

# ANNUAL PROGRAM SUMMARY AND MONITORING REPORT for Fiscal Year 2004



Medford District



**Cover Photos:** Scenes from around the Medford District include (top row, l-r) a view of Pilot Rock in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument; a district specialist using a new hot foam method of killing noxious weeds; a shady nook at Gold Nugget Campground along the Rogue River; (bottom row, l-r) a public meeting prior to a Stewardship fieldtrip; firefighters monitoring a low-burning prescribed fire in the Wildland Urban Interface.

# **Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report**

**for Fiscal Year 2004**



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# INTRODUCTION

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Medford District Bureau of Land Management for the period of October 2003 through September 2004. The program summary is designed to report to the public, local, state and federal agencies a broad overview of activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2004. This report addresses the accomplishments for the Medford District in such areas as watershed analysis, Jobs-in-the-Woods, forestry, recreation, and other programs. Included in the Annual Program Summary is the Monitoring Report for the Medford District.

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 was signed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. The RMP/ROD was approved in April 1995, and adopted and incorporated the Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan in the form of Management Actions/Directions.

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

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

The Medford District administers approximately 859,000 acres located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, and Curry counties. Under the NFP and RMP/ROD, management of these lands are included in three primary land use allocations: the Matrix, where the majority of commodity production will occur; Late-Successional Reserves, where providing habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species is emphasized; and Riparian Reserves, where maintenance of water quality and the aquatic ecosystem is emphasized. The RMP established objectives for management of 17 resource programs occurring on the District. Not all land use allocations and resource programs are discussed individually in a detailed manner in the APS because of the overlap of programs and projects. Likewise, a detailed background of the various land use allocations or resource programs is not included in the APS to keep this document reasonably concise. Complete information can be found in RMP/ROD and supporting Environmental Impact Statement, both of which are available at the District Office.

# RMP Planning Area, Summary of Resource Management Actions, Directions, and Accomplishments

RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity	Activity Units	Fiscal Year 2004 Accomplishments or Program Status	Cumulative Practices, since RMP approval	Projected Decadal Practices
<b>Forest and Timber Resources</b>				
Regeneration harvest (acres offered)	Acres	0	4,137	10,400
Commercial thinning/density management/ uneven age harvest (acres offered) (HLB)	Acres	894	56,049	44,900
Salvage (acres offered) (Reserves)	Acres	994	2,299	N/A
Timber volume offered (HLB)	MM board feet/ MM cubic feet	6.4 / 1.1	399.6 / 67.8	571 / 96.9
Timber volume offered (reserves)	MM board feet/ MM cubic feet	19.5 / 3.31	29.7 / 5.04	N/A
Pre-commercial thinning (HLB)	Acres	1,173	32,725	78,000
Pre-commercial thinning (Reserves)	Acres	319	483	N/A
Brushfield/hardwood conversion	Acres	0	0	N/A
Site preparation (prescribed fire)	Acres	0	50,261*	24,000 **
Site preparation - other (specify)	Acres	0	---	N/A
Fuels Treatment Acres (prescribed fire)	Acres	8,976	50,261*	24,000 **
Fuels Treatment Acres (mechanical and other methods)	Acres	13,128	57,846	N/A
Planting - regular stock	Acres	12,771	24,480	2,700
Planting – genetically selected	Acres	1,325	4,412	10,300
Fertilization	Acres	0	2,222	57,000
Pruning	Acres	659	6,664	18,600

\* Cumulative acres for Site Prep burning and Fuel Treatment burning have been combined.

\*\*Decadal estimates for Site Prep burning and Fuel Treatment burning have been combined.

<b>RMP Resource Allocation or Management Practice or Activity</b>	<b>Activity Units</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2004 Accomplishments or Program Status</b>	<b>Cumulative Practices, since RMP approval</b>	<b>Projected Decadal Practices</b>
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>				
Noxious weeds chemical control	Acres	1,460	2,765	N/A
Noxious weeds, by other control methods	Acres	1,329	10,885	N/A
<b>Rangeland Resources</b>				
Livestock grazing permits or leases	Annual leases/10 yr renewals	51	N / A	N/A
Animal Unit Months (actual)		9,705	N / A	N/A
Livestock fences constructed or maintained	Units / miles	26 / 15	49 / 24	N/A
<b>Realty Actions</b>				
Realty, land sales	Actions/acres	0	1 / 120	N/A
Realty, land purchase	Actions/acres	0	3 / 314	N/A
Realty, land exchanges	Actions/acres acquired/ acres disposed	0	3 / 7657 / 3306	N/A
Realty, R&PP leases/patents	Actions/Acres	0	1	N/A
Realty, road easements acquired for public/agency use	Actions	7	70	N/A
Realty, road rights-of-way granted	Actions	56	315	N/A
Realty, utility rights-of-way granted	Actions	20	76	N/A
Realty, utility rights-of-way granted (communication sites)	Actions	1	6	N/A
Special Use Permits	Actions	4	40	N/A
Realty, withdrawals completed	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Realty, withdrawals revoked	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
<b>Energy and Minerals Actions</b>				
Mineral/energy, total oil and gas leases	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral/energy, total other leases	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mining plans approved	Actions/acres	0	1	N/A
Mining claims patented	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
Mineral materials sites opened	Actions/acres	0	1	N/A
Mineral material sites closed	Actions/acres	0	0	N/A
<b>Recreation and Off-Highway Vehicles</b>				
Maintained off-highway vehicle trails	Number/miles	2 / 105	9 / 1,223	N/A
Maintained hiking trails	Number/miles	8 / 114	59 / 630	N/A
Recreation sites maintained	Number/acres	8 / 200	46 / 1,897	N/A
<b>Cultural Resources</b>				
Cultural resource inventories	Sites/acres	12 / 1351	449 / 58,007	N/A
Cultural/historic sites nominated	Sites/acres	0 / 0	21 / 608	N/A
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>				
Hazardous material sites, identified	Sites	31	204	N/A
Hazardous material sites, remediated	Sites	7	114	N/A

# BUDGET

The Medford District receives its annual operating budget from congressionally appropriated funds and other non-appropriated revenue sources. All BLM appropriated funds are identified in the Interior Appropriations and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill or emergency supplemental appropriations. In fiscal year 2004, the Medford District received a total of \$22,499,000 in Oregon and California Land Grant appropriations, \$3,206,000 in Management of Lands & Resources appropriations, and \$27,047,000 in special appropriations, fire related appropriations and non-appropriated funds. Special appropriations exclude MLR and O&C appropriations and include emergency fire rehabilitation, fuels treatment and hazard reduction, emergency flood repair, and land acquisition funds. Non-appropriated sources include funding from forest ecosystem health and recovery funds, timber sale pipeline restoration funds, road use fee collections, recreation fee demonstration collections, reimbursements for work performed for other agencies, trust funds, appropriated funds transferred to BLM from other agencies, and other miscellaneous collection accounts. Unspent funds for previous years that were carried forward in fiscal year 2003 are also included. The total monetary resources available to the Medford District in fiscal year 2004 were \$52,752,000.

Appropriation	FY1999	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004
Oregon and California Land Grant	16,045,000	19,532,000	21,532,000	22,650,000	21,673,000	22,499,000
Management of Lands & Resources	702,000	1,227,000	1,867,000	2,714,000	2,885,000	3,206,000
Special Appropriation and Other Non-appropriated Funds	13,102,000	12,043,000	11,989,000	19,294,000	26,940,000	27,047,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,849,000</b>	<b>32,802,000</b>	<b>35,388,000</b>	<b>44,658,000</b>	<b>51,498,000</b>	<b>52,752,000</b>

*Opened in 2003 at the Medford District Office, the Medford Interagency Communications Center is staffed with personnel from both the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The primary objective of the center is to ensure the safety of employees in the field, track agency air flights, and dispatch personnel to emergency incidents.*



# 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: riparian reserves; late-successional reserves; adaptive management areas; matrix, which includes general forest management areas and connectivity/diversity blocks; and a variety of special purpose management areas such as recreation sites, wild and scenic rivers, and visual resource management areas.

The Medford District has the following major land allocations:\*

Congressional Reserves	14,267
Late-Successional Reserves	178,467
Late-Successional Reserve within AMA	32,937
Marbled Murrelet Reserve	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	<u>470,776</u>
Total	859,096

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

## Late Successional Reserves

Late successional reserves are areas established by the Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan to maintain functional interactive late-successional and old growth forest ecosystems. They are designed to serve as habitat for late-successional and old growth related species including the northern spotted owl.

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

All reserve areas have had assessments completed on them.

# APPLEGATE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

Reviews of other Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) and AMAs in general confirm that one does not need an AMA to do adaptive management. However, the Applegate AMA continues to serve as a focal area to test involvement with the community and to test innovations developed in partnership and collaborative settings. The Medford District BLM continues to work cooperatively with the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest and the Applegate community in implementing the goals and objectives of the Applegate AMA, especially goals involving community innovations. A number of projects were undertaken or are ongoing that demonstrate and test various collaborative approaches to forest management. In addition, a number of adaptive studies were undertaken.

Two examples of innovative, collaborative projects are related to fuels reduction. The Neighbors “Backyard” project consists of a cooperative experiment by a group of landowners adjacent to a landlocked BLM parcel (60 acres) to collaboratively design a treatment proposal with the BLM and then implement the forest health treatments. The proposal is currently being evaluated in an environmental analysis. The project will yield information on the challenges and efforts required for a landowner(s) to work cooperatively with the BLM in designing a mutually beneficial and acceptable (economically and ecologically) forest health treatment. The project may also yield information on the amount of forest product that should logically be planned for in the wildland urban interface (called rural interface zone in the forest plan).

The second example is a project that involves a partnership among the BLM (Ashland Resource Area), Rural #9 Fire Department, the Applegate Valley Fire Plan coordinator and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Rural #9 and the Fire Plan coordinator have been taking the lead in organizing landowners along Upper Applegate Road for cooperative and coordinated fuels reduction treatments between private lands and federal lands. With grants secured by Rural #9 to help create defensible space and fuels reduction around driveways, and agency planned projects on federal lands adjacent to private lands, a “borderless” fuels reduction is being planned and implemented along the Upper Applegate Road.

Implementation and utilization of the *Applegate Community Fire Plan* has led to continuing innovative collaborative/cooperative ventures including formation of the Local Coordinating Group for coordination of national fire plan grants from Jackson and Josephine Counties, the Jackson-Josephine two-county fire and fuels reduction planning effort, and cooperation with NASA for satellite technologies in accurate and efficient mapping of forest fuels.

There are a number of adaptive studies ongoing in the AMA as well:

- Fuels reduction and restoration effects on chaparral,
- Effectiveness of road closures,
- Tests on innovative approaches to small diameter tree thinning and utilization,
- Collaborative study of fuels reduction approaches in stands of timber with respective treatment effects on the restoration of natural fire regimes.

# AQUATIC CONSERVATION STRATEGY

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

Silvicultural practices have been implemented within riparian reserves to control stocking, reestablish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. These silvicultural practices include tree planting, precommercial thinning and density management thinning.

Watershed analysis is required by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Record of Decision. 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 impacts of humans, their role in shaping the landscape, and the effects of fire;
- The distribution and abundance of species and populations throughout the watershed; and
- Characteristics of the geological and hydrologic conditions.

This information was obtained from a variety of sources, including field inventory and observation, history books, agency records, and old maps and survey records.

A supplemental environmental impact statement has been written to clarify the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The intent is to clarify the wording in the NWFP Record of Decision to better convey the intent of the scientists who originally framed the ACS. The Final EIS was completed in October 2003 and a Record of Decision completed in March 2004.

## Watershed Restoration and Jobs-in the-Woods Projects

In FY 2004, watershed analysis continued to assist in the identification of the District’s watershed restoration projects. BLM projects were coordinated with local watershed associations projects and priorities to supplement District projects. Jobs-in-the Woods funding is part of the regional collaborative effort to improve the health of the land and restore watersheds while at the same time providing economic assistance to local communities.

The Medford District, in coordination with other federal, state and local governments, continued to participate in the Jobs-in-the-Woods/Watershed Restoration Program. The program provides on-the-job training opportunities for people displaced from forestry related work. In addition to hiring crews funds from this program were used to hire local area contractors to do restoration work. In fiscal year 2004, Jobs-in-the-Woods dollars funded projects for \$778,000 in three counties.

## Watershed Council Coordination

The District coordinates 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

All prescribed fire activities conformed to the Oregon Smoke Management and Visibility Protection Plans. No smoke intrusions occurred into designated areas as a result of prescribed burning and fuels treatment activities on the District. Air quality considerations in prescribed burn plans include burning when good smoke mixing and dispersal exists, and prompt mop-up of burned units to reduce residual smoke. Qualitative and some quantitative monitoring occurs during prescribed burning episodes.

# WATER AND SOILS

## Watershed Analysis

First and second iteration watershed analyses have been completed for 93 and 20 percent, respectively, of the BLM-administered lands in the Medford District. One first iteration and one second iteration watershed analysis were completed in FY 2004. Completed watershed analyses may be found on the Medford District web site (<http://www.or.blm.gov/medford>).

## Water Quality Limited - 303(d) Streams

Approximately 249 stream miles included on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ's) 2002 Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waterbodies cross BLM-administered land in the Medford District. These streams are primarily listed as water quality limited due to temperature, but some stream segments are listed for additional reasons such as dissolved oxygen, biological criteria, fecal coliform, e-coli, and sedimentation. These stream segments are evaluated as part of the watershed analysis process. The Medford District is working cooperatively with the Oregon DEQ to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) for 303(d)-listed streams on BLM-administered lands. Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRPs) for federal lands are prepared by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service and incorporated in DEQ's WQMPs. Six WQRPs have been completed for watersheds on the Medford District and approved by DEQ: Sucker-Grayback Creek (1999), Grave Creek (2001), Lower Sucker Creek (2002), West Fork Cow Creek (2004), Middle Cow Creek (2004), and Upper Cow Creek (2004).

## Monitoring

Riparian assessments for functioning condition status were conducted on 61 stream miles in FY 2004. These stream miles plus an additional 31 stream miles were surveyed for stream and channel characteristics. This information is being used for project planning and the hydrography theme update (see below). Summer stream temperature was monitored using recording instruments at 173 sites; streamflow, turbidity, and precipitation were measured at 87, 147, and 7 sites respectively; and channel cross sections were surveyed at 34 sites.

# Hydrography Geographical Information System (GIS) Theme Update

The hydrography theme update project in the Medford District is part of a larger effort between State and Federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest. The objective of this effort is to create a single high resolution hydrography network that will be co-managed and web-accessible via a server at the BLM State Office. The Medford District is responsible for providing an accurate portrayal of the spatial density of the stream network, polygon features (e.g. lakes and ponds), and point features (e.g. springs and wells) in addition to capturing pertinent attribute information such as stream type (fish bearing, perennial, or intermittent) and fish species for water bodies within the District. The hydrography update was completed in FY 2004 for the District. More information on this project may be found at the BLM State Office and REO web sites: <http://www.or.blm.gov/gis/projects/waterresources.asp> and <http://www.hydro.reo.gov>.

## TERRESTRIAL HABITAT AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Wildlife habitat work generally occurs through implementation of other projects such as timber sales, fuels treatments or silviculture projects. Wildlife biologists in each of Medford's four resource areas—Ashland, Butte Falls, Glendale and Grants Pass—review those projects through interdisciplinary team processes. Biologists prioritize surveys for species and habitats to evaluate what species might occur in or adjacent to the project areas, conduct appropriate surveys through contracts or in-house personnel, analyze literature and talk with species experts to determine potential effects of proposed projects.

Biologists offer recommendations to managers through the interdisciplinary compromise process. Recommendations could reduce impacts or minimize effects on species during sensitive periods (generally the reproductive period). When opportunities and funding allow, they also offer suggestions to improve habitat for key species or restore habitat in the project area.

Objectives of the land use allocations delineated in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) dictate the type and degree of wildlife conservation or management. The Resource Management Plan (RMP) strategy dictates that most timber harvest volume come from matrix lands—General Forest Management Areas (GFMA), Adaptive Management Areas, and Connectivity Blocks. In timber projects, major habitat components are retained through land use allocation-specific formulas for green tree retention, snag retention and recruitment, and management of coarse woody debris. These formulas were designed in the NWFP to meet the needs of most priority wildlife species found in the District.

### Green Tree Retention

Timber sales in the south GFMA maintain 16 to 25 large green trees per acre in regeneration harvest units. Units in north GFMA maintain 6 to 8 trees per acre.

## Snags and Snag Recruitment

Standing dead trees which meet RMP requirements are left in units if they do not conflict with Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety guidelines and if they do not conflict with prescribed burning.

## Connectivity

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

## Wildlife Survey and Manage Wildlife Special Status Species

A revision to the NWFP and RMPs added additional protections and guidance for certain species that needed additional attention at the time the plan was written (USDI, USDA 2001). This group of animals, plants, lichens and mosses were managed as Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species. Many of these species had strict survey protocols and data compilation requirements.

Annual species reviews resulted in yearly adjustments to the number of species, categories of species, and the ranges where surveys were required. Protection mandates of the Survey and Manage and Protection Buffer species were revised under two decision documents. Relevant sections of the Medford RMP were also revised. These revisions were based in part on analysis of the survey data which showed that some species were more common than previously thought and in part on the analysis of impacts of additional restrictions to the timber program. As a result of these revisions, some species were dropped from further consideration. Those thought to be rare were incorporated into the Special Status Species list.

A revised Special Status Species (SSS) Policy for Oregon and Washington (March 2003) was developed to provide guidelines for the management of species that met the SSS criteria. A list of those species on the Medford District is available on request.

Prior to the removal of the Survey and Manage guidelines, Medford had 11 survey and manage wildlife species in 2004—one bird, one mammal, one salamander and eight mollusks. Medford biologists (or contract biologists) conducted 320 general surveys—307 for mollusks and 13 for amphibians.

Medford's Ashland Resource Area conducted strategic survey work for great gray owls to meet Oregon taxonomic team (i.e., taxa team) objectives. Data from the strategic survey work was to be incorporated into management recommendations under the amended Survey and Manage guidelines. Six great gray owls were fitted with radio harness transmitters in 2004. One owl was fitted with a radio in 2003. More than 450 radio locations have been recorded as of October 2004. Biologists in other resource areas also identified great gray owl sites when they occurred in project areas.

Under the 2001 Survey and Manage EIS (USDI, USDA 2001), great gray owls were to be managed according to management recommendations when they were developed. Draft management recommendations were drafted by the taxa team but never finalized. The survey and manage mitigation measures were removed through the ROD (2004). Great gray owls were reclassified as Bureau tracking late in 2004. This classification is not considered a special status species for management purposes under the Oregon and Washington SSS policy. The RMP continues to provide meadow protection (which benefits great gray habitat) and provides a one-quarter mile protection zone for great gray nest sites.



*District wildlife biologists band a great gray owl.*

## **Federally listed species management**

Northern spotted owls are federally listed as threatened. Biologists visited 317 of the documented 675 northern spotted owl sites on the District at least once. The owl demographic study continued in the Glendale Resource area as one of two BLM protocol owl monitoring studies. The USFWS conducted a status review on northern spotted owls and used information from the demographic study areas along with other information (USFWS 2004). In addition, this information was used in a review of the progress and implementation of the NWFP.

Oregon State University biologists began radio-tracking five spotted owls in Timbered Rock Fire (2002) area to monitor habitat use of burned areas in the Butte Falls Resource Area. The pilot study will continue on a larger scale in 2005-06. Little published information relating to spotted owl habitat use and demographic performance in a post-wildfire landscape is available. Information gained from this study will aid in assessing impacts to listed species while planning for prescribed fire. Butte Falls

Resource Area and Boise Corporation biologists continued to monitor the historic owl sites within and adjacent to the Timbered Rock Fire during the 2004 nesting season.

To the extent time and other budget priorities allowed, monitoring of known bald eagle (federally listed as threatened) and peregrine falcon (recently delisted) sites were conducted. Although peregrine falcons have been delisted from the Federal Endangered Species list, some post-delisting monitoring is required to track their recovery. Two new potential peregrine sites were found. Future monitoring is required to confirm occupancy. Medford biologists participate in nationwide winter bald eagle monitoring.

Surveys for federally threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp are currently underway on lands managed by Butte Falls Resource Area on Upper and Lower Table Rock. Three hundred forty-four acres of federally administered land on the top of the Table Rocks were designated critical habitat for the vernal pool fairy shrimp in 2003. The vernal pools in the Agate Desert/Table Rocks are the northernmost extent of the range of vernal pool fairy shrimp. The surveys will be conducted during the wet season over a two year period, ending in 2006.

## Special Habitats

The District continues to manage special habitats as specified in the Resource Management Plan. Meadows are managed for their unique characteristics, as are caves and abandoned mines, talus habitats, and riparian/marshlands. BLM continues its partnership with the Nature Conservancy to manage the Table Rocks and the associated vernal pool habitat.

## Big Game and Furbearers

Big game and mammal habitat objectives were included in fuels treatment prescriptions across much of the District, focusing primarily in the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) zones. The District continues to participate with ODFW for road and habitat management for big game, including participation in the “green dot program,” ODFW’s road closure management program. The District continues to try to restore habitat destroyed by a few members of the public that violate road closure regulations and cause extensive damage to roads and streams.

Baited furbearer surveys continued at various locations throughout the District, primarily to target pine marten and fisher (SSS), although some baseline information is obtained about other carnivores. Cooperation with Dr. Karen Stone Southern Oregon University continued on a fisher project near I-5, where students learn to conduct wildlife inventories and collect DNA information.

## Neotropical Migratory Birds

The Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas continued fall and spring Monitoring Population and Avian Productivity in partnership with Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO). Data for 2004 was just collected and 2003 information is being summarized.

The 2002 mist netting summary shows:

- 173 person days were spent on 58 mist netting efforts during which 116 area searches were conducted.
- 1,601 birds total were banded, 483 recaptures were recorded and 130 birds were released unbanded.
- Total number of captures during the 2002 season was 2,214.

- The busiest day at the Wildlife Images site during the breeding season was August 6 on which 67 birds from 18 species were captured.
- The busiest day during the migration season was September 23 on which 89 birds from 14 species were captured.
- The Wildlife Images site provides important spring and fall migration habitat for willow flycatchers, a Bureau special status species.

Between the two stations, a total of 254 individuals were netted for the season (91 during the breeding and 154 during the migration season). 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.

Small owl surveys were also conducted at the Glendale site. As part of this partnership, KBO, in cooperation with SOU, trains college-level interns. In 2002, six of these interns took part in the project, including an international student. An SOU student was able to publish a paper on population trends using the long term dataset compiled at the Wildlife Images site.

Two intensive bird monitoring training workshops were conducted by KBO and the Redwood Sciences Laboratory. KBO, BLM personnel and monitoring crews gave a banding demonstration to representatives from BLM's Oregon State Office. KBO continues to promote monitoring efforts and its partnerships with the BLM and others by presenting at various meetings, and submitting articles and papers to be included in newsletters and technical publications.

## **Bats**

Biologists in Glendale and Grants Pass continued projects on bats as time and funding allowed. They conducted bat monitoring training and field visits with biologists from all resource areas. Glendale continued to work with volunteers to evaluate bat preference of bat box designs. Biologists throughout the District continued to hone data collection skills on this cryptic, nocturnal species and to contribute data to regional species group evaluations. Several biologists from the District are associated with the Bat Working Group, a group of professional biologists from private, state and federal agencies who are looking for efficient mechanisms to evaluate bat populations. Some of the bats are on special species lists.

# **AQUATIC HABITAT AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

A variety of activities to maintain or enhance fisheries and fish habitat were conducted in fiscal year 2004. The primary focus of the fisheries program were impact assessments for timber sales, fish passage projects, road maintenance, fuels treatment activities, monitoring of grazing allotments, fish habitat and populations. Additionally, analyses were completed for Endangered Species Act consultations. These activities represent the majority of the workload and also involve considerable time spent in field visits and meetings. The following are other activities performed by fisheries personnel on the Medford District.

## **Watershed Council Cooperation**

The District provided technical assistance to Watershed Councils and Counties in support of the Bureau's commitment to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. BLM provided funding to Watershed Councils for various projects, including lamprey monitoring and smolt trapping.

## **Fish Passage**

Fish passage is a high priority for range extension and an ongoing need in the Medford District. Five culverts were replaced on coho salmon and steelhead streams to allow upstream migration to spawning and rearing habitat.

## **Population/Habitat Monitoring**

Spawning surveys involved ten miles of coho and steelhead habitat. Six juvenile fish traps were operated to determine species composition, size, abundance, and timing of outmigration. Information was collected from the traps on five species including chinook and coho salmon, steelhead/rainbow and cutthroat trout, Klamath small-scale suckers and Pacific lamprey. The traps were monitored by BLM, Forest Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as part of a cooperative Challenge Cost Share project. BLM partners with ODFW, Fish and Wildlife Service, OSU and the Watershed Councils to determine lamprey distribution, habitat use and overall population health. Sensitive aquatic mollusk species monitoring totaled two acres of habitat. BLM and Southern Oregon University participate in a cooperative effort to monitor Jenny Creek sucker populations and habitat and compare the data observed the past decade. This work will help prioritize watershed restoration in the Jenny Creek watershed. Sucker Creek snorkeling surveys helped to determine the use of large wood placed in the stream by salmon.

## **Instream Habitat Improvement**

The Biscuit Fire Stabilization and Rehabilitation project used a helicopter to place 23 logs in 5 locations on 0.65 miles of Sourgrass Creek for fish habitat enhancement. Two gravel push-up dams were removed to allow coho fish passage in Sucker Creek using the Wyden Amendment authority.

## **Riparian Habitat**

Fences were constructed in grazing allotments. Allotments were monitored to determine the extent of grazing near fish habitat.

## **Endangered Species Act**

The District submitted eight biological assessments to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries Office, for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act consultation.

## Public Outreach

Many educational presentations were conducted for watershed councils, schools and various other community groups. Fisheries personnel taught schoolchildren about water quality, riparian vegetation, aquatic insects, and salmon life cycles at several of Oregon Trout's Salmon Watch events held around the Rogue Basin. Free Fishing Day and CAST for Kids Day events were held at BLM's Hyatt Lake Campground, providing loaner fishing gear, boat rides, and educational activities for the public. Other outreach activities include National Public Lands Day, the Junior Achievement Program, and the Little Butte School Field Day. BLM continued a long-term Office Lobby display of chinook eggs and fry growing in an aquarium for public enjoyment.

*Proud fisherman shows off his catch at "CAST for Kids Day" at BLM's Hyatt Lake Campground.*



*Students at the Little Butte School Field Day learn about aquatic insects from a BLM biologist.*

# WEED MANAGEMENT

Management and treatment of noxious weeds in the Medford District uses all aspects of integrated pest management and continues to be a critical element for all resource programs. Currently, the Medford District is emphasizing control of 13 species of exotic plants—yellow starthistle, purple loosestrife, puncturevine, diffuse knapweed, meadow knapweed, spotted knapweed, dalmatian toadflax, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, tansy ragwort, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, Spanish broom. The number of sites targeted for treatment each year is subject to change depending upon new infestations, funding, cooperation from adjacent landowners, and effectiveness of control methods.

The following is a partial list of accomplishments completed in 2004:

- **Education/Awareness:** Weed control presentations made at county fairs, elementary to college level students, commercial businesses, federal agencies, contractors, and other interest groups. Television and newspaper ads as well as talk-radio shows aided in educating the general public.
- **Prevention:** Required equipment cleaning on all soil disturbing activities. Created contract stipulations requiring contractors to clean equipment prior to bringing it on BLM administered lands. BLM/FS-funded wash facility aided in cleaning agency vehicles of weed seeds and parts. Had all seed tested for noxious weed content prior to purchase.
- **Inventory:** 45,500± acres inventoried for noxious weeds during vascular plant surveys.
- **Control:** Many, if not all the species targeted for control in the district were treated using the following methods: 466 acres using manual methods, 1,460 acres using chemical controls, 33 acres utilizing a new hot foam (non-chemical) machine from New Zealand, and 25 acres with biological agents.
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring previously treated sites continues on most weed treatment projects.



*A Medford District specialist uses the new hot foam machine to treat noxious weeds.*

# BOTANICAL SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

In order to meet the Bureau's policy to conserve, manage, and prevent the need to federally list any Special Status plant species, and meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, and the 2003 programmatic Biological Opinion for Listed Plants, the following actions were taken by the Medford District Botany Program staff.

## Listed and Special Status Plant Surveys

In 2004, clearance surveys for federal-, state-listed, and Bureau Special Status Plants occurred on 66,429 acres. These surveys were in support of timber sales, fuels reduction, thinning, restoration, and other ground disturbing actions. Surveys occurred for both vascular (40,732 acres) and non-vascular plants (25,693 acres). All but 4,471 acres were surveyed using contracts with local small business contractors.

Ashland	27,756 ac
Butte Falls	14,993 ac
Glendale	15,436 ac
<u>Grants Pass</u>	<u>8,244 ac</u>
District:	66,429 acres <sup>1</sup> within project areas.

Contract costs vary between contracts, but average around \$8.00/acre. Using the average cost, approximately \$495,664 was awarded to local botanical contractors in the Medford community.

## New Plant Finds

A total of 855 sites of new occurrences of federal-, state-listed, and Bureau Special Status (Sensitive, Assessment, and Tracking) plants were found in 2004. Ten sites were found for federally listed plants, 27 for state-listed and 167 sites for Bureau sensitive (see chart). These occurrences can be as small as a single plant or as large as a 20-acre polygon containing hundreds of plants. The majority of rare plant sites on the Medford District are small with fewer than 10 plants occupying less than a few square meters.

In 2004, nine new sites were found for the federally listed endangered *Fritillaria gentneri* in the Butte Falls and Ashland Resource Areas. These new sites bring to 112<sup>2</sup> the total number of occurrences for this listed lily (containing approximately 3,000 flowering individuals) on the Medford District. Additional *Fritillaria* sites occur on other federal (Forest Service), state, Jackson and Josephine County, the city of Jacksonville, and private lands. The BLM has the majority of occurrences for this species. One new site for *Lomatium cookii* was found in the Grants Pass Resource Area, bringing to 22 sites the total known for federal lands in the Illinois valley. Other sites occur on state, county and private lands in the Illinois valley and in the Agate Desert area north of Medford.

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<sup>1</sup> The accomplished acres include surveys for vascular and non-vascular plants in which case some acres are double counted as they are independent surveys on the same acreage.

<sup>2</sup> Medford Rare Plant Database

## 2004 Medford Rare Plant Counts

Resource Area	Federally Listed	State Listed	BLM Sensitive	BLM Assessment	BLM Tracking	Totals
Ashland & Monument	4	22	102	143	179	450
Butte Falls	5	1	35	79	101	221
Glendale	0	0	7	2	11	20
Grants Pass	1	4	23	73	63	164
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>855</b>

Sites of federal-, state-listed, and sensitive plants are generally protected from habitat disturbing activities by variable radius buffers or other mitigation measures that conserve the species. Mitigating assessment species sites often occurs as these species are rare at the state scale and their conservation can be biologically appropriate. Protecting tracking species is discretionary under BLM Special Status Species policy. All data collected on new sites is entered into the Medford Rare Plant database and GIS layers, and is also sent to the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center. Starting in 2005, all data will be entered into the new State Database, GEOBOB.

## Monitoring

District monitoring of rare plant sites was done mostly under the challenge cost share program with support from BLM botany personnel. All of the monitoring is done on existing sites to evaluate trends of higher priority species (federally listed and sensitive). Listed below is the number of sites/populations that were monitored in 2004. This information was reported in the Management Information System (MIS) for 2004, and was down considerably from 2003 because of reduced budgets.

Bureau Sensitive plant sites across the district:	92 sites
<i>Lomatium cookii</i> sites in Grants Pass Resource area:	3 sites
<i>Fritillaria gentneri</i> sites across the district:	83 sites
Medford District Total:	178 sites

## Monitoring highlights:

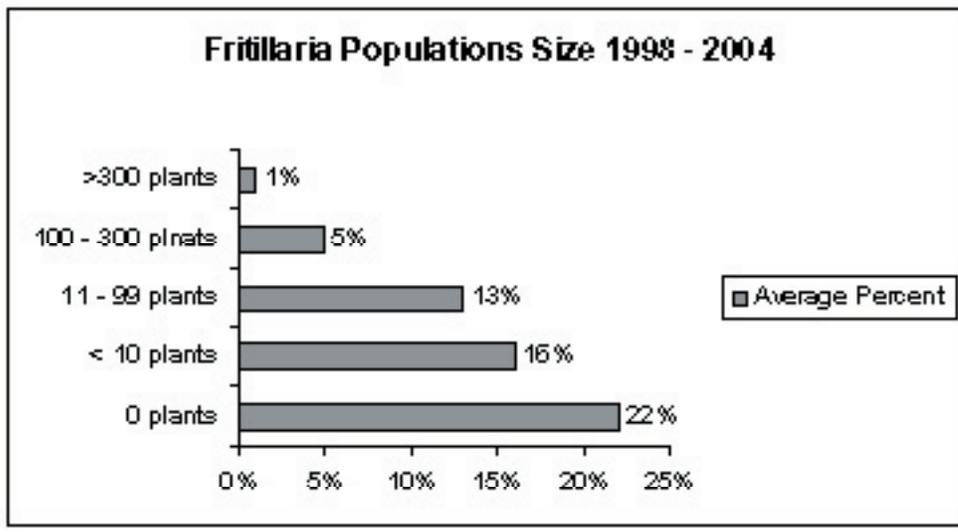
Some of the more important monitoring for rare plants is summarized below. Individual detailed reports are on file at the Medford BLM.

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

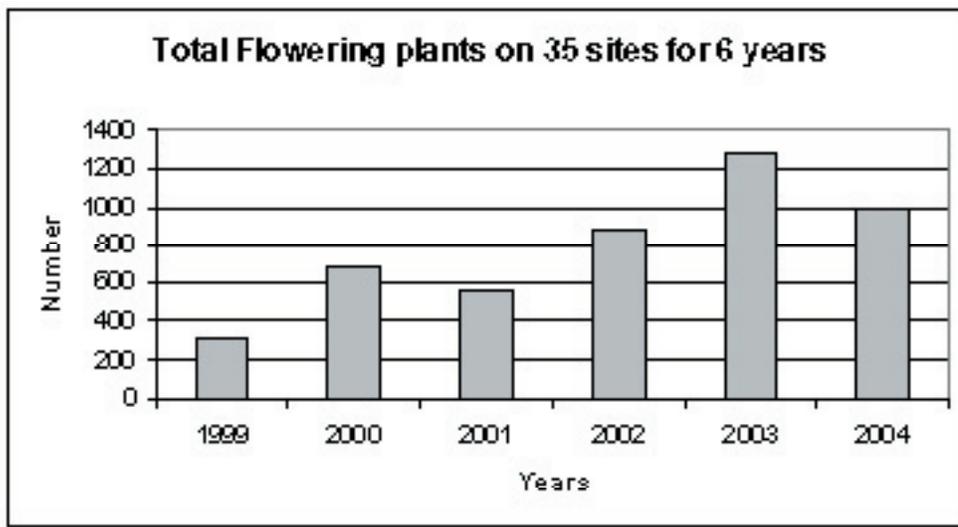
There are currently three monitoring projects for this listed species: annual population counts at 57 sites across the Medford district and two demographic studies collecting detailed population information on this listed endangered plant. One of the demographic study sites is in the Jacksonville woodlands, Ashland Resource Area, and the other is in Pickett Creek, Grants Pass Resource Area.

**Fritillaria revisits:**

For the 57 revisited sites for the listed endangered *Fritillaria gentneri*, 26 percent (15 sites) showed a net increase in the number of plants, 8 percent (5 sites) showed no change, and 65 percent of the sites (37 sites) showed a decrease from previous numbers. The average number of plants for all 57 sites was 34, a slight increase from past years (28). Even though only 26 percent of the sites showed an increase in flowering plants, there was a total net increase of 630 plants for all 57 sites compared to previous years (mainly due to a single huge population in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument). Since 1998, most of the flowering plants are found on a small percentage of all the sites. Only 11 percent of all the monitored sites have more than 100 plants. Thirty-eight percent of the sites average zero plants in any given year (either dormant or extirpated) and 28 percent of the sites have fewer than ten plants. For all 57 sites the total number of flowering plants was 1,952 in 2004, compared to 1,322 in 2003.



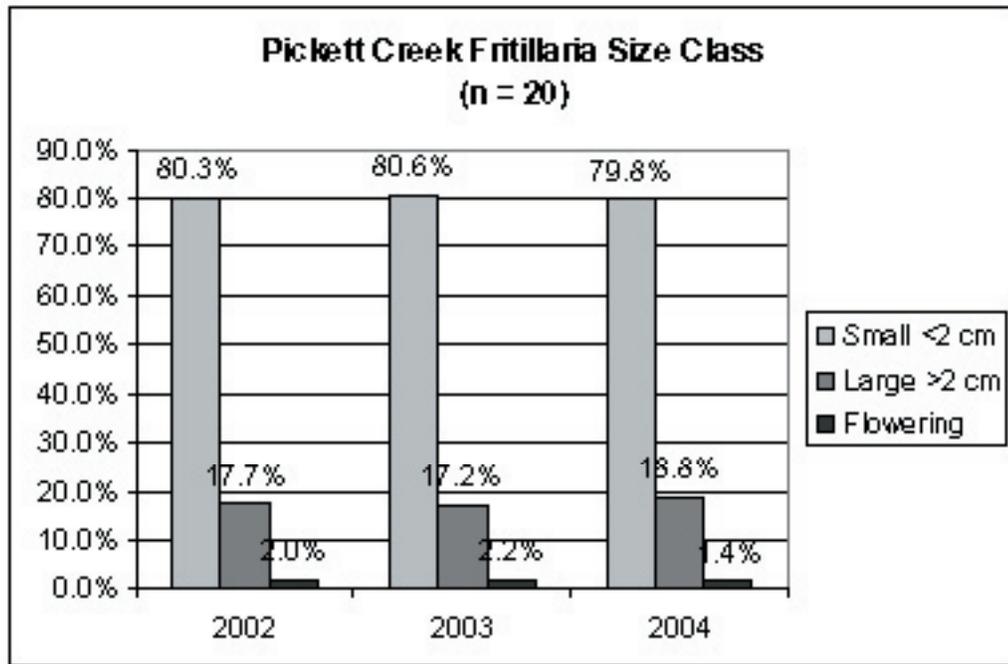
Thirty-five of the 57 sites have seven years of repeat data for comparative purposes. Looking at the total number of flowering plants on 35 sites, there appears to be overall increasing trend, with 2004 down slightly from the all time high of 1,278 plants in 2003.



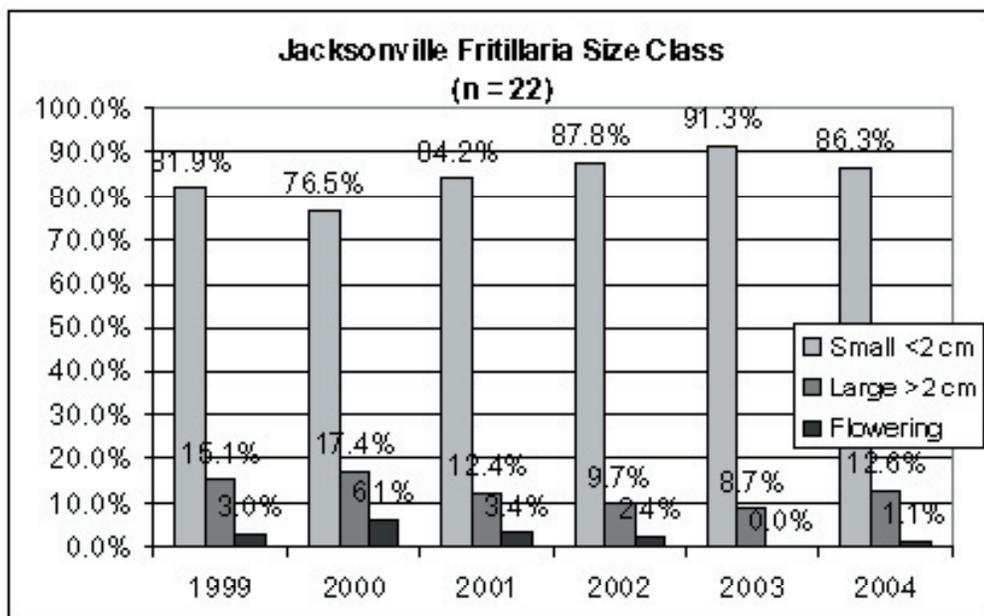
Monitoring will continue at these sites in 2005.

## Demographic Studies

Annual demographic monitoring at the Jacksonville woodlands and at the Pickett Creek site was done in 2004. These two long-term studies track individuals through various life stages, gathering information on flowering, seed set, and dormancy. Pickett Creek is in its third year of monitoring (2002-2004), and the Jacksonville woodlands site is in its fifth year (1999-2004).



At the Pickett creek site, census data revealed 235 flowering plants in 2004, or about 58 percent of the 406 flowering plants recorded in 2003. The density plots documented very stable numbers in total plants in the population compared to previous years. Reproducing plants account for only about 1.4 percent of all the plants. Large non-flowering (adult) plants account for just 18.8 percent of the total population. The remaining 79.8 percent of the plants are in the small, or “bulblet,” (just emerged) age classes. About 10.2 percent of the mature flowering plants were grazed by deer.



At the Jacksonville site, census data revealed 138 flowering plants in 2004, or a 46 percent increase in the number of plants recorded in 2003 (94 plants). The density plots documented pretty stable numbers in total plants in the population compared to previous years, with a little more variability than the Pickett Creek site. Mature flowering plants account for only about 1.1 percent of all the plants. Large non-flowering (adult) plants account for just 12.6 percent of the total population. The remaining 86.3 percent of the plants are in the small, non-reproducing, or “bulblet,” (just emerged) age classes. There was no documentation of deer grazing on flowering plants in 2004.

It is too soon to make conclusive statements, but initial data show large differences year to year in reproduction, dormancy, and recruitment—likely in response to environmental variables (i.e. precipitation, heat loads, etc.). Additional years are needed before statistically valid conclusions can be drawn. Additional information can be found in the 2004 reports on file at the Medford District.

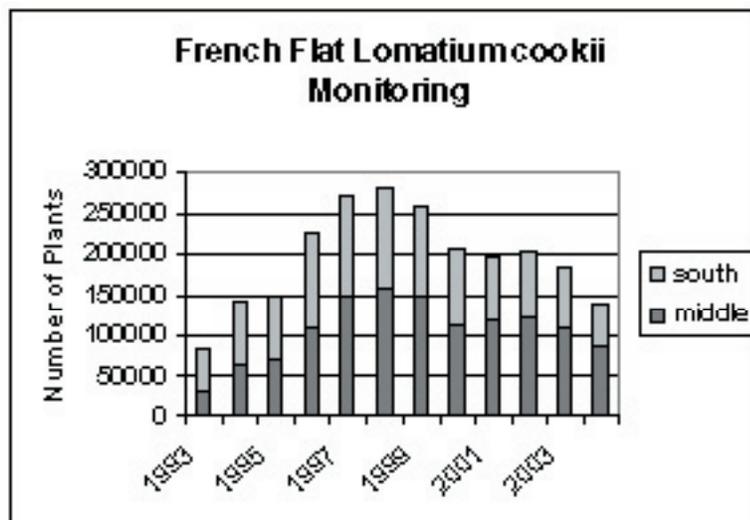
No other monitoring was funded for *Fritillaria gentneri* in 2004.

***Lomatium cookii* (Cook’s desert-parsley)**

This plant was federally listed as endangered in 2002. Demographic monitoring has been conducted at three locations in the Illinois Valley at French Flat Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Rough and Ready ACEC, and the Indian Hill site. The partner involved is the Institute of Applied Ecology. They have been the principal investigators since 1993. The main conclusions from the 2004 data are summarized below. Additional information can be found in the 2004 reports on file at the Medford District.

**French Flat**

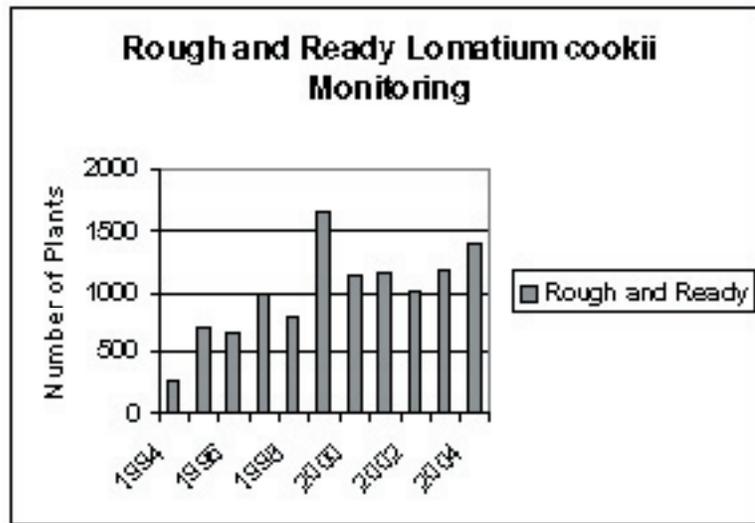
Two sub populations have been monitored within this Area of Critical Environmental Concern and are showing declining trends in both density and total population size. The 2004 counts stand at 84,000 plants at the middle population and 53,000 at the south. The chart below shows the number of plants in the two sub-populations (middle and south) that have existed at the French Flat site over 11 years. This annual plant occupies less than two acres of BLM lands. Monitoring also shows that, while the total population counts have been falling over the last few years, the number of flowering (reproducing) individuals has remained pretty stable. Also of concern is damage from off-road vehicles (ORV) that continued in 2004, despite the BLM and USFWS efforts to repair gates, close and sign the area, and increase law enforcement presence.



Population viability analysis (PVA) was also done this year on the 12 years of data. Transitional matrices and deterministic growth rates were determined for the 1994-2004 years. The PVA is showing that if conditions and trends remain the same, the models are projecting a high probability (98 percent) of a greater than 50 percent decline in the next 20 years in the south population, and a very low probability (less than 1 percent) of this occurring in the middle population. The middle population is likely to remain stable, while the south population will decline slowly on the next several decades.

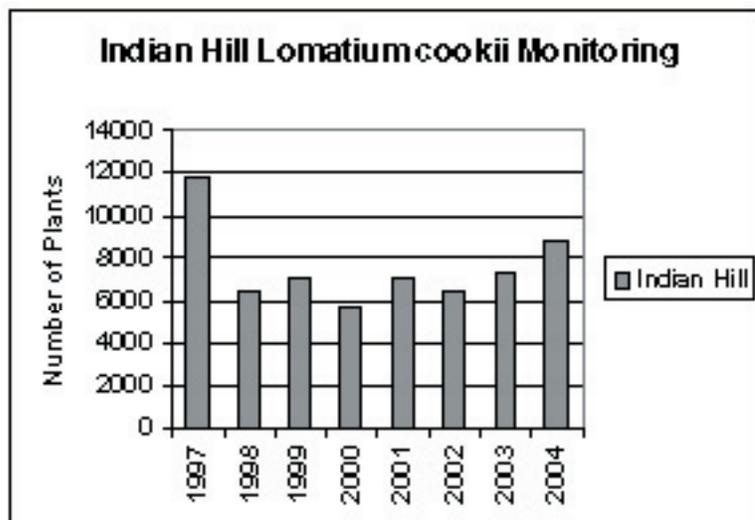
### Rough and Ready ACEC

Population size here currently stands at 1,403 plants. The overall pattern has been a little variable, but recent year data show stable to slightly increasing trends. Continued dumping and ORV traffic through the population continues to be a concern.



### Indian Hill

Approximately 8,795 plants occur at this site. After a large decrease the year after initial monitoring in 1997, the population has been pretty stable. \_



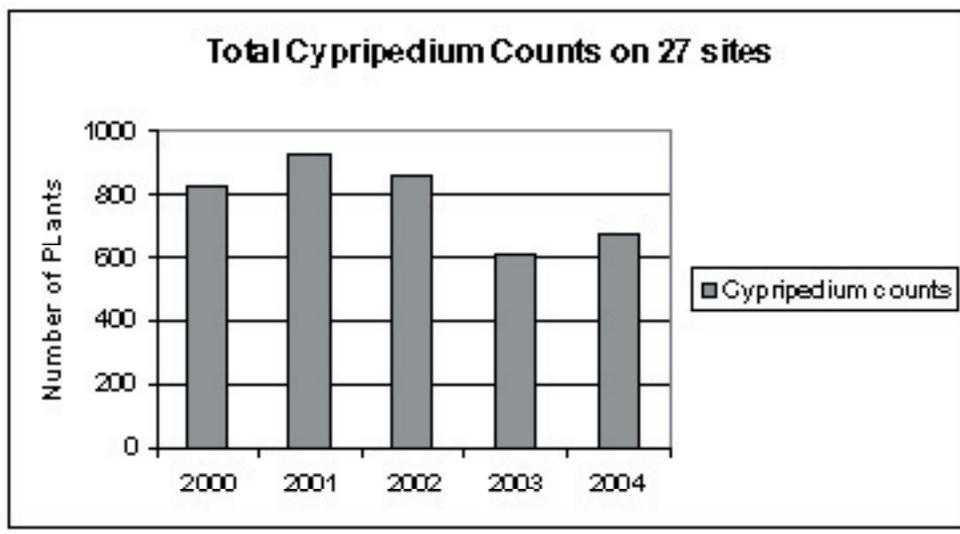
### ***Calochortus greenei* (Green's mariposa lily)**

As part of the grazing study within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, baseline monitoring in three areas in the Monument, with five paired plots (fenced and unfenced) in each area, occurred in 2003. The 30 plots were read in 2004 looking at demographic counts, flowering and seed set, and herbivory levels from insects and animals, including cattle.

One year of data is not conclusive and additional years of data will be collected. The Institute of Applied Ecology is the partner in this Challenge Cost Share study and will continue monitoring in 2004.

### ***Cypripedium fasciculatum* (clustered lady's slipper)**

Twenty-seven sites have been monitored on the Medford District since 2000, collecting demographic data on dormancy, reproduction and age class distribution. The sites represent a sample of the range of the species in the sub-basin and different plant communities and successional states. Total population counts for the 27 sites are displayed below. In 2004, 671 plants emerged, a slight increase from last year's counts (611), and down significantly from the previous year. While the short-term trend appears down, it is too soon to say what the long-term trend for this orchid is. Plants can often have widely fluctuating counts year to year based on edaphic and climatic variables. Other data are showing that the average population size remains small (has varied between 22 and 33 plants per site), with only three sites having more than 50 plants. Between roughly 35-42 percent of the population flower in any given year; approximately 35 percent of the flowers successfully set fruit.



The monitoring will continue in 2005. After a few more years of data collection, population viability analysis can be done that will look at transitional matrices and deterministic growth rates, and model predictions on long term trends.

## **Native Plant Material Program**

### **Summary**

The Medford District Native Plant program continued to expand in 2004 in an attempt to meet all the native grass seed and native plant material needed for District restoration and rehab projects. Most of the

districts requests for native plant material were met. No new wildfires occurred on the District.

The major changes in 2004 from last year were:

- 1) Increase in native seed production from 2003.
- 2) A significant increase in the amount of native grass under production and increase in the diversity of species and sources.
- 3) A major effort to diversify plant material and seed production of native forbs, brush and hardwood species for inclusion in our restoration mix.
- 4) Assistance agreement and native grass and forb production with the Plant Material Center in Corvallis OR.

All grass seed produced was from local genotypes. Fifty-two seed lots (sources) representing 13 native grass species produced seed in 2004. The gross yield of seed reached 26,800 pounds (Approximately one third of the weight is removed during cleaning.) This was a very large production year for the Medford BLM. No other district in the country has a more active program. Nearly all the seed produced is scheduled for use this year on wildfire rehabilitation and district restoration projects. Twelve other species of riparian hardwoods, shrub and forb species were grown for out planting.

Native grass seed was applied on approximately 2000 acres across the district in nine project type categories. Over 16,000 pounds of seed was sown on these projects at the rate of approximately 10 pounds per acre.

In 2004, over 70 percent of the Native Plant Program was out-sourced to commercial contractors. Well over two thirds of the seed production acres are under contract with commercial growers. The trend is to increase commercial seed production through the Native Grass Grow-Out IDIQ contract and reduce the amount at state and federal nurseries. Other activities that are out-sourced include seed cleaning (30 percent), weeding of seed increase fields (100 percent), and application of seed in the field (100 percent). The remaining 30 percent goes to state and federal nurseries for seed increase and other miscellaneous expenses.

## **Funding Sources**

Over the past year, multiple funding sources have contributed to the development and sustenance of the native plant program. This seems to be a well-rounded approach in cost sharing since each one of these activities receives benefits from the program. The following programs contributed funding:

1150	Threatened and Endangered Species
1560	Fire Emergency Rehab
2881	National fire Program
5882	Title II Funds
5310	Repair of Damaged lands
6320	Western Oregon Reforestation and Forest Development
6333*	Western Oregon Soil, Water and Air
6334*	Western Oregon Wildlife Habitat Management
6650	Jobs in the Woods

\*No contribution in 2004

**Medford District  
Native Grass Seed Production – FY 2003**

	<u>Number of Species/ lots</u>	<u>Production Acres '03</u>	<u>Gross Yield (lbs) '03</u>	<u>Straw Bales (#)</u>
<b>Out-Sourcing 4 Prime Contractors</b>	7 species 16 Sources	54	10,978	280
<b>State Nursery</b>	5 species 9 Sources	12	1,594	240
<b>Federal Nursery</b>	13 species 48 Sources	29	19,381 (uncleaned)	2392
<b>FY '03 Total</b>	<b>13 species 52 Sources</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>31,953</b>	<b>2912</b>

**Medford District  
Native Grass Seed Production – FY 2004**

	<u>Number of Species/ lots</u>	<u>Production Acres '04</u>	<u>Yield Clean Seed (lbs) '04</u>	<u>Straw Bales (#)</u>
<b>Out-Sourcing (4 Prime Contractors)</b>	4 species 10 Sources	87	18,579	
<b>State Nursery</b>	1 species 1 Source	1.5	1,937	
<b>Oregon Stewardship</b>	2 species 2 Sources	0.5	0	
<b>J.H. Stone FS Nursery</b>	9 species 37 Sources	24	6,272 (uncleaned)	3000
<b>Plant Material Center, Corvallis OR</b>	4 species 4 Sources	1.5	0	
<b>FY '04 Total</b>	<b>9 species 52 Sources</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>26,788</b>	<b>3000</b>



*Cypripedium montanum*



*Fritillaria genterii*

**Field Projects Summary Accomplishments FY 2003**  
**Medford District Native Grass Program**

	<b>Acres Treated</b>	<b>Lbs Applied</b>
<b>Watershed Enhancement Projects</b>		
Oak Woodland Restoration	75.00	760.00
Wildfire Restoration	14,37.00	12,637.00
Fuels Reduction/Habitat Enhancement	925.00	6,512.00
Repair of Damaged Lands	1.00	10.00
Riparian Reserve soil stabilization	9.00	95.00
Area of Critical Environmental Concern Restoration Projects	20.00	40.00
Weed Treatment	210.00	4,400.00
Lands Treatment; mining restoration, etc.	1.00	14.00
Shrubland Restoration	166.00	1,860.00
<b>Road Projects</b>		
Road Decommission or Road Obliteration	64.00	831.00
New Road Construction or Maintenance	11.00	196.00
Road Cut-bank Stabilization	14.00	175.00
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>2,933.00</b>	<b>27,530.00</b>

**Field Projects Summary**  
**Estimated Accomplishments FY 2004**  
**Medford District Native Grass Program**

	<b>Acres Treated</b>	<b>Lbs Applied</b>
<b>Watershed Enhancement Projects</b>		
Oak Woodland Restoration	75.00	760.00
Wildfire Restoration	0.00	0.00
Fuels Reduction/Habitat Enhancement	1,550.00	10,500.00
Repair of Damaged Lands	1.00	20.00
Riparian Reserve soil stabilization	0.00	0.00
Area of Critical Environmental Concern Restoration Projects	0.00	0.00
Weed Treatment	100.00	1000.00
Lands Treatment; mining restoration, etc.	1.00	14.00
Shrubland Restoration	166.00	1860.00
<b>Road Projects</b>		
Road Decommission or Road Obliteration	55.00	1200.00
New Road Construction or Maintenance	10.00	300.00
Road Cut-bank Stabilization	10.00	300.00
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>1,968.00</b>	<b>15,954.00</b>

# SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Below is a summary of events/actions that occurred with regards to Areas of Environmental Concern, (ACECs) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs) on the Medford District.

- **New Proposals:** No new ACECs were proposed for the Medford BLM in 2004.
- **Management Plans:** Work was completed on the Bobby Creek RNA EA/Management plans.
- No other plans were written in 2004. The Oregon Gulch RNA and Scotch Creek RNA that were written in previous years are in the final Cascade Siskiyou National Monument EIS awaiting signature.
- **ACEC Surveys:** Systematic plant surveys and plant community mapping were done for the Pipe Fork RNA, a total of 529 acres. This was the information needed to move forward to develop management plans for this area in out years. Pipe Fork RNA is unique in that it is late successional forests containing the most easternmost natural occurrence of Port Orford cedar.
- **ACEC Actions:** At the French Flat ACEC, monitoring was done looking at fences and gates that were previously constructed to keep OHV's out of the federally listed *Lomatium cookii* meadows, per an agreement with the USFWS. Vandals in 2004 had breached the fence and caused some significant damage to the wet meadows, but missed the *Lomatium cookii* population by several hundred feet. The fence and gate are being repaired and hopefully increased law enforcement will keep further illegal actions from occurring. Monitoring of the site will continue.

# CULTURAL RESOURCES

The program provided cultural and historic input to the Fire Management Plan, Eighth Year RMP evaluation and other planning documents as requested. The program continues to solicit tribal input for important projects and to keep an updated list of interested tribes. Public outreach and education goals were addressed through various means including:

- Continuing the Assistance Agreement with Southern Oregon University for the archeological field school which teaches students the proper archeological field methods;
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rogue Basin Site Stewards for monitoring of selected archeological sites; and
- Participation of District personnel in a number of public presentations.

# RURAL INTERFACE AREAS

The objective of the resource management plan 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 these managed areas. These interests include personal health and safety, improvements to property, and quality of life.

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

In the past year, the BLM has worked with numerous local 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 are used to mitigate impacts to neighbors. The BLM is also attempting to reduce fuels hazards on public lands adjacent to private properties.

*BLM employees meet with a forester from Superior and a local landowner to look at the possibility of enhancing the landowner's pond as a pump chance (a small pond used as a water source during fire fighting activities). This type of development can be part of a Title II project.*



## **SOCIOECONOMIC**

The Medford District has been successful in contributing to local, state, national and international economies through monetary payments, sustainable use of BLM-managed lands and resources, and use of innovative contracting and other implementation strategies.

The District provides employment opportunities for local companies, contractors and individuals through a wide variety of contractual opportunities and through the harvesting of forest products. These opportunities include the sale of commercial timber; silvicultural treatment projects such as thinning; planting trees; repair of storm damaged roads; and the collection of special forest products including ferns, mushrooms, and firewood. The District also provides developed and undeveloped recreational 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 Bureau of Land Management contributes financially to the local economy in a variety of ways. One of these ways is through financial payments. They include: Payments in Lieu of Taxes and O&C Payments. Payments of each type were made in FY 2004 as directed in current legislation. The specific amounts paid to the counties under each revenue sharing program in FY 2004 are displayed in the table on page 26. A description of each type of payment program is described below.

### **Payments in Lieu of Taxes**

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (or PILT) are Federal payments made annually to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-65, dated October 20, 1976. This law was rewritten and

**Total Payments and Total Acres by  
County  
Fiscal Year 2004**

County	Payment	Total Acres
BAKER COUNTY	\$343,560.00	1,020,693
BENTON COUNTY	\$3,855.00	20,327
CLACKAMAS COUNTY	\$98,998.00	521,992
CLATSOP COUNTY	\$501.00	359
COLUMBIA COUNTY	\$0.00	1
COOS COUNTY	\$12,815.00	67,573
CROOK COUNTY	\$178,239.00	939,816
CURRY COUNTY	\$112,030.00	590,707
DESCHUTES COUNTY	\$271,863.00	1,433,476
DOUGLAS COUNTY	\$180,023.00	949,221
GILLIAM COUNTY	\$47,056.00	34,616
GRANT COUNTY	\$332,044.00	1,750,793
HARNEY COUNTY	\$577,210.00	4,466,344
HOOD RIVER COUNTY	\$39,025.00	205,773
JACKSON COUNTY	\$87,360.00	460,631
JEFFERSON COUNTY	\$56,344.00	297,088
JOSEPHINE COUNTY	\$66,396.00	350,091
KLAMATH COUNTY	\$409,560.00	2,159,522
LAKE COUNTY	\$577,210.00	3,703,245
LANE COUNTY	\$259,698.00	1,369,332
LINCOLN COUNTY	\$34,980.00	184,443
LINN COUNTY	\$90,279.00	476,022
MALHEUR COUNTY	\$1,418,226.00	4,300,684
MARION COUNTY	\$38,766.00	204,378
MORROW COUNTY	\$39,924.00	149,960
MULTNOMAH COUNTY	\$14,400.00	75,930
POLK COUNTY	\$0.00	435
SHERMAN COUNTY	\$73,932.00	53,672
TILLAMOOK COUNTY	\$17,621.00	92,913
UMATILLA COUNTY	\$128,081.00	418,790
UNION COUNTY	\$405,389.00	624,346
WALLOWA COUNTY	\$221,494.00	1,167,805
WASCO COUNTY	\$42,016.00	221,541
WASHINGTON COUNTY	\$3,639.00	2,608
WHEELER COUNTY	\$57,728.00	301,926
YAMHILL COUNTY	\$4,891.00	25,790
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,245,153.00</b>	<b>28,642,843</b>

amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982 and codified at Chapter 69, Title 31 of the United States Code. The Law recognizes that the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact.

PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. These payments are one of the ways that 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. 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 refers only to Oregon and California Revested Grantlands (O&C) and Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands, 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 Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands in the Coos Bay and Roseburg BLM Districts.

Fiscal Year 2004 was the fourth year that payments were made to western Oregon

counties under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-393). Counties made elections to receive the standard O&C payment as calculated under the Act of August 28, 1937 or the Act of May 24, 1939, or the calculated full payment amount as determined under P.L. 106-393. All counties in the Medford District elected to receive payments under the new legislation. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2001 and continuing through 2006 payments are to be made based on historic O&C payments to the counties. The table at the bottom of page 27 displays the statewide

<b>Title II Medford District RAC (Payments were made October 31, 2003)</b>	
Curry	\$156,867.13
Douglas	413,828.22
Jackson	1,307,161.46
Josephine	1,017,972.03
Klamath	315,503.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,211,332.75</b>

payments made under each Title of P.L. 106-393 as well as the grand total and the table at left displays the Title II payments for this District. Actual payments made in 2004 for fiscal year 2005 projects were distributed October 28, 2004.

**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 special account in the Treasury of the United States for funding projects providing protection, restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource objectives as outlined in P.L. 106-3983. BLM is directed to obligate these funds for

projects selected by local Resource Advisory Committees and approved by the Secretary of Interior or her designee.

**Title III** payments are made to the counties for uses authorized in P.L. 106-393. These include: 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.

<b>FY2004 Secure Rural Schools Payments to Counties (Payments were made October 28, 2004)</b>					
<b>County</b>	<b>FY2004 Full Payment Amount with CPI</b>	<b>Amount to County (including Title III)</b>	<b>Amount Elected for Projects</b>	<b>Amount Elected for Title III</b>	<b>Amount Elected for Title II</b>
Benton	\$3,157,286.32	\$2,920,489.85	\$473,592.94	\$236,796.47	\$236,796.47
Clackamas	6,235,921.38	6,058,197.62	935,388.21	757,664.45	177,723.76
Columbia	2,314,594.24	2,081,977.52	347,189.13	114,572.41	232,616.72
Coos	7,459,102.78	7,212,952.39	1,118,865.42	872,715.03	246,150.39
Curry	4,101,101.45	3,787,367.19	615,165.22	301,430.96	313,734.26
Douglas	28,295,946.76	25,112,652.75	4,244,392.01	1,061,098.00	3,183,294.01
Jackson	17,606,646.50	16,286,148.01	2,640,996.98	1,320,498.49	1,320,498.49
Josephine	13,572,960.41	12,554,988.38	2,035,944.06	1,017,972.03	1,017,972.03
Klamath	2,629,199.28	2,313,695.37	394,379.89	78,875.98	315,503.91
Lane	17,157,210.72	15,896,155.73	2,573,581.61	1,312,526.62	1,261,054.99
Lincoln	404,492.20	380,222.67	60,673.83	36,404.30	24,269.53
Linn	2,966,276.12	2,743,805.41	444,941.42	222,470.71	222,470.71
Marion	1,640,440.58	1,578,924.06	246,066.09	184,549.57	61,516.52
Multnomah	1,224,712.49	1,192,712.49	183,706.87	151,706.87	32,000.00
Polk	2,426,953.19	2,354,144.59	364,042.98	291,234.38	72,808.60
Tillamook	629,210.08	566,446.37	94,381.52	31,617.81	62,763.71
Washington	707,861.35	681,316.55	106,179.20	79,634.40	26,544.80
Yamhill	808,984.40	808,984.40	121,347.66	121,347.66	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$113,338,900.25</b>	<b>\$104,531,181.35</b>	<b>\$17,000,835.04</b>	<b>\$8,193,116.14</b>	<b>\$8,807,718.90</b>

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

# RECREATION

The Medford District’s Recreation Management program continues to be one of the most diverse in the state. Developed sites maintained by the district include:

## **Campgrounds**

- Hyatt Lake
- Tucker Flat
- Elderberry Flat
- Skull Creek

## **Day use sites**

- Gold Nugget
- Elderberry Flat
- Hyatt Lake
- Recreation Section of the Rogue River

## **Interpretive trails and sites**

- Eight Dollar Mountain,
- Table Rocks
- Hyatt Lake
- Gold Nugget
- Rand Administrative Site

## **National Register Sites**

- Whisky Creek Cabin
- Rogue River Ranch
- Smullin Visitor Center at Rand on the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River

## **Nationally designated trails**

- Rogue River National Recreation Trail
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

The district maintains a hang-gliding site at Woodrat Mountain near Ruch. A winter tubing hill and a system of cross-country and snowmobile trails are maintained near Hyatt Lake. More people than ever before were taken on guided interpretive hikes on the Table Rocks with over 3,200 school children and 2,000 adults participating in this ever popular activity.

Forty-seven miles of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River are managed by the district, with BLM administering both the commercial and private permits. Rafting, boat and bank fishing, motorized tour boat travel, hiking on river trails, and all other manner of water related activities continue to flourish and grow.

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

The 5,867-acre Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) as well as the developments at Hyatt Lake are now encompassed by the newly established Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. The Soda Mountain WSA continues to be managed under the non-impairment criteria of the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review, pending Congressional action.

Winter recreation use continues to increase with over 20 miles of cross-country ski trails and sixty miles of snowmobile trails maintained.

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

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

*Gold Nugget Day Use Area is a popular local picnic spot for families and put-in point for anglers wishing to fish the Rogue River.*



# FOREST MANAGEMENT

Medford District manages approximately 859,096 acres of land located in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos counties. Under the Northwest Forest Plan, approximately 191,000 acres (or 22 percent of the Medford District land base) are managed for timber production. The Northwest Forest Plan and the Medford District Resource Management Plan provide for a sustainable timber harvest, known as the allowable sale quantity (ASQ), from Medford District administered public lands of 57.1 million board feet (MMBF) annually.

Due to a number of legal challenges affecting Western Oregon, the district has not been required to produce its full ASQ for several years. In fiscal year 2004 (FY04), Medford was committed to offering 46 MMBF, an increase of 6 MMBF from fiscal year 2003, as a step toward reaching the full ASQ. However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling regarding Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Designation in the *Gifford Pinchot Task Force, et al. v. Fish and Wildlife Service* case required the deferral of several projects to future sale years, reducing the FY04 volume to 25.6 MMBF.

The Medford District held three public timber sale auctions in FY04, offering a total volume of 25.6 MMBF. Additional volume resulting from negotiated sales and modifications to ongoing sales brought the total volume to 26 MMBF for the fiscal year. The bulk of this volume (17.0 MMBF) was provided by two timber salvage sales, Smoked Gobbler and Flaming Rock, which resulted from the Timbered Rock fire of 2002. These projects are located in the Elk Creek Late-Successional Reserve. Legal challenge resulted in an adverse court ruling which prevented salvage of this dead timber. Typically a variety of harvest methods are employed in the Medford District including: regeneration harvest; density management; selective harvest; commercial thinning; and salvage. However, the fiscal year 2004 advertised sale program included only commercial thinning and salvage projects.

Land Use Allocation	Offered FY 2004		Total 1995 -2004 (MBF)
	MBF	CCF	
North GFMA	0	0	167,875
South GFMA	6,071	9,600	109,876
Connectivity	0	0	11,753
Miscellaneous Volume	369	589	5,213
Total Volume offered from ASQ lands	6,440	10,189	403,064
LSR Volume	19,537	31,259	25,178
Riparian Reserve volume	0	0	5,392
Hardwood volume	0	0	482
<b>Total District Volume</b>	<b>25,977</b>	<b>41,495</b>	<b>434,116</b>
<b>District FY Target Volume</b>	<b>57,075</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>483,778</b>

- Data shown is for all advertised “Offered” timber sales.
- Miscellaneous volume includes timber sale modifications and special forest products sold as sawtimber.

**Harvest Land Base (HLB)**—The following lands are available for harvest under the District RMP Land Use Allocations (LUA); General Forest Management Area (GFMA), Connectivity/Diversity Blocks, Adaptive Management Areas (AMA), and within the designated Key Watersheds which overlay the other LUAs. The harvest land base is composed of the net available acres of suitable commercial forest land on which the ASQ calculation, using the TRIM-PLUS model, is based. Volume from the harvest land base is called “chargeable volume” as it is charged towards or against (a credit) the ASQ level declared in the RMP. The GFMA and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks equate to the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) Matrix land use allocation.

**1) Summary of Volume Sold**

Sold ASQ/Non ASQ Volume	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	FY95-04 Declared ASQ
ASQ Volume - Harvest Land Base	199.5	165.6	365.1	570.2
Non ASQ Volume - Reserves	8.0	19.9	27.9	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>207.5</b>	<b>185.5</b>	<b>393.0</b>	<b>n/a</b>

Sold Unawarded (as of 09/30/03) ASQ/Non ASQ Volume	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total
ASQ Volume - Harvest Land Base	16.4	46.2	62.6
Non ASQ Volume – Reserves	2.6	.0	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>65.2</b>

**2) Volume and Acres Sold by Allocations**

ASQ Volume - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	Decadal Projection
Matrix	132.3	159.2	291.5	492.0
AMA	51.1	.0	57.1	171.0

ASQ Acres - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	Decadal Projection
Matrix	17,089	14,053	31,142	23,299
AMA	9,653	2,719	12,372	6,686

Key Watershed ASQ Volume (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	Decadal Projection
Key Watersheds	3.8	26.7	30.5	90.0

### 3) Sales Sold by Harvest Types

ASQ Volume - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	Decadal Projection
Regeneration Harvest	57.4	31.0	88.4	344.0
Commercial Thinning & Density Management	118.8	96.4	215.2	222.5
Other	23.3	18.4	41.7	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>345.3</b>	<b>570.8</b>

ASQ Acres - (Harvest Land Base)	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total	Decadal Projection
Regeneration Harvest	3,527	1,319	4,846	11,277
Commercial Thinning & Density Management	21,864	14,842	36,706	18,584
Other	573	1,932	2,505	548
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,964</b>	<b>18,093</b>	<b>44,057</b>	<b>29,985</b>

Reserve Acres	FY95-98	FY99-04	FY95-04 Total
Late-Successional Reserves	465	997	1462
Riparian Reserves	577	86	663
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>2,125</b>

# SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS

The Medford District sold a wide variety of products under the Special Forest Products Program in FY 2004. These sales included mushrooms, boughs, Christmas trees, wood burls, plant transplants, edibles and medicinals, floral greenery and wood products such as poles or fence posts.

The record of decision does not have any commitments for the sale of special forest products. The following table shows the special forest product sales for fiscal year 2004 on the Medford District.

Product	No. of Contracts	Quantity	Sold Value
Boughs-Coniferous	21	45,800 lbs	\$1,259
Burls & Miscellaneous	26	74,870 lbs	5,066
Christmas Tree Permits	1	2 trees	10
Christmas Tree Tags	1,147	1,147 trees	5,735
Ornamentals	0	0	0
Edibles & Medicinals	4	1,670 lbs	75
Floral & Greenery	60	74,420 lbs	2,059
Mosses-Bryophytes	0	0	0
Mushrooms-Fungi	15	1,163 lbs	478
Seed & Seed Cones	0	0	0
Transplants	1	20 items	10
Wood Products	438	1,103,551 cu ft	9,605
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,713</b>		<b>\$24,297</b>

# ENERGY AND MINERALS

The Medford District has approximately 15 active mining notices. This was a decrease of approximately 25 percent from 2003 due to the implementation of the 3809 Regulations' financial guarantee requirement for existing operations. In 2004, approximately 50 site inspections were completed. In FY 2004, the District removed four occupancies that were determined not to be reasonably incident to mining. The District processed no new, 3809 mining actions in FY 2004. This lack of new activity was attributed to the passage of new regulations early in the 2001 calendar year. An effort to mitigate one abandoned mine environmental hazard site was continued in FY 2004. This site continues to discharge acid mine water, but at an increased PH level.

The district continues to use BLM managed rock quarries as resources to sell mineral materials to the public and for BLM management activities. BLM use includes timber sale road surfacing, and large rocks for fish weir projects and culvert replacement. A total of 85 permits for 14,500 cubic yards of rock were issued to businesses and private citizens in FY 2004. One material trespass was initiated and settled, and a second trespass is in the Interior Board of Land Appeals. Five free use permits were issued, a majority of which went to the BLM road crews. No quarries were opened or closed.

# LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS

No land tenure adjustments have occurred within the District in 2004.

## ACCESS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

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

## TRANSPORTATION AND ROADS

During 2004, the Medford District continued developing Transportation Management Objectives for all roads controlled by the Bureau. The process will continue through 2005. Transportation management objectives have been 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. Those activities identified included:

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

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

The district decommissioned approximately four miles of road through timber sale projects. Another 25 miles of road were closed by gates or barricades. Since the Resource Management Plan was initiated, a total of approximately 417 miles of roads have been closed and 162 miles have been decommissioned.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The district hazardous materials coordinator participated in a number of actions involving investigations and/or cleanup of reported hazardous waste sites, employee and public awareness training, and recycling:

- Inspected all district facilities with the Safety Manager for safety and environmental compliance in preparation for the follow-up Compliance Assessment for Safety Health and the Environment (CASHE) scheduled for May 2004. A follow-up inspection was conducted to verify recommended actions of CASHE report findings were completed or scheduled for completion.
- Completed 14 environmental site assessments for easement acquisitions and land exchanges.
- Activated and administered the emergency response contract for two hazardous waste incidents and performed local removals on an additional five sites.
- Removal action work for the Almeda Mine continued with the construction of a drill pad for bore hole B-1 and completion of limestone trench rehabilitation.

- Performed preliminary investigations and carried out appropriate actions on 31 reported hazmat incidents.
- Organized and conducted the District Office clean up day while promoting the district waste minimization plan.
- Recycled 131 junk tires recovered from illegal dumps on public lands.
- Provided hazmat awareness training for new employees.



*One of the sad results of living in the I-5 corridor is the large amount of hazardous materials from meth labs that is dumped on public lands. Sites such as this can cost as much as \$3,000 to clean up.*



*Recent limestone trench work at the Almeda Mine helps mitigate the discharge of acid mine water.*

# Wildfire and Fuels Management

The 2004 fire season began on June 4 and ended October 17. Wildland fire potential indicators predicted normal activity for large fires throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Southwest Oregon Fire season resulted in a normal to below normal year.

Oregon Department of Forestry provides fire protection and wildland fire suppression for the Medford District through a cost reimbursable contract. For the 2004 fire season, the District experienced 31 wildfires which burned a total of 192 acres. Of the 31 fires, 15 were lightning caused and burned 59 acres. Human fire starts totaled 16 and burned 133 acres. Eighty-seven percent of the fires were 10 acres or less.

## Medford District's Fuels Management Program

The Medford District continues as a leader in aggressive fuels management in Southwest Oregon. The primary goal of the National Fire Plan, Healthy Forest Initiative and The Health Forest and Restoration Act is fire hazard reduction which the district accomplishes with the continued implementation of landscape-scale projects. Most hazardous fuels reduction has been done on BLM lands in the wildland-urban interface around communities at risk.

In 2004, 8,976 acres were treated with prescribed fire and 13,128 acres by hand or mechanical methods. The total acres treated in 2004 (22,104) surpassed the total treated in 2003 by 1,399 acres. Since 1996, the year landscape-scale projects began showing results, the Medford District has treated by burning or mechanical means just over 108,000 acres for hazardous fuels reduction.



*A firefighter (center) keeps an eye on a low, slow-moving fire, part of the District's fuels management program in the wildland urban interface north of Merlin.*

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

Medford District has three full time BLM Law Enforcement Rangers and, through law enforcement agreements with the counties, the services of 3.5 deputy sheriffs from both Jackson and Josephine Counties. Law enforcement efforts on the Medford District for fiscal year 2004 included the following:

- Responding to and investigating natural resource crimes throughout the District.
- Investigating occupancy trespass cases, mining occupancy and other trespasses.
- Drug/narcotic offenses (marijuana and methamphetamine) investigations.
- Coordinating law enforcement actions with other federal, state and local departments.
- Investigating crimes against federal employees and federal property.

Cases and incidents have resulted in written warnings, citations, physical arrests, and the referral of cases to other agencies. Thirty-one felonies and 205 misdemeanors were charged. The District had a total resource/property value loss of \$88,754. We had several forest protests at the district office complex and in the field. We had an increase of law enforcement incidents within the Cascade/Siskiyou National Monument. Incidents included illegal off road vehicles, resource damage, dumping, large drug/alcohol parties, fire violations, drug production, hunting violations, transient camps and resource theft.

The Medford District Law Enforcement Office entered 1,528 incidents into the BLM LAWNET System in 2004.

# RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Medford District rangeland program administers grazing leases for 51 livestock operators on 52 active allotments and 43 vacant allotments. These grazing allotments include approximately 352,313 acres of the Medford District's 863,095 total acres. In addition to public lands, grazing authorizations may include several thousand acres leased from private timber company holdings.

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

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

Livestock grazing regulations were revised in 1995 with the implementation of Rangeland Reform and are scheduled to be revised again in 2005. Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health were completed for the states of Oregon and Washington in 1997. The fundamental characteristics of rangeland health combine physical function and biological health with elements of law relating to water quality, and plant and animal populations and communities. Assessments of rangeland health are underway and will be completed on grazing allotments over a ten year period.

New Bureau policy requires that lease renewal applications are filed four months prior to expiration of the existing lease. This will allow time for the authorized officer to review the application and ensure appropriate documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

An update of the Medford District Rangeland Program Summary was completed in the year 2001 and summarizes changes which have occurred since the last update. Copies of this document are available by contacting our office. All future updates will be reported annually in this report, the Medford District *Annual Program Summary*.

## **Fiscal Year 2004 Accomplishments**

**Lease Renewals:** Grazing lease renewals now require a review of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements prior to renewal for a new ten year term. Most grazing leases within the Ashland Area require renewal prior to 2006, while the majority of the Butte Falls leases required renewal prior to year 2004. Lease renewals may be completed along with Rangeland Health Assessments to more efficiently utilize staff. This strategy also reduces heavy lease renewal workloads in some years.

**Butte Falls Field Office:** An environmental assessment analyzing lease renewals on 23 allotments was initiated with completion expected in 2005.

**Allotment Monitoring:** Utilization, trend and riparian studies were collected on approximately 11 high priority allotments.

**Rangeland Improvements:** September 18, 2004, was the eighteenth annual Jenny Creek Riparian Volunteer project. This year the project was co-sponsored as part of the National Public Lands Day celebration. Federal agency participants, including BLM, have implemented this national effort to accomplish on-the-ground work while building strong public/private relationships dedicated to caring for our public lands. A total of 125 volunteers participated in the project this year.

### **Projects Completed:**

#### **Ashland Field Office (includes Jenny Creek Riparian Volunteer Projects):**

- Oregon Gulch Exclosure Construction
- Onion Creek Exclosure Construction
- Corn Lily Exclosure Construction
- Butterfly Exclosure Construction
- Beaver Meadow Exclosure Construction
- Heppsie Exclosure Construction
- Conde/Deer Creek Reno Fence Construction
- Annual Maintenance on 16 Exclosures

#### **Butte Falls Field Office:**

- 130 acres of weed treatment was completed within the boundaries of the Timbered Rock Fire (Flat Creek Allotment)
- Several exclosure fences were maintained and upgraded

## **Fiscal Year 2005 Planned Work:**

Although there are important lease renewal workloads awaiting production, budget shortfalls in several departments in 2005 are having substantial impacts on many programs. Broad-based program reprioritization is being done to cope with budget difficulties resulting in attention focused on areas of special concern. Efforts will continue on botanical clearance surveys, Rangeland Health Assessments, Standards and Guidelines Reviews, NEPA and lease renewals planned in 2005.

## Rangeland Health Assessments:

**Ashland Field Office:** If funding becomes available in the budget for botanical clearances, the following allotments may be scheduled for evaluations and lease renewal.

- Heppsie #00126 4,076 acres
- North Cove Creek #10148 281 acres
- Poole Hill #20113 1,760 acres
- Conde Creek #20117 5,346 acres

Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines Assessments continue on allotments within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument through the Livestock Impact Study. Leases within the CSNM may be renewed pending the results of the Livestock Impact Study (eight allotments).

### Lease Renewals:

#### Butte Falls Field Office:

- Summit Prairie #10031 91509 acres
- Flat Creek #10002 26784 acres

**Wild Horse and Burro Program:** The wild horse and burro program completed nine compliance checks to ensure proper care of adopted animals. Two relinquished horses were successfully adopted at the Jackson County Fall Harvest Fair.

*Volunteers at the annual Jenny Creek Project chop blackberry vines in the riparian zone.*



# CADASTRAL SURVEY

Fiscal year 2004 was once again a very busy year for the Medford District cadastral survey organization. Crews completed three projects and continued work on three additional projects as fiscal year 2004 drew to a close. A total of 79 miles of line were surveyed or resurveyed, 34 miles of federal boundaries were marked and blazed, and 96 survey monuments were established or reestablished. Medford cadastral survey utilized survey-grade global positioning systems (GPS) to establish control points on the projects that it completed, as well as using GPS to conduct surveys where practical.

Cadastral survey serves as the district lead for all levels of GPS work, both resource grade and survey grade GPS.

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

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

### Community Outreach and Action Plan

In 2004, the Medford District completed a Community Outreach and Action Plan to be used as a guide for developing future public outreach efforts. The goal of the plan is to provide an effective public education and outreach program that demonstrates BLM's role in the management of natural resources and natural resource processes. It also provides an effective way for the public to better understand the agency's mission and programs. This program focuses on five key areas:

- Forest management
- Fire and fuels
- Off-highway vehicle use (OHV)
- Management of special areas (Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument)
- Watershed restoration

In 2004, we developed a fact sheet on fire and fuels. Future outreach materials may include fact sheets, power point presentations, static displays and brochures. These materials will contain clear messages that tell BLM's story.

Wherever possible, the District will continue to develop partnerships within local communities.

### Outreach Events

Employees of the Medford District participated in many outreach programs in FY 2004. Of these, the Outreach and Public Education Network (OPEN) of the district was responsible for exhibits for seven events:

- Sportsmen's Show
- Pear Blossom Festival
- Master Gardeners' Show & Sale

- Safe Kids Safety Fair
- Jackson County Fair
- Rogue River Timber Carnival, Rooster Crow and Car & Bike Show
- Josephine County Fair
- Harvest Fair

The Committee also solicited feature articles for our regular monthly column “Nature and Nurture” in *Rogue Valley Parent* magazine. These columns cover all aspects of land management, but are geared toward families with children. The articles often suggest activities that adults and children can do together such as star gazing, bird watching, OHV riding, and participating in conservation projects.

The district sponsored six National Public Lands Day Projects in 2004:

- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Jenny Creek
- Table Mountain Trail Maintenance
- National Scenic Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance
- Wildcat Recreation Site Fencing Project
- Fishing Line Clean-up at McGregor Park
- Outdoor Learning Event, Wolf Creek

The district is also a government partner with Hoover Elementary School. As such, various employees worked with the school as science fair judges and as sponsors of the annual Christmas tree cutting.

In all, more than 191 district employees and other volunteers worked for more than 2,300 hours on these events.

In addition, employees

- Participated in the Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Show, Merlin Parade, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rogue River Cleanup, Free Fishing Day, CAST Day (free fishing day for physically and mentally challenged young people)
- Led Table Rocks Nature Hikes
- Staffed McGregor Park Visitor Center near Lost Creek Lake
- Co-sponsored the “Tour de Fronds,” a 70-mile bicycle ride
- Provided outdoor education talks and field trips for numerous schools throughout the region

## Safe Kids Coalition



As a part of the Medford BLM's continuing partnership with the Rogue Valley Safe Kids Coalition we hopped on board the bus—the Safe Kids Bus, that is. The first of its kind in the nation, the Safe Kids bus is a regular Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) bus (fueled by Natural Gas) with a route that takes it through Rogue Valley communities from White

*Safe Kids Coalition “Safe Kids Bus.”*

City to Ashland. Once a week, the bus visits schools and RVTD representatives talk about safety issues with youngsters. Each child receives a packet that includes information from the partner organizations. The bus is also popular at various child-related venues throughout the valley such as Headstart classes, KTVL Kids Day at Hawthorne Park, and the Medford City Winter Lights Festival.

The Medford District has provided 10,000 copies of a coloring book entitled *Lost but Found: Alex's Adventure* for this packet. The coloring book, developed by District employees in partnership with the Hidden Valley High School art class, explains to kids what they need to do if they get lost or separated from adults while in the woods and how to have a safe experience on public lands.

This highly visible bus has the BLM logo in two prominent locations—the side of the bus near the back entry door and just above the rear bumper—and has an anticipated lifespan of up to 10 years.

## **Donation of Equipment to Schools**

Between 2003 and 2004, the Medford District, under the authority of P.L. 102-245, Section 303, Research Equipment (which amends Section 11 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1990), donated computers, printers and miscellaneous equipment, to local schools. Donations to schools from the Medford District were valued at \$619,650.00.

The District donated equipment to the following schools:

- Rogue River High School, Rogue River, Or
- Eagle Point School, Eagle Point, Ore
- Fleming Middle School, Grants Pass, OR
- Lakeview High School, Lakeview, OR
- Butte Falls School, Butte Falls, OR
- Dome School, Cave Junction, OR
- Williams Elementary, Williams, OR
- Lincoln Savage Middle School, Grants Pass, OR
- Illinois Valley High School, Cave Junction, OR

## **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 the National Marine 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 AMA and also through development of interagency watershed analyses. State level consultation and coordination occurs with the State Historic Preservation Office for Section 106 compliance, and with Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. On a local level, the district consults with Native American tribal organizations, Jackson and Josephine County.

Resource Advisory Committees have been meeting and selecting projects to fund and complete. The following projects were selected and funded at the listed level:

Project Name	Project Number	County	RAC Recommend/Approve Funding
Roadside Brushing	118-03	Curry	\$20,295
Rogue River Rec & Trail Maintenance	118-05	Curry	\$5,500
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-06	Curry	\$15,540
LSR Enhancement Small Diameter Thin	118-01	Douglas	\$164,312
Noxious Weed Removal	118-02	Douglas	\$34,500
Totten Creek Culvert	118-09	Douglas	\$116,050
Interior Douglas Co. Gorse Removal	118-10	Douglas	\$31,673
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-11	Douglas	\$14,865
Roadside Brushing	118-54	Douglas	\$47,520
Roadside Brushing	115-21	Jackson	\$22,000
Roadside Brushing	116-23	Jackson	\$31,900
Noxious Weed Control	115-29	Jackson	\$43,903
Jenny Creek Noxious Weed Treatment	116-30	Jackson	\$34,800
CSNM Noxious Weed Treatment	116-31	Jackson	\$94,000
Jackson Creek Fuels Reduction	116-34	Jackson	\$490,000
Dump and Trash Clean up	116-36	Jackson	\$34,800
Johns Peak Activity Plan	116-37	Jackson	\$230,890
Grant Coalition Coordination	110-44	Jackson	\$45,751
ODF Website Development	110-45	Jackson	\$6,000
Wildfire Comm. Website	110-46	Jackson	\$41,750
McGregor Park Outreach Program	115-47	Jackson	\$11,000
Forest Camp	110-48	Jackson	\$175,000
Cantrall Buckley Park Master Plan	116-49	Jackson	\$12,100
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-51	Jackson	\$18,619
Grave Creek Riparian Restoration	118-52	Jackson	\$8,943
Illegal Dump Patrol & Cleanup	117-17	Josephine	\$108,900
Noxious Weed Removal	118-18	Josephine	\$34,500
Grant Coalition Coordination	110-30	Josephine	\$45,751
ODF Website Development	110-31	Josephine	\$6,000
Wildfire Comm. Website	110-32	Josephine	\$42,750
Medford Air Tanker Base	110-33	Josephine	\$41,750
Cheney Creek Roads Restoration	117-34	Josephine	\$88,921
Waters Creek Restoration	117-35	Josephine	\$14,850
Thompson Creek. Road Chipseal	117-36	Josephine	\$46,750
Rogue River Coop Marine Deputy	117-39	Josephine	\$35,000
Rogue River Recreation. Section Weed Control	117-19	Josephine	\$8,700
Grayback Mountain Trail	117-38	Josephine	\$57,750
Rogue River Clean Up	117-40	Josephine	\$10,000
Thompson Creek Culvert	117-41	Josephine	\$156,475
Rogue River Rec Site Maint.	117-42	Josephine	\$18,000
Cathedral Hills Trail Reconstruction	117-37	Josephine	\$42,900
Middle Rogue Seedling Propagation	117-25	Josephine	\$12,364
Weed Inventory and Mgmt.	117-43	Josephine	\$9,130
Noxious Weed Interpretive Project	117-44	Josephine	\$12,155
Noxious Weed Control	117-45	Josephine	\$12,980
Wildlife Images Blackberry Eradication	117-46	Josephine	\$9,625
Integrated Woodland Mgmt.	117-47	Josephine	\$20,544
Rock Creek Culvert Replacement	118-48	Josephine	\$125,000
Roadside Brushing	1118-49	Josephine	\$47,520
Rogue River Rec. & Trail Maintenance	117-27	Josephine	\$15,000
Golden Outdoor Discovery Center	118-50	Josephine	\$51,650
Youth To Work	118-29	Josephine	\$10,450

# PLANNING AND NEPA DOCUMENTS

## Plan Maintenance

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

Previous plan maintenance has been published in past Medford District Annual Program Summaries. The following additional items have been implemented on the Medford District as part of the plan maintenance during fiscal year 2004. These plan maintenance items represent minor changes, refinements or clarifications that do not result in the expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved resource management plan.

## Plan Maintenance for Fiscal Year 2004

**Aquatic Conservation Strategy Amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.** The provisions contained in the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) of the Northwest Forest Plan were clarified through the signing of the Record of Decision for the *“Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement—Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl—Proposal to Amend Wording About the Aquatic Conservation Strategy.”* The March 2004 ROD amends the Resource Management Plans for seven BLM Districts and the Lands and Management Plans for 19 National Forests.

The decision clarifies that the nine ACS objectives would be attained at the fifth-field watershed scale over the long term and that no project-level finding of consistency with ACS objectives is required.

Copies of the ROD and Final SEIS may be obtained by writing to the Regional Ecosystem Office at the PO Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208, or they can be accessed at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfpnepa>.

**2004 Survey and Manage Amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan.** The Survey and Manage standards and guidelines were removed in March 2004 through the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the *“Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl”* This Decision discontinues the Survey and Manage program and transfers selected Survey and Manage taxa to Agency Special-Status Species programs (SSSP).

This Decision amends the Resource Management Plans for the Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Medford, and Coos Bay Districts in Oregon; the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District, also in

Oregon; and the Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah Field Offices in California. Copies of the ROD and Final SEIS may be obtained by writing the Regional Ecosystem Office at PO Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208, or they can be accessed at <http://www.or.blm.gov/nwfpnepa>.

**Port-Orford Cedar Management Amendment to the Medford RMP.** The management direction for Port-Orford-Cedar (POC) was amended by the Record of Decision for the “*Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement—Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon.*” This May 2004 ROD amends the RMPs for the Medford, Coos Bay and Roseburg BLM Districts. The decision provides for “disease-control procedures and planning processes” in the management of POC. This ROD is the result of a US District Court ruling which states “Coos Bay Resource Management plan did not contain an adequate analysis of the effects of timber sales on the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on POC and its root disease.”

Copies of the ROD and Final SEIS may be obtained by writing the Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208, or they can be accessed on the web at <http://www.or.blm.gov/luexistingplans>.



# **MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005**



# MONITORING REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

## Introduction

This document represents the ninth monitoring report of the Medford District Resource Management Plan for which the Record of Decision was signed in April 1995. It compiles the results of implementation monitoring of the ninth year of implementation of the Resource Management Plan. Included in this report are the projects that took place from October 2003 through September 2004. Effectiveness and validation monitoring will be conducted in subsequent years when projects mature or proceed long enough for the questions asked under these categories of monitoring to be answered.

## Background

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

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

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

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

## Monitoring Overview

This monitoring report focuses on the implementation questions contained in the Resource Management Plan. Questions were separated into two lists, those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary, e.g., accomplishment reports. (A copy of both lists are included in Appendix B). The monitoring plan for the Resource Management Plan incorporates the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan.

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

# Monitoring Results and Findings

Implementation monitoring was based on a process developed by the Medford District Research and Monitoring Committee. The basis was Appendix L of the RMP/ROD. Questions were separated into two lists, those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary or completed reports (copies of the questions are included in Appendix B). Projects were randomly selected for monitoring for the period from October 2003 to September 2004.

The following process was used for selecting individual projects to meet the RMP ROD implementation monitoring standards:

1. The list of projects occurring in FY 2004 were based on the following stratification:
  - All advertised timber sales
  - All silvicultural projects
  - Riparian Restoration Projects
  - Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects
  - Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects
  - Fuel Reduction Projects
  - Road Restoration Projects
  - Miscellaneous Projects
  
2. A random number was selected, with every fifth project from the list selected to be monitored (the monitoring plan in the ROD required 20 percent of projects within each area to be monitored).
  
3. The NEPA documents, watershed analysis files and the Late-Successional Reserve Assessments applicable to each of the selected 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 and/or watershed analysis documentation, and/or Late Successional Reserve Assessment documentation?”

A summary of the district monitoring follows.

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects for FY 2004					
Project Type	# Ashland RA	# Butte Falls RA	# Glendale RA	#Grants Pass R.A.	Total # District
Timber Sales	1	4	4	2	11
Silviculture Projects	3	5	4	1	13
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	0	0	2	2
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burns	5	3	0	9	17
Road Restoration	1	0	0	2	3
Other Projects	2	7	0	6	15

Summary of Numbers and Types of Projects Selected for Monitoring FY 2004					
Project Type	# Ashland RA	# Butte Falls RA	# Glendale RA	# Grants Pass RA	Total # District
Timber Sales	0	2	1	0	3
Silviculture Projects	0	1	1	1	3
Riparian Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Habitat Projects	0	0	0	1	1
Wildlife Habitat Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Prescribed Burns	2	1	0	1	4
Road Restoration	1	0	0	0	1
Other Projects	0	2	0	1	3

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

Projects were selected for monitoring based on the guidelines contained in Appendix L of the RMP/ROD.

The Medford District started or completed 60 projects from October 2003 through September 2004. These projects included timber sales, small salvage sales, road rights-of-way, collection of special forest products and trail construction. The projects were sorted into the following categories:

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

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

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

The Medford District is divided into four resource areas. Projects were selected from all resource areas and answers to the monitoring questions for the individual actions based on a review of the files and NEPA documentation. Some questions asked for information that required field review of projects before they were started and other questions required information gathered after projects were completed. Necessary monitoring field trips were conducted over the entire Medford District.

## Findings

The Medford District found a high level of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) contained in the Medford Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan. The results of our ninth 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 for the S&Gs have been met for the sampled and completed projects.

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

Special Attention Species	Riparian Reserves	Snag Retention
Coarse Woody Debris	Wildlife Habitat	Special Status Species
Fish Habitat	Structures in Riparian Reserves	Special Areas

Riparian reserves were measured and found to have the correct size buffers for the different types of streams. All projects were found to be in full compliance with the S&Gs from the record of decision. The project results and information on the monitoring process is available at the Medford District Office. As a result of observed very high compliance with management action/direction in the past nine years, no implementation or management adjustments are recommended.

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

# **APPENDICES**



# APPENDIX A. MONITORING

## Projects subjected to sampling:

### Timber Sales

Horse Creek Ridge  
Five Rogues Project  
King Pete  
Timbered Rock  
Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage  
Birdseye Jones Project

Flounce Around  
Coyote-Shively Creek Salvage Sale  
Keno Salvage Project  
Stormy Salvage  
Biscuit Fire Recovery Project

### Silvicultural Projects

Pre-commercial Thinning Matrix  
Salmon Creek Planting  
Tree Pruning  
BFRA Tree Planting  
PCT – Brushing BFRA  
Roadside Brushing 34S-2E-02

Pre-commercial Thinning LSR  
Gopher Trapping  
Plantation Maintenance  
Brushing & HDW cutting (Hull & Sprignett)  
PCT – Brushing Elk Creek LSR  
Powell Creek Fire Rehab (Tree Planting)

### Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects

Galice Creek Restoration Project

Sourgrass Creek Log Placement

### Roads and Construction

Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal  
2004 Culvert Replacement Project

Galice Creek Road Slide Removal

### Prescribed Burn Projects

Howard / Hyatt Fuels Reduction  
Fuels Reduction – China Keeler  
Antelope Road Brush Removal  
Manzanita Drive Fuel Reduction  
Wild rose Fuel Hazard Reduction  
Fuel Hazard Reduction Heater  
Fuel Hazard Reduction Lomatski  
Fuel Hazard Reduction McCullough  
Rand Neighborhood Fuel Hazard Project

Hazardous Fuels Reduction RR/Gold Hill  
Fuels Reduction in the WUI / Jackson Creek  
Fielder Creek WUI  
Rural Residence Fuels Reduction Eagle Point  
Fuel Hazard Reduction McClure & Turner  
Fuel Hazard Reduction Illinois Valley  
Fuel Hazard Reduction Elliot  
Fuel Hazard Reduction Snyder & Barr

## **Other**

SOU Archaeology Field School  
Canyon Creek Burls  
Falling Bug Infected Trees  
Sandy Knobcone Utilization Test  
Green Top Road & Salt Creek Arch site  
Special REC Permit SEALS Training  
SIS - Q Communication Lease  
Cheney Creek Road Maintenance

Jacksonville Woodland Tree Falling  
Stockpiling of Crushed Rock  
Stewart State Park Hazard Trees  
Blue Gulch Field School  
Test Holes -- Rodriguez  
Adventure Race  
NF Thompson Creek Chipseal

## **FY 2004 Sampled Project List ( by category)**

### **Timber Sales**

Five Rogues Project  
Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage

Stormy Salvage

### **Silvicultural Projects**

Pre-commercial Thinning LSR  
Powell Creek Fire Rehab (Tree Planting)

BFRA Tree Planting

### **Fish Habitat Enhancement Projects**

Sourgrass Creek Log Placement

### **Roads and Construction**

Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal

### **Prescribed Burn Projects**

Howard / Hyatt Fuels Reduction  
Rural Residential Fuels -- Eagle Point

Fuels Reduction -- China Keeler  
Fuel Hazard Reduction -- Lomatski

## **Other**

Canyon Creek Burls  
Sis-Q Communication Lease

Blue Gulch Field School

# APPENDIX B. IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The following two lists of questions have been used to record the Medford District Implementation Monitoring question results for FY 04. The first list, 2004 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions, have been used for specific projects for monitoring.

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

## Medford District 2004 Project Specific RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

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

### All Land Use Allocations

#### Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

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

#### Implementation Monitoring

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Five Rogues Project, Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage, Stormy Salvage, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, Powell Creek Fire Rehab, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, Howard/Hyatt Fuels Reduction, Rural Residential Fuels—Eagle Point, Fuels Reduction—China Keeler, Fuels Reduction—Lomatski, Canyon Creek Burls, Sis-Q Communication Lease, Blue Gulch Field School.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Five Rogues Project, Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage, Stormy Salvage, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, Powell Creek Fire Rehab, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, Howard/Hyatt Fuels Reduction, Rural Residential Fuels—Eagle Point, Fuels Reduction—China Keeler, Fuels Reduction—Lomatski, Canyon Creek Burls, Sis-Q Communication Lease, Blue Gulch Field School.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes; projects sampled: Five Rogues Project, Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage, Stormy Salvage, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, Powell Creek Fire Rehab, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, Howard/Hyatt Fuels Reduction, Rural Residential Fuels—Eagle Point, Fuels Reduction—China Keeler, Fuels Reduction—Lomatski, Canyon Creek Burls, Sis-Q Communication Lease, Blue Gulch Field School.

## Riparian Reserves

### Expected Future Conditions and Outputs

See Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives.

### Implementation Monitoring

7. Are watershed analyses being completed before on-the-ground actions are initiated in riparian reserves?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, lists of watershed analyses completed by the end of FY 2004 are located in resource area files. Applicable watershed analyses were used as a basis for project environmental analysis.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, the Riparian Reserve widths have been based on the established guidelines. Project sampled: Five Rogues Project.

Riparian Width (150') #1 = 151'  
#2 = 201'

Riparian Width (300') #3 = 312'  
#4 = 343'  
#5 = 387'  
#6 = 320'

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, and Powell Creek Fire Rehab.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, and Powell Creek Fire Rehab.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, and Powell Creek Fire Rehab.

11. 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?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal and Sourgrass Creek Log Placement.

12. 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 SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management direction?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—N/A

## Matrix

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

The timber sales reviewed had no regeneration harvests in them that had been harvested yet. (Five Rogues project has not been sold yet.) In the timber sale units that had prescriptions for partial cutting such as thinning, numerous green trees and coarse woody debris is available.

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

Yes, all timber sales are designed to meet ecosystem goals for the Matrix. All resources are analyzed for impacts including; wildlife, soils, hydrology, plants, social, cultural, as well as others.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—No regeneration harvests were planned in any watersheds that had 15% or less late-successional forest in them. RMP objectives were met.

## Air Quality

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

Prescribed burns were all in the form of burn piles rather than broadcast burning. Not all of the piled material has been burned. 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 can be minimized from prescribed burning through ignition timing, aggressive mop-up, and the reduction of large heavy fuels consumed by fire.

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

The timber sales contain abatement specifications as part of the contract. Water is required to abate dust during the construction phase of the contract.

## Soil and Water

26. Are site-specific best management practices identified as applicable during interdisciplinary review carried forward into project design and execution?

The Five Rogues Timber Sale was the timber sale selected, but has not been completed yet. Best management practices were examined based on contract specifications. Skid trail locations are to be approved ahead of time, the maximum area for skid trails is to be less than 12% of the area, existing skid roads are to be used when available, tractor yarding will be limited seasonally.

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, lists of watershed analyses completed by the end of FY 2004 are located in resource area files. Applicable watershed analyses were used as a basis for project environmental analysis.

## Wildlife Habitat

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

Yes. Except for one timber sale (Five Rogues) the sales reviewed had no regeneration harvests in them. In the timber sale units that had prescriptions for partial cutting such as thinning, numerous green trees and coarse woody debris are available. The Five Rogues timber sale has regeneration units in it but has not been cut yet. Adequate numbers of snags and coarse woody debris will be retained.

39. Are special habitats being identified and protected?

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes. Projects sampled: Five Rogues, Stormy Salvage and Butte Falls Recovery project. Seasonal restrictions are in place for spotted owl habitat and buffers on riparian reserves and for special status plants have been put in place.

## **Fish Habitat**

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

The Five Rogues timber sale has identified at-risk fish species and has design features to avoid adverse impacts to it.

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

Yes. The Five Rogues timber sale has identified at-risk fish species and has design features to avoid adverse impacts to it.

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

46. 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?

The Medford District has 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 USFWS concerning special status species. This may consist of a verbal discussion, or range up to and include a formal biological assessment. Projects reviewed were the following: Five Rogues, Stormy Salvage, Butte Falls Hwy Project, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, and Sourgrass Creek Log placement.

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

Recovery Plans are met or exceeded.

## **Special Areas**

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

N/A

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

No mitigation was required, projects were not close to any special areas.

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

No mitigation required.

## **Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values**

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

Cultural surveys were completed. Yes.

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

No mitigation required.

## **Visual Resources**

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—Yes, projects sampled: Five Rogues Timber Sale.

## **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

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

Compliance/Monitoring Results—N/A

## **Rural Interface Areas**

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

Projects sampled: Yes; Five Rogues Project, Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage, Stormy Salvage, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, Powell Creek Fire Rehab, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine

Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, Howard/Hyatt Fuels Reduction, Rural Residential Fuels—Eagle Point, Fuels Reduction—China Keeler, Fuels Reduction—Lomatski, Canyon Creek Burls, Sis-Q Communication Lease, Blue Gulch Field School.

## Noxious Weeds

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

Yes; Five Rogues Project, Butte Falls Hwy Timber Salvage, Stormy Salvage, Pre-commercial Thinning LSR, Powell Creek Fire Rehab, Sourgrass Creek Log Placement, Nine Mile Gulch Culvert Removal, Howard/Hyatt Fuels Reduction, Rural Residential Fuels—Eagle Point, Fuels Reduction—China Keeler, Fuels Reduction—Lomatski, Canyon Creek Burls, Sis-Q Communication Lease, Blue Gulch Field School.

## Medford District APS Related RMP Implementation Monitoring Questions

The following questions are addressed in the text of this Annual Program Summary.

## All Land Use Allocations

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 225)

4. Are the sites of amphibians, mammals, bryophytes, mollusks, vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and arthropod species listed in Appendix C being surveyed as directed in the SEIS ROD?
5. Are high priority sites for species management being identified?
6. Are general regional surveys being conducted to acquire additional information and to determine necessary levels of protection for arthropods and fungi species that were not classed as rare and endemic, bryophytes, and lichens?

## Riparian Reserves

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 226)

- 9A. What silvicultural practices are being applied to control stocking, re-establish and manage stands, and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 9B. Are management actions creating a situation where riparian reserves are made more susceptible to fire?
- 13A. Are new recreation facilities within the Riparian Reserves designed to meet, and where practicable, contribute to Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

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

## **Late Successional Reserves**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 228)

14. What is the status of the preparation of assessments and fire plans for Late-Successional Reserves?
- 15A. What activities were conducted or authorized within Late-Successional Reserves and how were they compatible with the objectives of the Late-Successional Reserve Assessment?
- 15B. Were the activities consistent with SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines, with RMP management direction, and Regional Ecosystem Office review requirements, and the Late-Successional Reserve assessment?
16. What is the status of development and implementation of plans to eliminate or control non-native species which adversely impact late-successional objectives?
17. What land acquisitions occurred, or are under way, to improve the area, distribution, and quality of late-successional reserves?

## **Adaptive Management Areas**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 229)

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

## **Matrix**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 230)

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

## **Air Quality**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 231)

- 25A. Are conformity determinations being prepared prior to activities which may: contribute to a new violation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation, or delay the timely attainment of a standard?
- 25B. Has and interagency monitoring grid been established in southwestern Oregon?

## Soil and Water

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 232)

- 27A. What watershed analyses have been or are being performed?
28. In watersheds where municipal providers have agreements, have the agreements been checked to determine if the terms and conditions have been met?
29. What is the status of identification of instream flow needs for the maintenance of channel conditions, aquatic habitat, and riparian resources?
30. What watershed restoration projects are being developed and implemented?
31. What fuel treatment and fire suppression strategies have been developed to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
32. What is the status of development of road or transportation management plans to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
33. What is the status of preparation of criteria and standards which govern the operation, maintenance, and design for the construction and reconstruction of roads?
- 34A. What is the status of the reconstruction of roads and associated drainage features identified in watershed analysis as posing a substantial risk?
- 34B. What is the status of closure or elimination of roads to further Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives and to reduce the overall road mileage within Key Watersheds?
- 34C. If funding is insufficient to implement road mileage reductions, are construction and authorizations through discretionary permits denied to prevent a net increase in road mileage in Key Watersheds?
35. What is the status of reviews of ongoing research in Key Watersheds to ensure that significant risk to the watershed does not exist?
- 36A. What is the status of evaluation of recreation, interpretive, and user-enhancement activities/facilities to determine their effects on the watershed?
- 36B. What is the status of eliminating or relocating these activities/facilities when found to be in conflict with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 37A. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies in the development of watershed-based Research Management Plans and other cooperative agreements to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?
- 37B. What is the status of cooperation with other agencies to identify and eliminate wild ungulate impacts which are inconsistent with attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives?

## **Wildlife Habitat**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 234)

- 40. What is the status of designing and implementing wildlife habitat restoration projects?
- 41. What is the status of designing and constructing wildlife interpretive and other user-enhancement facilities?

## **Fish Habitat**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 235)

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

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

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 236)

- 48. What coordination with other agencies has occurred in the management of special status species?
- 49. What land acquisitions occurred or are underway to facilitate the management and recovery of special status species?
- 50. What site-specific plans for the recovery of special status species were, or are being, developed?
- 51. What is the status of analysis which ascertains species requirements or enhances the recovery or survival of a species?
- 52. What is the status of efforts to maintain or restore the community structure, species composition, and ecological processes of special status plant and animal habitat?

## **Special Areas**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 238)

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

56. What environmental education and research initiatives and programs are occurring in the RNAs and EEAs?
57. Are existing BLM actions and BLM authorized actions and uses not consistent with management direction for special areas being eliminated or relocated?
- 58A. Are actions being identified which are needed to maintain or restore the important values of the special areas?
- 58B. Are the actions being implemented?
59. Are protection buffers being provided for specific rare and locally endemic species and other species in habitats identified in the SEIS ROD?

## **Cultural Resources Including American Indian Values**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 239)

61. What mechanisms have been developed to describe past landscapes and the role of humans in shaping those landscapes?
62. What efforts are being made to work with American Indian groups to accomplish cultural resource objectives and achieve goals outlined in existing memoranda of understanding and to develop additional memoranda as needs arise?
63. What public education and interpretive programs were developed to promote the appreciation of cultural resources?

## **Wild and Scenic Rivers**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 241)

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

## **Socioeconomic Conditions**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 243)

68. What strategies and programs have been developed, through coordination with state and local governments, to support local economies and enhance local communities?
69. Are RMP implementation strategies being identified that support local economies?
70. What is the status of planning and developing amenities (such as recreation and wildlife viewing facilities) that enhance local communities?

## **Recreation**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 244)

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

## **Timber Resources**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 245)

72. By land-use allocation, how do timber sale volumes, harvested acres, and the age and type of regeneration harvest stands compare to the projections in the SEIS ROD Standards and Guidelines and RMP management objectives?
73. Were the silvicultural (e.g., planting with genetically selected stock, fertilization, release, and thinning) and forest health practices anticipated in the calculation of the expected sale quantity implemented?

## **Special Forest Products**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 246)

74. Is the sustainability and protection of special forest product resources ensured prior to selling special forest products?
75. What is the status of the development and implementation of specific guidelines for the management of individual special forest products?

## **Fire/Fuels Management**

(RMP/ROD, Appendix L, page 247)

77. What is the status of the preparation and implementation of fire management plans for Late-Successional Reserves and Adaptive Management Areas?
78. Have additional analysis and planning been completed to allow some natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions?
79. Do wildfire suppression plans emphasize maintaining late-successional habitat?
80. Have fire management plans been completed for all at risk late successional areas?
81. What is the status of the interdisciplinary team preparation and implementation of regional fire management plans which include fuel hazard reduction plans?

# **APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF ONGOING PLANS AND ANALYSES**

## **Western Oregon Plan Revision**

In August 2003, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, signed a Settlement Agreement which settles litigation with the American Forest Resource Council and the Association of O&C Counties, hereafter referred to as the Settlement Agreement (AFRC v. Clarke, Civil No. 94-1031-TPJ (D.D.C.)). Among other items in the Settlement Agreement, the BLM is required to revise by December 2008 the six existing Resource Management Plans in western Oregon consistent with the O&C Act as interpreted by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Under the Settlement Agreement, the BLM is required to consider an alternative in the land use plan revisions which will not create any reserves on O&C lands except as required to avoid jeopardy under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or meet other legal obligations. In FY 2004, the BLM in western Oregon began making preparations in order to comply with Resource Management Plan revision section of the Settlement Agreement.

## **Eighth Year Evaluation**

A formal Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluation of the Medford District RMP was completed in fiscal year 2004. This periodic evaluation of land use plans and environmental review procedures is required by the Bureau's planning regulations (43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1610.4.9) to determine the status of Resource Management Plan implementation, conformance and monitoring.

The Medford evaluation served as a review of cumulative progress for the composite fiscal year period 1995 through 2003 and assessed the progress of implementation and meeting the objectives of the RMP. This evaluation determined that, with the exception of a few program areas, all RMP program management actions/objectives were being implemented at or near a 100 percent completion rate.

The evaluation team did not identify any critical or immediately warranted new inventories as part of the initial phase of an RMP revision. No new legal or policy mandates were identified as a result of new statutes, proclamations, executive orders, or court orders which were not addressed in the plan, or could not be addressed through plan maintenance (e.g., newly listed streams with water quality issues), or be considered and documented in ongoing implementation actions (e.g., adverse energy impacts). With the exception of the minor, local and discretionary actions related to OHV management in the John's Peak area and potential proposals from other agencies or project applicants, there is no immediate need to amend or revise the RMP. Overall, the Medford District RMP is sufficient to guide management direction for the next five years, subject to monitoring and periodic evaluations.

## **Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Management Plan**

This management plan has been in the works since President Clinton made the area a National Monument in 2000. The draft document was completed and made available to the public in May of 2002. The Final Plan/EIS was completed in spring of 2005. A record of decision is being completed.

## Timber Mountain/John's Peak OHV Plan

Three public meetings have been held for this management plan during the scoping process. The scoping process seeks ideas, issues, and comments from the public so that any concerns that may exist can be captured. We expect to complete the draft plan in the winter of 2005/2006.



*Cross-country skiers enjoy solitude among the big trees of Buck Prairie near Hyatt Lake in the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.*

# APPENDIX D. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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

# APPENDIX E. DEFINITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**iteration**—Something said or performed again; repeated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Special Attention Species (SEIS)**—A term which incorporates the “Survey and Manage” and “Protection Buffer” species from the Northwest Forest Plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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