Land Tenure Zone 3.

### Plan Amendment

Amendment actions respond to major changes such as the need to change land use allocations or changes in the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change 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.

No plan amendments were undertaken in fiscal year 2012.

## Resource Management Plan Evaluations

No Resource Management Plan Evaluation occurred on the Medford District in fiscal year 2013. The latest 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/>.

## Resource Management Plan 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 is continuing to make progress on the RMPs for Western Oregon plan revision. In January and February 2013, the BLM held Recreation Workshops in Medford, Roseburg, Eugene, and Portland. A Summary and Key Findings Report was released in April 2013 reflecting back what the public shared and the statistics from each meeting.

The BLM shared the Purpose and Need statement with the public in June 2013 for informational purposes.

The BLM signed an Endangered Species Act Consultation Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA-Fisheries Service in June 2013. This agreement establishes a cooperative process for the agencies to conduct Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation for the RMPs for Western Oregon.

The RMP project manager, RMP Tribal Liaison, and District Managers held listening sessions with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, The Klamath Tribes, and Coquille Indian Tribe.

The Interdisciplinary Team completed the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) for BLM managers. The AMS provides a snapshot of the current status of the resources affected by the plan as well as potential management opportunities. The document describes current conditions, trends, and activities in the planning area while also setting the basis for the no action alternative. The document was released in August 2013 via the public Web site and over 150 hard copies were distributed.

In December 2013, the RMP planning team held community listening sessions in Corvallis, Medford, Coos Bay, and Roseburg. A summary report consolidating the input provided from the attendees was posted to the RMP Revision website and was shared with BLM managers and Interdisciplinary Team members.

The Interdisciplinary Team worked on the Planning Criteria in late 2013. The Planning Criteria document outlines the BLM State Director's guidance on developing alternatives, describes legal mandates and four preliminary alternatives. The Planning Criteria also provides a detailed description of the analytical methodology that will be used in the planning process. The Planning Criteria is an important document because it offers the public an in-depth look at how the BLM will be writing the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. The distribution of the Planning Criteria will also include a public comment period. The Planning Criteria document is expected to be released for public comment in early 2014 and will be available on the RMP Revision Web site.

The current goal is to have a Draft RMP/Draft EIS available in 2014 and a Proposed RMP/Final EIS in 2015.

All documents are available on the BLM's RMP Revision Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/rmpswesternoregon/plandocs.php>.

## Monitoring Report for Fiscal Year 2013

### Introduction

This document represents the eighteenth monitoring report of the 1995 Medford District ROD/RMP. This monitoring report compiles the results of implementation monitoring of the nineteenth year of RMP implementation (monitoring reports for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 were combined into the 2010 and 2011 Annual Program Summary). 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 the 2013 fiscal year as part of the Medford District Resource Management Plan. 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 Province-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 NWFP 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 five years.

This collection of reports on the 15-year anniversary of the Northwest Forest Plan (the Plan) provides an analysis of monitoring data since the 1994 Record of Decision with a focus on the last five years. The reports attempt to answer questions about the effectiveness of the 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 at <http://reo.gov/monitoring/reports/15yr-report/index.shtml>.

## Implementation Monitoring

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 2013 concentrated on projects in process of implementation or that had been completed in 2013.

## 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 2012 to September 2013.

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 were either initiated or were implemented in fiscal year 2013.

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

The Medford District is 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 2013 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 focus shifted to projects that had been implemented or were in process of implementation during the fiscal year. One project implemented in 2009 was also monitored in fiscal year 2013. Project implementation 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 during the past 18 years of silviculture and restoration projects 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 in process of implementation or that had been completed in 2013. Projects that were monitored in fiscal year 2013 focused on timber sales, ecological forestry projects, stewardship projects, silviculture projects, and road decommissioning.

The Medford District initiated 62 projects that required Environmental Assessments or Categorical Exclusions from October 2012 through September 2013. These projects included timber sales, ecological forestry projects, silviculture projects, road decommissioning, road rights-of-way, special use permits, riparian and fish habitat restoration, and recreation projects (Table 18). Road right-of-way authorizations completed under Categorical Exclusions are listed under “other” in this list. Four of these projects completed at the District level were either programmatic in nature or covered more than one Resource Area.

Many projects encompass more than one type of project (e.g., a timber sale could also construct, restore or decommission roads or incorporate fuel hazard reduction). The projects were sorted into the major emphasis of the project according to the following categories:

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

**Table 18. Projects Initiated in Fiscal Year 2013 by Resource Area**

| Project Type                               | Resource Area |             |             |          | District | District Total |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|
|  | Ashland       | Butte Falls | Grants Pass | CSNM*    |          |                |
| Timber Sale                                | 7             | 2           | 2           | 0        | 0        | <b>11</b>      |
| Silviculture                               | 0             | 2           | 1           | 1        | 0        | <b>4</b>       |
| Riparian/Fish Habitat                      | 3             | 1           | 3           | 0        | 1        | <b>8</b>       |
| Mining                                     | 0             | 0           | 2           | 0        | 0        | <b>2</b>       |
| Prescribed Burns/<br>Fuel Hazard Reduction | 0             | 3           | 0           | 0        | 0        | <b>3</b>       |
| Road Restoration/<br>Decommission          | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | <b>0</b>       |
| Road Construction                          | 0             | 0           | 1           | 0        | 0        | <b>1</b>       |
| Grazing                                    | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        | <b>0</b>       |
| Recreation                                 | 2             | 0           | 4           | 1        | 1        | <b>8</b>       |
| Other                                      | 6             | 7           | 7           | 3        | 2        | <b>25</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>18</b>     | <b>15</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>62</b>      |

\*Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

- Recreation
- Other

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 the Table 19. See Appendix A for details of what each project encompassed.

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 eighteenth 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 indicated that the intent and requirements of the Standards and Guidelines were generally met for the sampled and completed projects.

All projects were found to be in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan ROD and, 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 18 years, no implementation or management adjustments are recommended.

**Table 19. Fiscal Year 2011 Projects Selected for Monitoring by Resource Area**

| Project Type                               | Resource Area |             |             |          | District Total |
|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
|  | Ashland       | Butte Falls | Grants Pass | CSNM*    |                |
| Timber Sale                                | 2             | 2           | 3           | 0        | 7              |
| Silviculture                               | 0             | 1           | 0           | 0        | 1              |
| Riparian/Fish Habitat                      | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0              |
| Botany/<br>Wildlife Habitat                | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0              |
| Prescribed Burns/<br>Fuel Hazard Reduction | 0             | 2           | 0           | 0        | 2              |
| Road Restoration/<br>Decommission          | 0             | 1           | 1           | 0        | 2              |
| Road Construction                          | 0             | 0           | 1           | 0        | 1              |
| Grazing                                    | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0              |
| Recreation                                 | 0             | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0              |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>2</b>      | <b>6</b>    | <b>5</b>    | <b>0</b> | <b>13</b>      |

\*Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The following are project-specific observations.

### **Althouse Sucker**

Monitoring occurred on several units in the Althouse Sucker timber sale post-harvest. Units had been logged as per prescription. The one structural retention unit (Unit 9-2A) monitored was consistent with southern general forest management area regeneration harvest prescriptions; coarse wood was retained in more than adequate quantities. There was some residual damage, but it was not excessive. This unit was scheduled for underburning, but that has not been implemented. The newly constructed temporary road into the unit seemed wider than necessary for a temporary route, but met specifications as per the contract.

Another unit (Unit 3-1A2), marked as per ecological forestry prescriptions (skips and gaps), was monitored. Yarding corridors had been covered with adequate slash. One corridor with very steep short “steps” had a narrow compacted area in the center, but compaction was much less than 1% of the unit and the corridor had adequate amounts of slash to prevent off-site erosion. Tree retention levels were good, with skips and gaps meeting prescriptions. Coarse wood levels were good; snags were maintained where they did not pose a safety hazard. There was some residual damage from logging activities, but this was not excessive. There were several trees cut that had not been marked on the edges of yarding corridors; follow-up with the Resource Area in 2014 will strive to determine the reason, which could be any of several (e.g., tree hung up, tree obstructing yarding).

A thinned and underburned unit (Unit 3-1A1) showed conformance with the EA. Timber harvest met the prescription, there was little residual damage, and the underburn appeared to have occurred under appropriate conditions; the fire burned in a mosaic pattern and crept lightly into the riparian reserve, consistent with the EA.

### **Deer North**

Monitoring in Deer North (Unit 7-011) occurred while trees were being felled. The prescription (density management/modified group select) was being followed. Some trees were traded out of the sale and the modified group select prescription was opening up the area around pines and reducing competition. A couple snags had been felled to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety requirements and were left on site as coarse woody debris.

### **Tennessee Lime**

Monitoring in Tennessee Lime showed the project met the specifications and intent of the EA—opening up the stand around pines. A temporary route and landing had been ripped and debris and coarse wood had been placed on the road to block access. Snags were retained. A couple side skids needed some work and the contractor was asked to come in and recontour those slopes during the dry period.

### **East Fork Illinois**

Conducted monitoring in two units. The first had a temporary spur route down a ridge. The route had been ripped and large wood was scattered across its entire length, effectively blocking it. Yarding corridors from the end of the road were narrow, showed little residual damage and no deep

scars where logs were yarded. Some additional slash could be scattered across the corridor, but it was acceptable. The unit was piled, but had not been burned yet.

The second unit also included a temporary route. The location was different than specified in the EA, but shorter. The route was ripped and well decommissioned, with a lot of coarse woody debris scattered across it that blocked access. There was a short side hill pitch along a skid trail that may have been steeper than stipulated in the EA; however, there was little or no erosion potential.

### **Lower Big Butte and Blowdown Salvage**

The Lower Big Butte underburn occurred in Spring 2012 and the adjacent Blowdown Salvage underburn occurred in Spring 2013. Both burns met objectives, helping to create more resilient stands. Duff consumption was minimized in the mosaic burns and the density of small diameter trees was reduced in areas that burned hotter.

### **Doubleday Fire**

Mortality salvage occurred in 2009 so this monitoring could be termed effectiveness monitoring. The area was replanted with 70% Douglas-fir plus incense cedar and ponderosa pine. The temporary route and landing were decommissioned and seeded with blue/tall wild rye. The salvage operation retained a minimum of two snags per acre and no trees with green were harvested. Skyline yarding provided good suspension and tractor yarding was restricted to 20% slope because of the fire; no rutting was observed. Coarse wood was retained and met RMP guidelines; some green trees died, creating more snags. BLM specialists noted that the decommissioned road and landing could have been seeded with more diverse species and planted with trees and shrubs.

The old haul road to this area was decommissioned and a new road was constructed in a more appropriate location. The decommissioned road is still apparent, but is completely blocked and erosion problems from the old road have been appropriately mitigated.

### **Vine Maple**

Two units in Vine Maple in a deferred watershed were checked for compliance with specifications in the Environmental Assessment. Unit prescriptions were as per dry forest restoration (Johnson and Franklin) and were “treat and maintain” for spotted owl habitat. Canopy was retained at 60% or more as per prescription and skid roads were ripped because of the deferred watershed status. Adequate coarse woody debris remained post-harvest and no-treatment “skips” were retained intact.

# Appendix A. Monitoring

## Projects Available for Monitoring Initiated in Fiscal Year 2013

This list includes projects initiated or with Decision Records signed in fiscal year 2013. Some fall into multiple categories. Monitoring was also completed on projects initiated in previous years, but implemented in fiscal year 2013; therefore, the Monitored Projects table below includes projects carried over from previous years.

### Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

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

- Table Rock Integrated Vegetation Management
- Trail Creek Integrated Vegetation Management
- Lower Graves Integrated Vegetation Management Project

### Ecological Forestry Projects

Many projects on the Medford District incorporate the ecological forestry principles as espoused by Doctors Norm Johnson and Jerry Franklin. In 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that a series of ecological forestry projects would be implemented in Oregon. Six of those were on the Medford District. One new ecological forestry project was initiated in 2013, Phase 2 of the Applegate Pilot Project.

- Pilot Thompson Project

### Timber Sales

- Log Deck Sale and Removal—Big Windy and Douglas Fires
- Lower Graves Integrated Vegetation Management Project
- Stratton-Brimstone Post-fire Recovery Project
- Sterling Sweeper Forest Management, revised
- Bobar Thin Timber Sale
- Galls Creek Forest Management Project

### Silviculture Projects

- Ginger Creek Progeny Site Thinning
- Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Pine Plantation Restoration
- Grants Pass Resource Area Young Stand Management

### Riparian/Fish Habitat/Botanical Restoration Projects

- West Fork Evans Creek Collaborative Restoration
- North Fork Deer Creek Removal of Illegal Features

- Bridgeport Pushup Diversion Replacement Project
- Medford District Programmatic Aquatic and Riparian Enhancement

**Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects**

- Salty Gardner Fuel Hazard Reduction

**Recreation**

- Josephine County Sheriff's Posse Horse Trail Special Recreation Permit
- BikeKraft Trek Bicycle Demo
- 2013 Glendale to Powers Tour de Fronds Cycling Event
- Limestone Challenge Equestrian Endurance Ride

**Road Construction**

- West Fork Cow Creek Road Realignment

**Mining/Mineral**

- Gold Run #1 Mining Plan of Operations
- Section 13 Quarry Expansion

**Land Exchange or Sale**

- Shorthorn Gulch Land Parcel Sale

**Other Projects**

- Hunter Communications ROW Grants OR 067561
- Table Rocks Trail Hardening and Delineation
- Table Rocks Temporary Restrictions
- PacifiCorp ROW Grant (OR61641)
- Mountain of the Rogue Trail System
- Tiller-Trail Highway Slide
- Butte Falls RA and Ashland RA Gopher Trapping
- Flounce Rock AT&T R/W Grant OR-048431
- Geologic Investigations for Hyatt Dam Modification
- Forest Creek ROW
- Table Mountain ROW
- Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Grub Gulch Connection and Armstrong Gulch Bypass Project
- Middle Applegate Restoration Large Wood Source
- Rio Trespass Rehab Project
- Vault Toilet Installation

- O&C Logging ROW (067793)
- O&C Logging ROW (067806)
- Norling Mine Stope Closure Project
- ROW for Table Mountain Roads
- New Cingular Wireless ROW Grant (Soda Mountain Communication Site)
- PCNST Trail Reroute at Hobart Meadow
- Maka Oyate Sundance Native American Religious Ceremony
- Repair of Cave Gates
- Wildlife Images ROW Amendment
- 2013 Archaeological Field School (Hungry Hill)
- Limestone Challenge Equestrian Endurance Ride
- Glendale to Powers Tour de Fronds
- BikeKraft Trek Bicycle Demo
- Turley Waterline
- PacificCorp ROW
- Josephine County Sheriff's Posse Horse Trail Trial Special Recreation Permit
- Pyle Waterline ROW
- Bridgepoint Pushup Diversion Replacement Project
- Removal of Illegal Water Diversion
- Nine Mile Repeater Communication Site Building Replacement
- Programmatic Water Source Maintenance – FY 14-19

## **Fiscal Year 2013 Monitored Projects (by category)**

### **Timber Sales**

- Althouse Sucker
- Vine Maple
- Doubleday Fire Salvage (implemented in 2009)
- Deer North
- East Fork Illinois
- Tennessee Lime

### **Fuel Hazard Reduction Projects**

- Lower Big Butte Underburn
- Blowdown Salvage Underburn

## Silviculture Projects

- Lower Big Butte
- Ranch Stew II

## Road Decommission and Construction

- Doubleday Fire Salvage (implemented in 2009)
- Althouse Sucker (road construction for timber sale)
- East Fork Illinois

## Fiscal Year 2013 Projects Initiated

The following projects were initiated in fiscal year 2013 on the Medford District:

| Project   | NEPA #                        | Project Type                               |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>District-wide</b>                                |                               |  |
| District Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation | DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2013-0001-CX  | Emergency stabilization and rehabilitation |
| Illinois River Withdrawal Extension                 | DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2013-0002-CX  | Mining withdrawal                          |
| Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement            | DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2013-0003-EA  | Aquatic restoration                        |
| Wild Rogue Relay                                    | DOI-BLM-OR-M000-2013-0004-CX  | Recreation                                 |
| <b>Butte Falls Resource Area</b>                    |                               |  |
| Hunter Communications ROW Grant OR 067561           | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0001-CX  | Right-of-Way                               |
| Ginger Creek Progeny Site Thinning                  | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0002-CX  | Silviculture                               |
| Rancheria Fire Salvage                              | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0003-CX  | Project cancelled                          |
| Trail Creek Integrated Vegetation Management        | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0004-CX  | Timber                                     |
| Table Rocks Trail Hardening & Delineation           | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0005-CX  | Recreation                                 |
| Table Rocks Temporary Restrictions                  | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0006-CX  | Recreation                                 |
| PacifiCorp ROW Grant (OR61641)                      | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0007-CX  | Right-of-Way                               |
| West Fork Evans Creek Collaborative Restoration     | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0008-DNA | Restoration                                |
| Mountain of the Rogue Trail System                  | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0009-CX  | Recreation                                 |
| Table Rocks Integrated Vegetation Management        | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0010-CX  | Fuel Hazard Reduction                      |

| Project  | NEPA #                          | Project Type               |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Medford District RMP Plan Amendment for Table Rocks                                | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0011-DNA   | Recreation                 |
| Tiller-Trail Highway Slide   | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0012-DNA   | Transportation             |
| BFRA and ARA Gopher Trapping   | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0013-CX    | Silviculture               |
| Salty Gardner Fuel Hazardous Reduction   | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0014-DNA   | Fuel Hazard Reduction      |
| Flounce Rock AT&T R/W Grant OR-048431  | DOI-BLM-OR-M050-2013-0015-CX    | Right-of-Way               |
| <b>Ashland Resource Area</b>   |                                 |                            |
| Geologic Investigations for Hyatt Dam Modification                                 | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0001-CX    | Land Use Permit            |
| Forest Creek ROW   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0002-CX    | Right-of-Way               |
| Pilot Thompson Project   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0003-EA    | Timber/Ecological Forestry |
| Pilot Thompson Project (Revised EA)  | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0003-REA   | Timber/Ecological Forestry |
| Table Mountain ROW   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0004-CX    | Right-of-Way               |
| Sterling Sweeper Revised EA  | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0005-REA   | Timber                     |
| Heppsie EA—2nd Revision  | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2012-0017-EA-2R | Timber                     |
| Sterling Mine Ditch Trail Grub Gulch Connection and Armstrong Gulch Bypass Project | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0006-EA    | Recreation                 |
| Howard Forest Management Project   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0007-EA    | Timber                     |
| Middle Applegate Restoration Large Wood Source                                     | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0008-DNA   | Restoration                |
| Bobar Thin Timber Sale   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0009-DNA   | Timber                     |
| Galls Creek Forest Management Project  | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0010-EA    | Timber                     |
| Rio Trespass Rehab Project   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0011-DNA   | Restoration                |
| Vault Toilet Installation  | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0012-CX    | Recreation                 |
| O&C Logging ROW (067793)   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0013-CX    | Right-of-Way               |
| O&C Logging ROW (067806)   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0015-CX    | Right-of-Way               |

| Project  | NEPA #                       | Project Type      |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Norling Mine Stope Closure Project   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0016-CX | Safety            |
| ROW for Table Mountain Roads   | DOI-BLM-OR-M060-2013-0017-CX | Right-of-Way      |
| <b>Grants Pass Resource Area</b>   |                              |                   |
| Shorthorn Gulch Land Parcel Sale   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-001-EA  | Realty            |
| West Fork Cow Realignment  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-002-EA  | Road construction |
| Lower Graves IVM Project   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-003-EA  | Timber            |
| Repair of Cave Gates   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-004-CX  | Restoration       |
| Wildlife Images ROW Amendment  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-005-CX  | Right-of-Way      |
| 2013 Archaeological Field School   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-006-CX  | Archaeology       |
| Limestone Challenge Equestrian Endurance Ride                                | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-007-CX  | Recreation        |
| Glendale to Powers Tour de Fronds  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-008-CX  | Recreation        |
| BikeKraft Trek Bicycle Demo  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-009-CX  | Recreation        |
| Turley Waterline   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-010-CX  | Right-of-Way      |
| Gold Run #1 Mining Plan of Operations  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-004-EA  | Mining            |
| Section 13 Quarry Expansion  | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-005-EA  | Mining            |
| PacifiCorp   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-006-CX  | Right-of-Way      |
| Josephine County Sheriff's Posse Horse Trail Trial Special Recreation Permit | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-007-CX  | Recreation        |
| Pyle Waterline   | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-008-CX  | Right-of-Way      |
| Bridgepoint Pushup Diversion Replacement Project                             | DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2013-009-DNA | Restoration       |
| Removal of Illegal Features  | DOI- BLM-OR-070-2013-010-DNA | Restoration       |
| Log Deck Sale and Removal  | DOI- BLM-OR-070-2013-011-CX  | Timber            |
| Nine Mile Repeater Communication Site Building Replacement                   | DOI- BLM-OR-070-2013-012-CX  | Right-of-Way      |

| Project  | NEPA #                        | Project Type    |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Young Stand Management   | DOI- BLM-OR-070-2013-013-DNA  | Silviculture    |
| <b>Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (Ashland Resource Area)</b>  |                               |                 |
| CSNM RMP Amendment   | DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-0001-EA  | Realty          |
| New Cingular Wireless ROW Grant (Soda Mountain Communication Site) | DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-0002-EA  | Right-of-Way    |
| PCNST Trail Reroute at Hobart Meadow                               | DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-0003-EA  | Recreation      |
| CSNM Pine Plantation Restoration EA                                | DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-0004-EA  | Silviculture    |
| Maka Oyate Sundance Native American Religious Ceremony             | DOI-BLM-OR-M040-2013-0005-DNA | Land Use Permit |

## Appendix B. Monitoring Questions

### Implementation Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2013

The following two lists of questions were used to record the Medford District Implementation Monitoring question results for fiscal year 2013. The first list, Project-Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, was used for monitoring specific projects. The second list, APS-Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, is 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 status 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-2013-018)?

**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, Althouse Sucker, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage, Vine Maple) 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 (NWFP) ROD Standards and Guidelines?

**Monitoring Performed:** No projects in Riparian Reserves were reviewed for this Annual Program Summary.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** No projects in Riparian Reserves were reviewed for this Annual Program Summary.

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

**Monitoring Performed:** No projects in Riparian Reserves were reviewed for this Annual Program Summary.

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 NWFP ROD Standards and Guidelines, RMP management direction, and LSR Assessments?

**Monitoring Performed:** No monitoring was performed on projects in Late-Successional Reserves.

### 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, Althouse Sucker, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage, Vine Maple) 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, Althouse Sucker, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage, Vine Maple) 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 percent or less late-successional forest?

**Monitoring Performed:** Relevant projects in Appendix A (East Fork Illinois, Althouse Sucker, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage, Vine Maple) 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

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

**Monitoring Performed:** Two prescribed burn projects in Appendix A (Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage) were reviewed.

**Finding:** Prescribed burns to treat harvest slash are primarily planned pile burning, but not all of the projects were complete. In underburns, some coarse wood was consumed, but still remained at acceptable levels. Burns were conducted in the spring as per stipulations in the NEPA documents and burned in a mosaic pattern. 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 (East Fork Illinois, Althouse Sucker, Deer North, Tennessee Lime, Lower Big Butte, Blow Down Salvage, and Vine Maple), skid trails were less than 12% of the area and existing skid roads were used when available. Tractor and cable yarding, and timber hauling 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 northern spotted owl sites consistent with consultation requirements. Activities in northern spotted owl habitat are being implemented consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation Project Design Criteria; target

canopy retention is being met. Buffers on Riparian Reserves and for special status wildlife and 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 be a “no effect” ESA determination on fish or Essential Fish Habitat.

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## 76 Special Status Species and SEIS Special Status 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.

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 2011 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, 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.

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. A cultural site was found in one project during implementation in fiscal year 2013. Project activities were halted while appropriate consultation was conducted with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and pertinent tribes.

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. A cultural site was found in one project during implementation in fiscal year 2013. Project activities were halted while appropriate consultation was conducted with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and pertinent tribes.

## 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 BLM's Visual Resource Management 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 Aquatic Conservation Strategy 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

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 225)

1. 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?
2. Are high priority sites for species management being identified?
3. 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

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 226)

- 9A. What silvicultural practices are being applied to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 9B. Are management actions creating a situation where riparian reserves are made more susceptible to fire?
- 13A. Are new recreation facilities within the Riparian Reserves designed to meet, and where practicable, contribute to Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 13B. Are mitigation measures initiated where existing recreation facilities are not meeting Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

## Late-Successional Reserves

(ROD/RMP, 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**

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 229)

- 18A. Are the adaptive management area (AMA) plans being developed?
- 18B. Do the AMA plans establish future desired conditions?

### **Matrix**

(ROD/RMP, 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**

(ROD/RMP, 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**

(ROD/RMP, 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**

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 235)

- 42. Are at-risk fish species and stocks being identified?
- 43. Are fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities being designed and implemented which contribute to attainment of aquatic conservation strategy objectives?
- 44. Are potential adverse impacts to fish habitat and fish stocks being identified?

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

(ROD/RMP, 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

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 238)

54. What is the status of the preparation, revision, and implementation of ACEC management plans?
- 55A. Are interpretive programs and recreation uses being developed and encouraged in ONAs?
- 55B. Are the outstanding values of the ONAs being protected from damage?
56. What environmental education and research initiatives and programs are occurring in the 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

(ROD/RMP, 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

(ROD/RMP, Appendix L, page 244)

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

## Timber Resources

(ROD/RMP, 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

(ROD/RMP, 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

(ROD/RMP, 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.

## Table Rocks/RMP Plan Amendment

The Table Rocks Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was designated an ACEC to recognize and protect botanical and geological features, special status species, and natural systems in 1986. The area included 1,003 acres on Upper Table Rock and 240 acres on Lower Table Rock. The 1,003 acres on Upper Table Rock were also designated an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) at the same time and the designations were carried forward in the 1995 Medford District ROD/RMP.

In 2011, the Table Rocks were recognized as one of 101 sites in President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative (U.S. Department of the Interior 2011) and the only BLM site in Oregon.

Between 1979 and 2009, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acquired several land parcels or conservation easements on the Table Rocks that they have managed as the Table Rock Preserve. Their management objectives have been to protect the ecological diversity, to provide scenic and biologic continuity between Lower Table Rock and the Rogue River, and to protect the area from potential subdivision or development. As of 2012, the entire summits and most of the flanks of the Table Rocks are now owned either by the BLM or TNC.

The BLM has acquired two parcels from TNC: 37 acres on Lower Table Rock in 1997 and 818 acres on Upper Table Rock in 2012. These parcels are under temporary management that is consistent with the ACEC designation until they are officially designated as part of the ACEC.

In March 2013, the BLM, TNC, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians signed a management plan to include 4,864 acres as the Table Rocks Management Area. Because the Table Rocks played a significant role in the spiritual and cultural history of Native American tribes, and still serves as an important link for them, the area will be collaboratively managed through a partnership between the BLM, TNC, Grand Ronde, and Cow Creek. The land ownership of the area includes 2,759 TNC acres and 2,105 BLM acres. Of the BLM lands, 862 acres are not currently part of the ACEC.

The purpose of the RMP amendment is to revise the boundary for the Table Rock ACEC to include BLM parcels acquired since designation in 1986 and remove a 0.6 acre area across from Upper Table Rock trailhead from ACEC and ONA designations. The purpose also includes establishing a larger Table Rock management area to include BLM and TNC parcels, parcels identified as high priority areas to acquire, and other land ownerships that influence management of the ACEC and Preserve. The amendment would affect only BLM and TNC managed lands; no private lands would be affected.

The Federal Register Notice should be published and the Environmental Assessment should be available for review in 2014.

## 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 the future.

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.

# Appendix D. Acronyms and Abbreviations

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACEC   | Area of Critical Environmental Concern     |
| ACS    | Aquatic Conservation Strategy              |
| AMA    | Adaptive Management Area                   |
| 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                 |
| TNC     | The Nature Conservancy                   |
| USFS    | US Forest Service                        |
| USFWS   | US Fish and Wildlife Service             |
| 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 threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

**Ecological Forestry**—Forestry projects designed using the forest management principles of Doctors Jerry Franklin and Norm Johnson.

**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 30 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 area that has been reserved from scheduled timber harvest under the RMP.

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

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

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

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

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

**Regional Interagency Executive Council**—A senior regional interagency entity which assures the prompt, coordinated, successful implementation at the regional level of the 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**Stream mile**—A linear mile of stream.

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

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