

Salem District
Annual Program Summary
Plan Maintenance and Monitoring Report
Fiscal Year 2012



As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

Cover Photo: Thinned forest within the Salem District

BLM/OR/WA/PL-13/040+1792

A Message from the District Manager

With this publication, the Salem District has prepared 17 Annual Program Summaries (APS). The report contains accomplishments made during fiscal year (FY) 2012 (October 2011 through September 2012). Where possible, this APS provides cumulative information covering the period since the beginning of the Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP) (fiscal years 1995 through 2012). Tables 1 and 2 summarize many of the resource management accomplishments.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) started a new planning process in March 2012. In order to move ahead with projects, the Salem District designed projects to conform to the 1995 RMP.

In FY 2012, the District offered 55.6 million board feet (MMBF) of allowable harvest, primarily from commercial and density management thinning. Salem offered approximately 28.9 MMBF of the timber volume as restoration thinning in Late-Successional Reserve and Riparian Reserve land use allocations. BLM designed restoration thinning to improve habitat conditions for late-successional, old-growth, and riparian dependent species.

An estimated 1.5 million visitors enjoyed the numerous recreational opportunities on public lands managed by the Salem District. The Salem District manages seven National Landscape Conservation System units, including the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, seven Wild and Scenic River segments, and Table Rock Wilderness.

We hope that you find the information contained in this report informative and we welcome suggestions for improvement.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim M. Titus".

Kim M. Titus
District Manager

Table of Contents

A Message from the District Manager.....	3
INTRODUCTION	8
Summary of FY 2012 Accomplishments	8
BUDGET	10
Budget Summary	10
Pipeline Restoration Funds	10
Timber Pipeline Restoration Program	11
Recreation Pipeline Restoration Program.....	11
Challenge Cost Share Funds	11
PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS	12
Water Quality and Soil	12
Water Pollution Management and Best Management Practices (BMPs)	12
Water Quality Monitoring:	12
Water Body and Fragile Area Identification and Protection	12
Water Quality Restoration	12
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)	13
303d Listed Streams	13
Fisheries	14
Fisheries Inventory and Assessment.....	14
Fish Habitat Restoration	14
Threatened or Endangered Fish.....	15
Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management	16
Green Tree Retention:.....	16
Connectivity / Diversity Blocks:	16
Special Habitats:	16
Nest Sites, Activity Centers, and Rookeries:.....	16
Elk Habitat:	16
Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) Habitat Improvement:	17
Special Status Wildlife	17
Bureau Sensitive or Survey and Manage Wildlife	17
Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Wildlife.....	17
Special Status Plants:.....	19
Workshops:	20
Threatened or Endangered Plants	20

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern 20

Invasive Plant Management..... 20

Silviculture..... 23

Research..... 23

Fuels Management / Air Quality 24

 Fuels Management..... 24

 Air Quality 25

Wildfire..... 25

Cultural Resources 26

Socioeconomic Conditions 27

 Monetary Payments 27

 Payments in Lieu of Taxes 27

 Payments to Counties 27

Forest Management and Timber Resources 28

 Timber Harvest Activities..... 28

Special Forest Products..... 30

Recreation 30

 Recreation Fee Program 30

 National Landscape Conservation System Units..... 31

 Recreation Partnerships and Special Events..... 31

 Other Recreation Management Areas..... 32

 Non-Motorized Trails 32

 Motorized Roads and Trails..... 33

 Back Country Byways 33

Volunteer Program..... 33

Youth, Education and Outreach..... 33

Visual Resources 35

Rural Interface Areas 35

Energy and Minerals 35

 Locatable Minerals: 35

 Leasable Minerals: 36

 Saleable Minerals: 36

 Wind Energy:..... 36

Lands and Realty Program..... 36

 Right-of-Way Grants: 36

 Land Leases: 36

Recreation and Public Purposes Leases (R&PP):.....	36
Land Tenure Adjustments.....	36
Trespass Abatement:.....	37
O&C Revested Lands Access and Transportation Rights-Of-Way Program:.....	37
Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements	38
Unilateral O&C Road Use Permits.....	38
Road Easements.....	38
Transportation and Roads.....	38
Cadastral Survey.....	40
Hazardous Materials	40
Law Enforcement.....	40
COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION	41
Federal Agencies	41
State of Oregon.....	42
Counties.....	42
Cities.....	42
Tribes.....	42
Watershed Councils.....	42
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).....	44
Partnerships.....	45
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).....	45
Other Partnerships	46
PLAN REVISION AND MAINTENANCE.....	47
Progress of Resource Management Plan Implementation.....	47
Land Use Allocations	47
Reinstating the 1995 Salem District Resource Management Plan	47
Survey and Manage Species	48
Clarification of 1995 RMP Snag, Coarse Wood, and Green Tree Retention Requirements.....	48
MONITORING.....	52
Water Quality.....	52
Implementation Monitoring.....	52
Effectiveness Monitoring.....	52
TMDL Validation Monitoring.....	52
Fisheries.....	53
Special Status Plants.....	53
Site Monitoring:.....	53

Special Status Wildlife 53
APPENDICES 54

Tables

Table 1 - Summary of Renewable Resource Management Accomplishments..... 8
Table 2 - Summary of Non-Renewable Resource Management Accomplishments 9
Table 3 -Budget Summary by Type of Funds 10
Table 4 - Recreation Pipeline Projects, FY 2012 11
Table 5 - Challenge Cost Share Projects 11
Table 6 - Planning for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) 13
Table 7 - ESA Consultation..... 18
Table 8 - Management Actions to Control Invasive Plants 21
Table 9 - Fuel Treatments for Site Preparation, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Hazard Reduction
by Land Use Allocation 25
Table 10 - Cultural Resources Activity Cumulative Totals, FY 1996-2012 26
Table 11 – 2012 Timber Sale Volume and Acres..... 28
Table 12 - FY 2012 Special Forest Products Sales..... 30
Table 13 - Fee Site Expenditures, FY 2012..... 31
Table 14 - 2012 Land Acquisitions 37
Table 15 – Road Maintenance Work 39
Table 16 - Law Enforcement Incidents, FY 2012 41
Table 17 - Salem District Involvement with Local Watershed Councils 43
Table 18 - Other Partnerships Described in this APS..... 46
Table 19 - Revised Acreage within Land Use Allocations..... 47

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Program Summary (APS) provides a review of the Salem District programs and accomplishments during fiscal year 2012 (FY 2012), October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. The *Salem District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* approved in 1995 provides the objectives and guidance for managing the resource programs.

The RMP directs that the APS will: track the progress of plan implementation; state the findings made through monitoring; and serve as a report to the public. The different sections of the APS reflect the different purposes of the document. The manner of reporting activities differs between various programs. The APS describes some resource programs in short narratives and provides statistical summaries for other programs. Where possible, the APS provides cumulative information from the first year of the RMP (1995) through 2012.

The District publishes the *Salem District Project Update* quarterly. This publication lists current Salem District projects and serves as a vital part of scoping and solicitation of public comment for all projects. Local newspapers publish legal notices of individual project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents during the public review periods. The public may obtain the *Salem District Project Update* by joining the mailing list or by viewing it on the Salem District website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php>

Summary of FY 2012 Accomplishments

Tables 1 and 2 summarize Salem District’s fiscal year (FY) 2012 accomplishments.

Table 1 - Summary of Renewable Resource Management Accomplishments

RMP Management Activity	Salem District Accomplishments		RMP Projected Practices
	FY 2012	FY 2005-2012	FY 2005-2015
Total Commercial Thinning / Density Management / Uneven-age Management (acres sold/offered) (includes non-ASQ [reserve] acres)	2,385	16,919	8,195
Total Regeneration Harvest (acres sold/offered) (includes road right-of-way clearing and salvage) (includes non-ASQ [reserve] acres)	54	861	5,558
	FY 2012	FY 1995-2012	RMP Projected Practices FY 1995 - 2012
Hazard Reduction - Hand Pruning and Pullback (acres)	44	1,542	None
Hazard Reduction – Mechanical Piling (acres)	1,648	unknown	None
Prescribed Burning - Hazard Reduction (acres)	809	1,100	None
Prescribed Burning - Wildlife Habitat (acres)	0	46	None
Prescribed Burning - Ecosystem Management (acres)	0	144	None
Site Preparation - Prescribed Burning (acres)	66	3,164	4,800
Site Preparation - Other (acres)	163	4,439	5,900
Planting / Regular Stock (acres)	284	5,706	4,800
Planting / Genetically Selected (acres)	0	2,056	4,500

RMP Management Activity	FY 2012		FY 1995-2012		RMP Projected Practices FY 1995 - 2012
Fertilization (acres)	0		4,645		6,000
Plantation Maintenance - Vegetation Control (acres)	546		28,131		18,500
Plantation Protection - Animal Damage Control (acres)	298		7,597		12,800
Pre-commercial Thinning (acres)	1,271		43,331		29,700
Brush Field / Hardwood Conversion (acres)	0		194		900
Pruning (Pruning for disease control combined with wood quality) (acres)	160		4,357		None
New Permanent Road Constructed (miles)	0		27		NA
Roads Fully Decommissioned / Obliterated (miles)	6		144		NA
Roads Closed / Gated (miles)	15		202		NA
Timber Sale Quantity Sold/Offered (million board feet) (allowable sale quantity)	28		490		348
Timber Sale Quantity Sold/Offered (million cubic feet) (allowable sale quantity)	42		166		57
Weed Control	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Acres</i>	
• Chemical treatments	19	1,143	171	3,025	As Needed
• Other treatments (e.g. manual, mechanical, biological)	30	993	132	5,220	As Needed

Table 2 - Summary of Non-Renewable Resource Management Accomplishments

RMP Management Activity	FY 2012		Cumulative - FY 1995-2012	
<i>By Number and Acres</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Recreation - Maintained Sites	19	2,000	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
<i>By Number and Miles</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Miles</i>
Recreation - Maintained Non-Motorized Trails	12	69	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
Recreation - Maintained Off Highway Vehicle Trails	1	25	N/A ¹	N/A ¹
<i>By Sites and Acres</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Sites</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Cultural Resource Inventories	6	1,540	67	27,865
Cultural / Historic Sites Nominated	0	0	0	0
<i>By Actions</i>	<i>Actions</i>		<i>Actions</i>	
Realty - R&PP Leases/Patents	1		4	
Realty - Road Easements Acquired for Public / Agency Use	2		30	
Realty - Road Rights-of-Way, Permits or Leases Granted	8		160	
Realty - Utility Rights-of-Way Granted (linear / areal)	7		54	
<i>By Actions and Acres</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Minerals/Energy - Total Oil and Gas Leases	0	0	5	15,633
Minerals/Energy - Total Other Leases	0	0	0	0
Minerals - Material Sites Opened and Material Sites Closed	0	0	0	0
Mining Claims Patented and Mining Plans Approved	0	0	0	0
Realty - Land Sales	0	0	16	15.8
Realty - Withdrawals Completed	0	0	2	2
Realty - Withdrawals Revoked	0	0	1	16

RMP Management Activity	FY 2012			Cumulative - FY 1995-2012		
<i>By Actions, Acres Acquired, and Acres Disposed</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Acres Acquired</i>	<i>Acres Disposed</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Acres Acquired</i>	<i>Acres Disposed</i>
Realty - Land Exchanges	0	0	0	7	4,524	2,241
<i>By Sites Identified and Sites Cleaned</i>	<i>Sites Identified</i>		<i>Sites Cleaned</i>	<i>Sites Identified</i>		<i>Sites Cleaned</i>
Hazardous Material Sites	5		3	71		50
¹ Same trails/sites maintained annually - no cumulative number						

BUDGET

Budget Summary

In FY 2012, the BLM appropriated 22.7 million dollars to the Salem District. This includes:

Table 3 -Budget Summary by Type of Funds

Salem District Funds	\$ (million)
Oregon and California Railroad Lands (O&C)	15.8
Forest health and future year prepared sales (timber pipeline funds)	0.9
Recreation pipeline funds	0.3
Public domain/Management of Lands and Resources (MLR) accounts	0.7
Fuels management and fire preparedness	0.5
Title II (Secure Rural Schools county payments)	0.6
Infrastructure construction, improvements and deferred maintenance	3.9
Land acquisition	0
Total	22.7

Salem District funding changed very little overall from FY2011 to FY2012 in the primary appropriated accounts (O&C, MLR, fire and fuels, and timber). Accounts related to special one-time projects fluctuate from year-to-year. In 2012, the District experienced continued decreases in Title II Secure Rural Schools project funds and recreation pipeline funds. The District received no additional dollars for land acquisition in FY2012, but did receive a significant amount for deferred maintenance projects.

Pipeline Restoration Funds

Section 327 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law (PL) 104-134) established the pipeline restoration fund. The Act established separate funds for the Forest Service and BLM, using revenues generated by timber sales released under Section 2001(k) of the FY 95 Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance and Rescissions Act. PL 104-134 directs that the agencies use 75 percent of the fund to prepare sales sufficient to achieve the total allowable sale quantity (ASQ) and to use 25 percent of the fund on the backlog of recreation projects. BLM’s goal is to use the fund to gain one year’s lead time in ASQ timber sale preparation work over a five to seven year time frame, to reduce the backlog of maintenance at recreation sites, and to address crucial unresolved visitor services or recreation management needs.

Timber Pipeline Restoration Program

Since May 1998, Salem has received funds to work on pipeline timber sales. These funds allow Salem District to complete and make ready for auction these timber sales ahead of the scheduled sale year. Having these sales available, or in the pipeline, provides flexibility in the sale program to react to late developing issues that might delay regular sales in the current year. The Salem District offered 9.8 million board feet (MMBF) of timber pipeline sales in FY 2012.

Recreation Pipeline Restoration Program

In fiscal year 2012, Congress provided recreation pipeline funds to accomplish needed recreation maintenance, repairs, and improvements postponed due to reduced funding over several years. These are referred to as Recreation Pipeline Funds. Table 4 displays how Salem utilized these funds.

Table 4 - Recreation Pipeline Projects, FY 2012

Project Area	Project Description	Dollars Expended
Wildwood Recreation Site (H201)	Trail Paving	\$29,500
Wildwood Recreation Site (H201)	Wellhouse replacement	\$36,000
Molalla River Recreation Area (H207)	Molalla Site Enhancement	\$4,000
Sandy Ridge Trailhead Visitor Amenities (H201)	Provide information and amenities for visitors	\$23,500
Sandy Ridge Trail Project (H201)	Trail System Maintenance and New Trail and Trailhead Construction	\$90,000
North Cascades Trail Maintenance (H201)	Trail system maintenance	\$20,000
Nestucca River Improvements (H205)	Restroom Upgrade	\$21,463
Nestucca OHV Riding Area	Boulders	\$15,985
Nestucca Valley School District	Trail/Recreation maintenance	\$24,000
Nestucca OHV Riding Area	Rock work/trailheads	\$8,370
TOTAL		\$272,818

Challenge Cost Share Funds

The Salem District cooperated in three Challenge Cost Share projects. Table 5 shows that the District contributed \$63,000, while the partners provided \$78,000 in value-in-kind contributions. Salem uses Challenge Cost Share funding for projects benefiting fish, wildlife, botany, recreation, cultural resources, environmental education, and riparian resources.

Table 5 - Challenge Cost Share Projects

Project	BLM Funding	Partners In-Kind	Partners
Cascade Streamwatch	\$33,000	\$33,000	Wolfree, Inc.
Lobster Creek Smolt Monitoring	\$15,000	\$15,000	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Yaquina Head Seabird Study	\$15,000	\$30,000	Hatfield Marine Science Center
Total	\$63,000	\$78,000	

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Water Quality and Soil

Salem District's foremost water and soil objectives include providing conditions supporting high quality water for domestic drinking and fish habitat. The District promotes protection of soils to promote soil quality, maintain site productivity, reduce sediment delivery to the waterways, preventing the occurrence of landslides, and otherwise enhancing the productivity of land for overall watershed health.

Water Pollution Management and Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are the primary controls for achieving Oregon's water quality standards and are used to meet water quality objectives when implementing site-specific management actions. The BLM designed BMPs to meet Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) related to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) Water Quality Standards. The Salem District works with federal, state and other stakeholders within the affected watersheds to ensure that timber harvest and road building BMPs are designed in a manner to protect water quality in watersheds used by cities for their municipal water supply.

Water Quality Monitoring: The Monitoring section of this APS describes water quality monitoring in FY 2012.

Water Body and Fragile Area Identification and Protection

The Salem District protects flood plains, wetlands, streams, and lakes through implementation of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy as described on pages 5-7 of the RMP. District personnel identify these water features in the field and apply standards and guidelines appropriate for operation in and around these areas. The Geographic Information System (GIS) hydrology theme tracks the field mapping of water features. The Resource Area specialist recommends project design features that protect aquatic systems and associated fragile areas during the project level analysis.

Water Quality Restoration

Water Quality Restoration Plans (WQRP) are developed by the BLM and submitted to ODEQ for their approval following the development of a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) order by ODEQ. The WQRP is the implementation plan on how the agency will meet the TMDL Order.

In 2012 Cascades, Mary's Peak and Tillamook Resource Areas (RA) completed water quality restoration projects that added coarse or large woody debris to the streams to aid in the recovery of the fisheries habitat and to assist in meeting the water quality parameters as described in various WQRPs.

Cascades Resource Area placed large woody debris (LWD) to improve hydrologic function and fisheries habitat on the Salmon River in 2012 and will continue this work in 2013 as a multiyear project. Mary's Peak Resource Area placed LWD in Upper Rickreall Creek and Tillamook Resource Area placed LWD in Nestucca River and East Beaver Creek in 2012.

These projects are consistent with Sandy River Water Quality Restoration Plan, Nestucca River Water Quality Management Plan and the Middle Willamette Water Quality Restoration Plan. These types of projects will add complexity to the fisheries habitat, promote formation of pool habitat and aid in reducing water temperature.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) – See Partnerships

303d Listed Streams

The Salem District administers lands in 14 sub-basins that contain 303d listed streams. ODEQ recognizes these streams as impaired and not meeting state water quality standards. ODEQ develops TMDL Orders and Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP) for these sub-basins.

The BLM, as a designated management agency (DMA), complies with the TMDL Orders and develops WQRP to assist the basins in meeting the specifics of the TMDL Order.

During 2012, the BLM served as a DMA representative on the development of an implementation ready TMDL order for the Mid-coast basin. The District hydrologist expects this collaboration with ODEQ to continue in 2013 and that ODEQ will issue an implementation ready TMDL order for the Mid-coast basin in 2014. The Mid-coast basin contains BLM administered lands within both the Eugene and Salem districts.

Table 6 - Planning for Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)

Sub-basin Name	Stream Segment (303d Listing Parameter)	TMDL Status
Clackamas River	Clackamas River (temperature)	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved the TMDL Order and the WQMP in 2006. BLM completed the WQRP in 2008.
Mid-coast basin	Alsea River, Bummer Creek, Drift Creek, Fall Creek, Lobster Creek, Little Lobster Creek, Peak Creek, Siletz River and Slick Rock Creek (sedimentation and turbidity)	The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is currently working on the issuance of an implementation ready TMDL order for the Mid-coast Basin. ODEQ plans to issue the TMDL order in 2013.
Molalla-Pudding River	Molalla River and its perennial tributaries and Pudding River Tributaries (Abiqua, Butte and Rock Creek) (temperature)	ODEQ completed the TMDL order and WQMP in 2008. ODEQ approved the BLM WQRP in 2012.
North Coast	East Fork Nehalem (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2003.
Nestucca River Tillamook Bay Watershed	Trask River and Wilson River (temperature) Nestucca River and East Fork Beaver Creek (temperature and sedimentation)	ODEQ completed the TMDL order and WQMP for Tillamook Bay and Nestucca Bay and EPA approved these documents in 2001 and 2002.
Sandy River	Salmon and Sandy River (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2005. BLM completed the WQRP in 2009.
North Santiam River	Little North Santiam, Elkhorn Creek and North Santiam River (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2006. BLM completed the WQRP in 2008.

Sub-basin Name	Stream Segment (303d Listing Parameter)	TMDL Status
South Santiam River	Thomas Creek, Hamilton Creek, Crabtree Creek and Quartzville Creek (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2006. BLM WQRP completed 2008.
Tualatin River	East Fork Dairy Creek, Scoggins Creek and McKay Creek (temperature)	In 2012, DEQ issued a Revised TMDL Order for the Tualatin Basin to incorporate additional parameters into the TMDL Order. The BLM is currently working on the development of a WQRP for BLM administered lands within the Tualatin Basin.
Lower Willamette River	Scappoose Creek (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2006. BLM completed the WQRP in 2008.
Middle Willamette River	Rickreall Creek (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2006. BLM completed the WQRP in 2008.
Upper Willamette River	Mary's River (temperature)	EPA approved the TMDL order and WQMP in 2006. BLM completed the WQRP in 2008.
Yamhill River	Mill Creek (temperature) North Yamhill River (temperature) Turner Creek (temperature)	TMDL order is on hold based on ODEQ's staffing level.

Fisheries

Fisheries Inventory and Assessment

District personnel conducted adult salmonid spawning surveys in coastal and Columbia Basin streams. Spawning and redd surveys targeted coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Salmon River (Sandy), Clackamas, Little North Santiam, Luckiamute, Nestucca and Alsea watersheds. The Salem District, in partnership with The Freshwater Trust, Forest Service (USFS), Molalla River Watch and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, conducted juvenile fish density and distribution surveys in the Nestucca, East Fork Nehalem, Molalla, Little North Santiam and Salmon (Sandy) Rivers.

Fish Habitat Restoration

Salmon River

Salem District continued to work with the Sandy River Basin Partners to restore habitat for Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout on the Salmon River. In 2012, contractors constructed three main channel engineered log jams and improved connectivity to two side channels and one off-channel habitat. Partners in the project include: The Freshwater Trust, BLM, USFS, Portland Water Bureau, and Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. BLM leveraged \$100,000 in restoration funds with an additional \$125,000 in partner funding in 2012.

Little North Fork Santiam River

Salem District constructed three log jams in a side channel of the Little North Santiam River to provide high quality rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead. This contract also placed log structures in Sinker and Elkhorn Creeks to increase habitat complexity, scour pool habitat, and retain spawning gravels.

Nestucca River

The District placed approximately 120 logs, many with attached root wads in the upper Nestucca River to improve habitat for coho salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout. The District predicts that these log structures will improve habitat complexity, facilitate floodplain/side channel connections and to store bedload material in the channel. Tillamook RA started habitat restoration work in East Beaver Creek in 2012 with the placement of 15 logs, and will continue this restoration work in 2013.

South Fork Alsea River

In 2012, the Marys Peak RA improved habitat for coho salmon in the South Fork Alsea River Watershed. BLM felled 55 streamside trees into three miles of the South Fork Alsea River and felled 15 streamside trees in 0.5 miles of Trout Creek, upstream of a recently upgraded culvert. The Resource Area also built a wood jam in Tobe Creek to improve aquatic habitat complexity.

Fish Passage Restoration

Salem District implemented three large fish passage projects in 2012 to improve passage for Oregon Coast coho salmon. Tillamook RA replaced two culverts on Fan Creek (Nestucca watershed) and Marys Peak RA placed one culvert on South Fork Lobster Creek (Alsea watershed). These projects improved access to approximately two miles of coho habitat. The Tillamook Estuaries Partnership played a substantial role in assembling and managing funds and implementing the Fan Creek projects, while the BLM partnered with the Benton County Public Works Department on the South Fork Lobster Creek project.

The District removed two culverts to improve access for cutthroat trout in the Tualatin and Nehalem watersheds, and replaced a third culvert that blocked access to nearly eight miles of cutthroat trout habitat in Coleman Creek (Alsea watershed) with a bridge.

Threatened or Endangered Fish

Salem District lands contain seven federally-listed Evolutionarily Significant Units for anadromous fish: Oregon Coast coho salmon, Upper Willamette River spring Chinook, Upper Willamette River winter steelhead, Lower Columbia River steelhead trout, Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, Lower Columbia River coho salmon, and eulachon.

The District completed Endangered Species Act consultation for two timber sales. Programmatic biological opinions from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) covered numerous actions, including large wood placements, culvert replacements, road maintenance and invasive weed treatments.

Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management

The type of work affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat depends on the land use allocation. Projects follow the recommendations identified in watershed analyses and Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) assessments. BLM designed forest management activities in LSRs to enhance late-successional forest characteristics for wildlife habitat. This habitat enhancement is for species ranging from raptors to invertebrates. It also benefits fungi, bryophytes, and vascular plants.

The District designed forest management actions within matrix allocations, which include General Forest Management Area (GFMA), Adaptive Management Area (AMA), and Connectivity areas to meet timber management objectives in conformance with RMP standards and guidelines. Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to wildlife in regeneration harvests or to improve habitat in other kinds of timber treatments include green tree retention, snag retention and recruitment, and management to increase coarse woody debris (CWD). In 2012, Salem BLM did not implement any regeneration harvest as defined in the RMP. However the District cleared 25 acres of vegetation within road rights-of-way. Table 1 categorizes the 2012 road rights-of-way clearing along with previous years' rights-of-way clearing as regeneration harvest.

In FY 2012, Salem District created snags on 395 acres to benefit forest birds, bats, and arboreal rodents. The District also created CWD on about 770 acres to benefit forest floor species such as mollusks, salamanders, and prey species for northern spotted owls and other raptors. These treatments included work in GFMA and reserves.

Green Tree Retention: In FY 2012, Salem did not implement any regeneration harvest that required green tree retention. See above.

Connectivity / Diversity Blocks: In FY 2012, Salem District did not sell any commercial thinning in Connectivity/Diversity blocks.

Special Habitats: Cascades Resource Area (RA), in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, completed 305 acres of invasive plant management and habitat improvement along the Sandy River, and 37 acres in the McCully Mountain Potential ACEC.

Nest Sites, Activity Centers, and Rookeries: In FY 2012, Cascades RA discovered one new peregrine falcon nest site and one new northern goshawk nest site. Marys Peak and Tillamook RAs did not find any new nest sites, activity centers, or rookeries. BLM protected known nesting trees throughout the Salem District and protected active nests, particularly for raptors and special status species like the spotted owl and marbled murrelet, using seasonal restrictions on nearby projects to discourage nest abandonment. The District completed tree topping on 1,200 trees to provide nesting or perching structures for forest raptors.

Elk Habitat: The BLM decommissions or obliterates roads that are unstable or no longer required for access to restore watershed conditions. In FY 2012, Salem decommissioned or obliterated six miles of road; and closed, gated, or blocked 15 miles of road. While elk are not the primary reason for decommissioning, obliterating, or closing roads, they benefit from less human-induced disturbance as a result of these actions.

Late-Successional Reserve (LSR) Habitat Improvement: In FY 2012, the Salem District implemented 732 acres of on-the-ground, (not just sold and awarded) density management treatments in 17 project areas to accelerate the development of late-successional characteristics in LSR, Adaptive Management Areas within LSR (AMR), and Riparian Reserve (RR) land use allocations. Salem treated a total of 5,096 acres from 1996 through 2012. The District also completed 960 acres of pre-commercial thinning in very young LSR stands to accelerate the development of older forest structure.

Special Status Wildlife

Salem completed surveys for special status (listed as BLM sensitive and federally threatened or endangered) or Survey and Manage wildlife species prior to all ground disturbing activities. The District conducted approximately 7,841 acres of pre-project surveys during 2012, bringing the total from 1996 through 2012 to 151,757 acres.

Bureau Sensitive or Survey and Manage Wildlife

In FY 2012, BLM surveyed for the following species:

Oregon Red Tree Vole: Contract crews surveyed approximately 1,270 acres to pre-project protocol standards.

Bald Eagles: Salem District biologists surveyed five known bald eagle nesting sites for eagle activity and reproductive success; five adults and three nestlings were observed. Thirteen eagles were observed during the winter bald eagle count; ten eagles were observed at the largest known winter roost site on the Salem District.

Harlequin Ducks: District biologists conducted Harlequin duck surveys on the Molalla (18 river miles), North Santiam (4 river miles) and Quartzville (9 river miles) for a total of 31 river miles. Nineteen adult ducks were observed.

Salamanders: Contract crews conducted 330 acres of pre-project surveys for Oregon slender salamanders.

Mollusks: Contract crews surveyed 1,724 acres to protocol for several mollusk species identified as potential inhabitants of the Salem District. They included Cascades axetail slugs, warty jumping slugs, spotted tail-droppers, Pacific walker snails, evening field slugs and the Puget Oregonian snail.

Threatened or Endangered (T/E) Wildlife

Interagency teams continued using the Section 7 streamlined consultation process. Level one teams, consisting of local employees from BLM, Forest Service (FS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), regularly met to accomplish consultations. In FY 2012 the cooperating agencies prepared and submitted the following batched biological assessments for FY 2013 actions to the USFWS.

Table 7 - ESA Consultation

Type of Consultation	Province	Type of Actions	Consultation Results
Informal	Willamette	“not likely to adversely affect”	BLM received a Letter of Concurrence from USFWS
Informal	North Coast	“not likely to adversely affect”	BLM received a Letter of Concurrence from USFWS
Formal	Willamette	“likely to adversely affect”	BLM received a biological opinion from USFWS
Formal	North Coast	“likely to adversely affect”	BLM received a biological opinion from USFWS

Marbled Murrelet: As of FY 2012, the Salem District has 34 known occupied murrelet sites in reserved land-use allocations in the Coast Range. RMP direction requires two years of surveys for marbled murrelets on all projects that will modify suitable murrelet habitat in the Coast Range. From 1995 through 2012, the District completed surveys where required for specific projects, in accordance with established protocol. This year, Salem BLM conducted 47 surveys for marbled murrelets in nine project areas covering 615 acres. Surveys detected no murrelet presence at the project sites. For murrelet monitoring efforts, see the Monitoring Section of this document.

Northern Spotted Owls:

As of 2012, the Salem District has 62 occupied spotted owl sites. Surveys conducted in the past five years determined northern spotted owl occupancy. The District conducted 29 pre-project northern spotted owl surveys in six project areas covering 3,500 acres. The following paragraphs summarize the spotted owl 2012 survey results:

Cascades Resource Area – Northern Spotted Owl 2012 Survey Summary

The Cascades Resource Area consists of 175,000 acres of BLM land in the Cascades Range of western Oregon, located in Multnomah, Clackamas, Marion and Linn Counties. BLM lands are intermingled with state and private industrial lands. In cooperation with the State of Oregon and adjacent private landowners, the BLM inventories multi-ownerships for spotted owls through comprehensive surveys with the intent of tracking spotted owl occupancy, nesting status, and reproductive success over time. All parties support this cooperative effort by contributing funding and in kind services to accomplish the workload. This effort is essential to planning projects that minimize impacts to spotted owls across the landscape.

In FY2012, the District renewed the Cascades Owl Survey IDIQ (indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity) contract, and Turnstone Environmental Consultants (TECI) conducted the surveys. The contractor conducted protocol surveys for the eighth year in portions of the Snow Peak, Quartzville and Whitcomb Late Successional Reserves (LSRs). The contractor also surveyed Table Rock, Horse Creek and Lukens Creek LSRs for the sixth year. TECI conducted additional surveys in the Little North Santiam, Eagle Creek, Pinecrest and the Middle Sandy Watersheds.

In 2012, TECI surveyed 38 known spotted owl sites (sites) on or near BLM lands, while the state and private entities surveyed 27 sites, for a total of 65 surveyed sites (40,210 acres). Of the 65 sites surveyed, spotted owl pairs occupied 14% of the sites (9 sites), single owls occupied 20% of the sites (13 sites), and surveyors received no responses at 66% of the sites (43 sites). In addition, surveyors received ten single responses, and one pair response not associated with known spotted owl sites. Surveys confirmed one new site on state lands in Butte Creek.

The 2012 surveys showed, for the eighth year in a row, poor spotted owl reproduction in the cooperative area. Only one juvenile fledged during 2012. During the winter of 2011, snow accumulation was below average, but during February, March and April 2012, heavy snow accumulations hindered survey access above 2,000 feet. Spring snow accumulations during 2012, pushed the majority of the survey season into May, June, and July after snow melted from the survey areas. Snow and cold weather during the spring may have affected nesting and reproductive success.

Surveys documented barred owls in 41 of the 65 known spotted owl sites (63%) surveyed in the cooperative area this year. Surveys also showed that barred owl pairs occupied 19 known spotted owl sites. Surveyors found single barred owls in the remaining 22 sites. In addition, the 2012 surveys detected 13 barred owl pairs and 25 single barred owls not associated with known spotted owl sites. Surveys also detected 15 juvenile barred owls. The 2012 barred owl survey results are comparable to 2011, except that the 2011 surveys detected no juveniles.

The surveys did not detect any “sparred” owls on Cascades Resource Area BLM lands in 2012. A “sparred” owl is a hybrid between a spotted and a barred owl. The 2009 surveys detected the first “sparred” owl on BLM lands in the Salem District, and surveyors observed two “sparred” owls in 2010.

Mary's Peak Resource Area - Northern Spotted Owl 2012 Survey Summary

The Marys Peak Resource Area consists of 128,000 acres of BLM-managed land in Benton, Lincoln, and Polk Counties. With the cooperation of timber companies, consultants, and the Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW), the BLM conducted 33 survey visits at 32 spotted owl sites (32,000 acres surveyed) on BLM and adjacent landowners within the Resource Area. The PNW owl crew monitored 29 of these sites as part of their Coast Range Demographic Study. Several of the sites involved cooperative surveys with local landowners or their consultants. BLM staff surveyed three spotted owl sites. Spotted owls occupied nine sites (six pairs and three resident singles), while surveys determined no spotted owl occupancy at 22 sites. A “sparred” male owl occupied one site. Surveys detected one or more barred owls at 22 of the 32 spotted owl sites. Surveyors confirmed nesting for three spotted owl pairs, and two pairs produced two juveniles. District staff banded one adult male owl this year, and confirmed nine previously banded owls (four male and five females) by identifying their color bands.

Tillamook Resource Area – Northern Spotted Owl 2011 Survey Summary

The Tillamook Resource Area (TRA) consists of 106,000 acres of BLM land in Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties. The Resource Area contains 11 active known or historic spotted owl sites located on or near BLM land within the TRA. Current and historical occupancy status and monitoring history varies at these sites. During the 2012 survey season, our cooperators monitored three spotted owl sites (1,500 acres) on BLM or on directly adjacent non-federal lands. Surveyors did not encounter any spotted owls at these three sites.

Special Status Plants: BLM conducted surveys, monitoring, and restoration activities for special status plant and fungi species. Species management was consistent with RMP direction for special status plant species. The District completed surveys for special status species prior to all ground-disturbing activities. Salem staff conducted about 5,080 acres of pre-project surveys for special status plant and fungi species, bringing the total from 1996 through 2012 to 92,080 acres. The Monitoring Section of this document describes site monitoring for special status plants.

Workshops: In 2012, Salem BLM organized and hosted a liverwort workshop and a lichen workshop.

Threatened or Endangered Plants

Nelson's Checkermallow (*Sidalcea Nelsoniana*): Salem BLM monitored the Walker Flat *Sidalcea nelsoniana* population and found the species to be healthy and reproductive. The botanist identified shrub encroachment into the meadow habitat as a source of habitat loss. The District contacted the USFWS to coordinate future treatment.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

In 2006, the Salem District evaluated nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) through an interdisciplinary evaluation process to determine if they met the required relevance and importance criteria for designation. Through this process, the team determined that eleven areas meet the criteria for designation as potential ACECs. The District managed these areas under interim management in FY 2012. The Resource Area botanist wrote interim management plans for the Molalla Oak Meadows and Silt Creek potential ACEC's this year.

The review also concluded that 24 of the 26 existing ACECs met the relevance and importance criteria needed for ACEC designation.

In FY 2012, 21 of the District's existing and potential ACECs were monitored and most were found to be in good or stable condition. Vegetation management is permitted in an ACEC but actions must maintain or enhance the values for which it was nominated. Salem staff identified the encroachment of woody plants into the *Sidalcea nelsoniana* meadow habitat, within the Walker Flat ACEC, as a threat. In coordination with the USFWS, the District is planning treatments to control the encroachment.

Invasive plant control and revegetation restoration continued at Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area ACEC and the Sandy River Potential ACEC.

After several manual treatments (hand pulling) for *Geranium lucidum* at the Butte ACEC, district staff determined that manual treatments are ineffective in controlling populations of this invasive plant. The District will consider alternative treatment techniques for this species in the future.

Invasive Plant Management

The District continued to implement the *Noxious Weed Strategy for Oregon/Washington BLM* (August 1994) and the *Strategies for the Management and Control of Invasive Plant Species on the Eugene and Salem Districts* (September 2003). The primary goal is to reduce the density, expansiveness and the impacts posed by invasive plant infestations. The Salem District continued to actively participate in the Northwest Oregon Weed Management Partnership and six associated Cooperative Weed Management areas.

The Salem District continued to inventory BLM-managed land for noxious weeds and other invasive species through systematic surveys and risk assessments in the course of project planning. The Cascades Resource Area completed systematic inventories throughout their road network. BLM entered infestations data into the National Invasive Species Information Management System, which will ultimately be shared with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

BLM implemented integrated pest management, which includes chemical, mechanical, manual, and biological methods, in accordance with BLM’s 1985 *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement*, and its 1987 Supplement; the *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (September, 2007); and their respective Records of Decision.

The BLM completed *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement* and the associated Record of Decision in 2010. BLM expects to complete a ‘step down’ environmental assessment and associated Decision Record in 2013. Salem District will be able to use 14 herbicides for various vegetation treatments, including invasive plant treatments by combining the amended herbicide injunction with the new decision record.

Table 8 provides a summary of integrated weed management activities to control invasive plants. The BLM coordinates control efforts with adjacent landowners and other interested entities by way of individual contacts and coordination through Cooperative Weed Management Areas and other partnerships. Youth crews treated more than 55 acres of blackberries, Scotch broom, non-native blackberries, periwinkle, English ivy, European beach grass, and shining geranium in 2012.

Project clearance surveys and risk assessments, averaged 6,400 acres per year over the last sixteen years. In all, BLM inventoried more than 14,000 acres in fiscal year 2012. Resource area staff found the majority of high priority new invasive plant infestations through systematic roadside inventories, project risk assessments and partnered projects.

Table 8 - Management Actions to Control Invasive Plants

Treatment	Species	Fiscal Year 2012 (Acres)	Fiscal Years 1996 - 2012 (Acres)
Mechanical	Bull thistle	1	264
	Canada thistle	0	979
	English holly	0	10
	English ivy	1	4
	Evening primrose	1	1
	Giant knotweed	0	4
	Non-native blackberry	138	1,604
	Scotch broom	213	2,020
	Shining geranium	1	1
	St. John’s wort	0	297
	Tansy ragwort	0	388
	Teasel	1	1
	Velvet grass	2	2
Manual	Bull thistle	0	1,062
	Butterfly bush	0	1
	Canadian thistle	0	518

Treatment	Species	Fiscal Year 2012 (Acres)	Fiscal Years 1996 - 2012 (Acres)
	Cotoneaster	10	10
	Diffuse knapweed	0	1
	English holly	0	1
	English ivy	18	51
	European beach grass	49	49
	Evening primrose	10	10
	False brome	0	26
	Gorse	0	10
	Japanese knotweed	0	26
	Meadow knapweed	1	289
	Non-native blackberry	21	960
	Policeman's helmet	0	5
	Reed canary grass	0	16
	Scotch broom	191	2,438
	Shining geranium	3	153
	Spotted knapweed	0	20
	St. John's wort	0	146
	Tansy ragwort	0	892
	Teasel	10	30
	Vinca	8	8
Chemical	Bull thistle	1	16
	Canada thistle	12	139
	Clematis	29	254
	English ivy	61	745
	False brome	171	412
	Herb Robert	1	3
	Himalayan blackberry	187	533
	Knotweeds (Japanese, Giant, Bohemian)	12	113
	Meadow knapweed	1	4
	Peavine	2	3
	Quack grass	0	10
	Scotch broom	348	609
	Shining geranium	2	2
	Spotted knapweed	2	3
	St. John's wort	0	21
	Tansy ragwort	1	15
Total		1,509	15,179

Silviculture

For the second decade of the RMP, Salem District completed approximately ten percent of the projected RMP decadal accomplishments. Due to the low levels of regeneration harvest, the District will continue to accomplish a small percentage of the RMP silvicultural targets for the short term, including:

Site Preparation (FIRE) – In FY 2012, Salem treated 66 acres with prescribed fire for site preparation. The District implemented pile burning on all 66 acres. The District implemented one percent of the planned amount of prescribed burning for site preparation for the second decade.

Site Preparation (OTHER) – The District treated 163 acres with site preparation techniques that included manual piling, lopping and scattering. Other types of site preparation totaled two percent of the planned amount for the second decade.

Planting (regular stock) – The District planted 284 acres with regular planting stock, which is six percent of the amount projected in the RMP.

Planting (improved stock) – The District did not plant any improved stock in 2012.

Maintenance/Protection – The District accomplished 844 acres of maintenance and protection treatments. The amount of maintenance and protection last year was less than three percent of the planned amount for the second decade, again due to low levels of regeneration harvest.

Pre-commercial Thinning (PCT) – The District completed 1,271 acres of PCT last year, which was four percent of the planned amount for the second decade of the RMP.

Fertilization – Salem District has done no fertilization since 1999 due to Survey and Manage protocols and continued litigation. During the second decade of RMP implementation, Salem achieved zero acres of the decadal fertilization goals.

Pruning - Salem pruned approximately 100 acres to improve wood quality and 60 acres to control white pine blister rust. The RMP did not project a decadal estimate of pruning acres.

Research

In 2012, the Salem District maintained and built cooperative relationships with research organizations including Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis, University of Washington in Seattle, and the USDA Forest Service Forest Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis.

The Salem District has hosted four of the twelve replications of the *Western Oregon Density Management and Riparian Buffer Study* (Establishment Report and Study Plan, USGS, 2006-5087). The objective of the research, begun in 1994, is to study the efficacy of treatments in forest stands to restore late-successional habitat attributes, and the effects of thinning and buffers on aquatic and riparian ecosystems. This study has significantly aided the BLM in meeting the requirements for effectiveness and validation monitoring identified in the 1995 RMP. In 2012, the District concluded the second phase of treatments and researchers began post-treatment data collection.

Researchers conducted a conference at OSU and a field tour to Salem's Green Peak study in October 2012 to present and explore findings to date. The event attracted 200 participants. The researchers will publish the proceedings in 2013.

Researchers have published over twenty papers directly based on the Density Management Study vegetation effects, which can be found at:

<http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/fs/kpuettmann/publications.htm>. Researches published over thirty papers and reports regarding riparian and aquatic ecosystems effects of the project, which can be found at:

<http://ocid.nacse.org/nbii/density/pubs.php>

Oregon BLM, as part of the Oregon LiDAR Consortium, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, completed acquisition of LiDAR (light detection and ranging, remote sensing from reflected light rays) imaging for nearly 80% of the Salem District in 2012. Because Salem BLM had acquired LiDAR coverage as early as 2007 in the Panther Creek area of Yamhill County, it has provided a platform for LiDAR-based studies by Portland State University, University of Washington, and the Environmental Protection Agency (Corvallis Laboratory), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Weyerhaeuser Company, and the US Forest Service, PNW Research Station. In 2012, researchers have begun, completed or continued with studies of vegetation, biomass carbon, soil properties, soil carbon, landslide history, hydrology and geology based on LiDAR information.

A detailed 2010 slide presentation about the Panther Creek Watershed study can be found at:

www.growthmodel.org/wmens/m2010/McFadden.pptx

A detailed 2012 presentation about Panther Creek biomass estimation can be found at:

<http://web.pdx.edu/~jduh/courses/geog493f12/Projects/EstimatingBiomass.pdf>

The Trask River Watershed study area is in the North Coast Range of Oregon, on lands managed by Salem District BLM. This offers a rare opportunity to monitor BLM actions in a paired watershed study. The study, under the leadership of the Watersheds Research Cooperative based at OSU, includes paired sites in the Cascades and Mid-Coast regions as well. The study is focused on the effects of forest management on fish and the aquatic environment at the watershed scale. In 2012, the District implemented treatments and researchers collected post-treatment data.

Current information is found at the Watersheds Research Cooperative website:

<http://watershedsresearch.org/ResearchProcess/ResearchProcess.html>

Fuels Management / Air Quality

Fuels Management

Timber Sale Program: The BLM implements fuels management treatments associated with the timber sale program in selected areas to reduce the potential for human caused wildfire ignition, to reduce the potential for wildfire to cross property lines between BLM and private land, and to reduce both the intensity and severity of potential wildfires in the long term (after the completion of fuels reduction). These treatments include site preparation for tree planting, or to create early seral habitat in small gaps or low density thinning areas for grass, forb, and brush establishment, and to remove barriers to big game use of these areas.

National Fire Plan: The District continues to receive funding for hazard fuel reduction projects through the National Fire Plan. The District places a major emphasis on treating fuels in the wildland / urban interface. Treatments that combine disciplines such as wildlife, silviculture, and botany, or that coordinate work with other government agencies or outside constituencies also continue to receive funding. See Table 9 below for the total number of acres that received fuels treatments by land use allocation.

Table 9 - Fuel Treatments for Site Preparation, Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Hazard Reduction by Land Use Allocation

	Land Use Allocation					
	Matrix (GFMA)	Connectivity	AMA	LSR/AMR	Other	Total
Site Preparation Acres	85	0	74	70	0	229
Wildlife Habitat Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hazard Reduction Acres	1,398	0	37	257	0	1,692
Prescribed Fire Acres	1,391	0	0	257	0	1,648
TOTAL	2,874	0	111	584	0	3,569

Air Quality

Air quality continues to be an issue on the Salem District because of the District’s proximity to the Willamette Valley and to the major metropolitan areas of the state. BLM coordinated all prescribed fire activities with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and adjacent landowners to assure that management of the air shed was maintained at a high quality for both visual resources and human health. Operators completed these activities in compliance with the guidelines outlined in the Oregon Smoke Management Plan, and avoided smoke intrusions into any Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas (SSRA’s) or Class 1 air sheds. The small number of acres burned is a reflection of the type of timber harvest (density management/commercial thinning) that is occurring throughout the District.

These types of harvest generally pile fuels with heavy equipment or by hand and consequently less fuel is burned than would occur under regeneration harvest activities. Operators burned piled material during the fall when rains have dampened the soil and atmospheric conditions are unstable. This helps to reduce residual smoke. The District distributes piles throughout the District which further reduces the impacts to any one geographic air shed. In addition, the District has placed an increased effort to find alternative uses for residual slash.

Wildfire

The Salem District has experienced slightly below average precipitation for the year. High elevation sites across the Coast and Cascade Ranges continued to accumulate snow through April and May; however the spring snowpack as of June 1st was above normal. Rainfall tapered off by late June and the District entered into the normal summer pattern with a limited amount of lightning activity.

Fiscal year 2012 was an average year for wildfire starts on the Salem District. Salem dispatch received 18 reported fires that burned 1.8 acres on BLM-administered lands. In the last 10 years, the District has averaged 22.9 fires burning 45 acres per year. The larger average acres burned over the ten year period is a result of one or two larger fires. If these fires were excluded, the average acres burned is 2.2, bringing 2012 within the normal range for wildfire starts and acres burned.

The BLM contracts fire prevention, detection, initial attack suppression, and fuels management project work with the Oregon Department of Forestry through the Western Oregon Fire Protection Services Contract. Payment is based on a per acre assessment of the approximately 403,870 acres in the Salem District.

The majority of wildfires that ODF responds to on the Salem District are abandoned campfires. These fires most often occur in high use recreation areas such as the Molalla and Quartzville Corridors, and the Nestucca and Alsea National Backcountry Byways. The BLM has recently increased its effort on public education and signage, as well as having concentrated efforts at reducing hazardous fuels along roads in these areas. The number of deliberately set fires has dropped significantly in the past several years.

Cultural Resources

The Salem District cultural resource program identifies and manages cultural resources on BLM-administered lands in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 (NHPA). District archeologists conducted pre-project surveys on 1,540 project acres, and discovered one new site during these inventories. In addition, archeologists surveyed 77 acres outside of project areas in medium to high probability areas in compliance with Section 110 of the NHPA.

The Salem District represented Oregon BLM on the Oregon Archaeology Celebration (OAC) Steering Committee, as well as the Association of Oregon Archaeologists (AOA, parent committee of the OAC). These scientific and educational organizations are dedicated to the protection and enhancement of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

The Oregon Archaeology Celebration strives to encourage the education and appreciation of Oregon's cultural resources by promoting activities and presentations focused on Oregon's heritage directed towards all age groups. To publicize OAC 2012, the Salem District distributed 1,079 posters and 2,610 calendar- of-events to 763 locations including schools, counties, universities, libraries and museums.

Table 10 - Cultural Resources Activity Cumulative Totals, FY 1996-2012

Activity	Number
Public education and interpretative programs	392
People directly reached by these program	17,833
Number of locations OAC materials distributed	16,177

Socioeconomic Conditions

The Salem District contributes to local, state, national, and international economies through monetary payments, sustainable use of BLM-managed lands and resources, and through the use of innovative contracting.

Monetary Payments

The Bureau of Land Management contributes financially to the local economy through Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Oregon and California (O&C) payments, and Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBWR) payments.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are federal payments made annually to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands (public domain) within their boundaries. The key law that authorizes the payments is Public Law 94-565, dated October 20, 1976. This law was rewritten and amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982 and codified as [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.

The PILT payments help local governments carry out vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The PILT payments are one of the ways that the federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local communities.

Payments to Counties

Payments are made to counties under *The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000* as amended. 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 land managed by the BLM refers only to Oregon and California Revested Grant lands (O&C) and Coos Bay Wagon Road Lands (CBWR). The O&C lands consist of approximately 2.5 million acres of federally-owned forest lands in 18 western Oregon counties including 74,500 acres of Coos Bay Wagon Road lands in the Coos Bay and Roseburg BLM districts.

This was the 12th year that payments were made to western Oregon counties under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law (PL) 106-393), as amended by (PL 112-141). Beginning in fiscal year 2001, and continuing through sunset of the legislation on September 30, 2013, payments are made based on historic O&C and CBWR payments to the counties. Salem District has posted the 2012 Secure Rural School payment information on the Salem RAC website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/rac/index.php>.

Forest Management and Timber Resources

Timber Harvest Activities

The Salem District’s declared Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) under the 1995 RMP is 34.8 million board feet (MMBF). The ASQ represents the annual volume of timber harvest that is offered from the General Forest Management Area (Matrix) and Connectivity/Diversity Blocks (Matrix) land use allocations. The target volume for the Salem District was established at 52.6 MMBF.

In FY 2012, the District offered 55.6 million board feet (MMBF) of timber, primarily from commercial and density management thinning. The BLM generated a total of \$8.7 million from the timber sales sold in FY 2012. Table 11 shows the volume and acres offered, the portion that counts toward ASQ, and volume and acres offered by harvest type, land use allocation, and age class. This table also includes cumulative information on timber harvest acres, volumes, and harvest types. Except for the District declared allowable sale quantity, projections made in the RMP (see RMP Projections) are not intended as management action/direction, but rather are underlying RMP assumptions. Projected levels of activities are the approximate level expected to support the ASQ.

Table 11 – 2012 Timber Sale Volume and Acres

2012 Volume and Acres	FY 2012		Cumulative FY 2005 - 2012		RMP Projection FY 2005 – 2014	
	Acres	MMBF	Acres	MMBF	Acres	MMBF
Sold Volume (MMBF)						
ASQ Volume (Harvest Land Base)		24.1		251.9		348.1 ^a
Non-ASQ - Volume (Reserves)		31.5		158.2		0 ^a
Total Sold Volume		55.6		410.1		348.1
Sold, Not Awarded Volume (MMBF) as of 9/30/12						
ASQ Volume (Harvest Land Base)		4.1		33.8		NA ^b
Non-ASQ - Volume (Reserves)		2.6		18.6		NA
Total Sold, Not Awarded Volume		6.7		52.4		NA
ASQ Acres / Volume - MMBF by Land Use Allocation^f						
Matrix	547	16.1	7,915	187.1	9,214	328.6 ^a
Adaptive Management Area	286	8	2,903	64.8	2,141	19.5 ^a
Total ASQ Acres / Volume - MMBF by Land Use Allocation^e	833	24.1	10,818	251.9	11,355	348.1
Non-ASQ Acres by Land Use Allocation						
Late-Successional Reserves	906		4,020		1,456	
Riparian Reserves	391		3,884		892	
Other Withdrawn Lands	0		18		50	
Total Non-ASQ Acres by Land Use Allocation	1,297		7,922		2,398	

2012 Volume and Acres	FY 2012		Cumulative FY 2005 - 2012		RMP Projection FY 2005 – 2014	
	Acres	MMBF	Acres	MMBF	Acres	MMBF
Key Watershed Volume		9.8		27		32
ASQ Acres/ Volume by Harvest Types						
Regeneration Harvest ^d	28	1.8	625	21.6	5,558 ^a	298.6
Commercial Thinning & Density Management ^c	802	22.1	10,151	229.9	5,797 ^a	49.5 ^a
Other (Mortality Salvage)	3	0.2	42	0.4	0	0.0
Total ASQ Acres/ Volume by Harvest Types	833	24.1	10,818	251.9	11,355	348.1
Regeneration Harvest ^d ASQ Acres by Age Class ^e						
0-79 Years	28		607		880	
80-149 Years	0		18		4,035	
150 + Years	0		0		643	
Total Regeneration Harvest	28		625		5,558	
Density Management / Commercial Thinning ASQ Acres by Age Class ^e						
0-79 Years	802		9,285		5,647 ^a	
80-149 Years	0		866		150 ^a	
150 + Years	0		0		0	
Total Density Management / Commercial Thinning	802		10,151		5,797 ^a	
Mortality Salvage & Other ASQ Acres by Age Class ^e						
0-79 Years	3		42		0	
80-149 Years	0		0		0	
150 + Years	0		0		0	
Total Mortality Salvage & Other	3		42		0	

^a Includes Riparian Reserve volume and/or acres that are associated with the major land base allocation.

^b This information is also contained in the information for the land use allocation that are associated with Riparian Reserves.

^c Density Management / other Silvicultural treatments to achieve land use allocation objectives

^d Includes clearing vegetation for road rights-of-way, ^e Harvest Land base

Special Forest Products

In 2012, Salem District issued 539 Special Forest Products contracts. The contracts resulted in \$19,506 in receipts. Table 12 summarizes the 2012 Special Forest Products sales.

Table 12 - FY 2012 Special Forest Products Sales

Special Forest Products	FY 2012			Cumulative - 2nd Decade - FY 2005 - 2014				
	Pounds	Contracts	Value (\$)	Pounds	Contracts	Value (\$)		
Boughs	25,860	8	\$1,994	292,279	70	\$33,298		
Burls and Miscellaneous	200	1	\$10	1,965	7	\$114		
Edibles and Medicinals	0	0	\$0	960	4	\$71		
Floral and Greenery	1,950	4	\$156	420,309	207	\$33,761		
Moss and Bryophytes	0	0	\$0	500	1	\$1,846		
Mushrooms and Fungi	26,124	198	\$3,994	143,909	1,060	\$23,843		
	Trees			Trees				
Christmas Trees	0	0	\$0	11	8	\$152		
	Tons			Tons				
Feed and Forage	0	0	\$0	1,937	6	\$2,031		
	Bushels			Bushels				
Seed and Seed Cones	0	0	\$0	120	2	\$120		
	Plants			Plants				
Transplants	0	0	\$0	25,460	90	\$8,570		
	Cubic Feet	Green Tons		Cubic Feet	Green Tons			
Firewood and Wood Products*	4,159	1,707	328	\$13,352	1,138,121	3,080	1,343	\$49,076
Total for all Products			539	\$19,506			2,798	\$152,882

* To avoid double counting, this line does not include saw timber which is reported elsewhere. In 2009 the Salem District changed the unit of measure for firewood from cubic feet to green tons.

Recreation

An estimated 1.5 million users recreate on BLM-managed lands in the Salem District. One third of these users visited the District's 19 developed day-use and overnight recreation sites. The District estimates that the remainder of the use includes those involved in dispersed recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, nature viewing, etc.

Recreation Fee Program

Five Salem District recreation sites collect fees. Table 13 shows how the Salem District used the fee program funds in FY 2012.

Table 13 - Fee Site Expenditures, FY 2012

Site Name	Description	Fee Site Expenditures
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area	Operation and maintenance of facilities, visitor services, and interpretative programs.	\$360,000
Nestucca River Recreation Sites	Operation and maintenance of facilities and visitor services.	\$20,500
Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Complex	Operation and maintenance of facilities and visitor services.	\$333,500
Wildwood Recreation Site	Operation and maintenance of facilities and visitor services, and volunteer host reimbursement.	\$36,300
Alsea Falls Recreation Site	Operation and maintenance of facilities and visitor services, and volunteer host reimbursement.	\$25,300
Total		\$775,600

National Landscape Conservation System Units

The Salem District manages several National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) units. They include:

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area: The BLM manages Yaquina Head to protect and conserve the area’s unique scenic, scientific, cultural, historic, educational, natural, and recreational values.

Wild And Scenic Rivers: The rivers are located on BLM-managed lands in designated corridors along the Salmon, Sandy, Clackamas, South Fork Clackamas, Fish Creek, Elkhorn Creek and Quartzville Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs). The BLM protects each river’s “Outstandingly Remarkable Values.” The visitor contact and volunteer corridor host program continues along the Quartzville Creek WSR to encourage appropriate use ethics among visitors to the river. The District completed an updated water trail plan for the Sandy River in 2012. The BLM partnered with the National Park Service, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon State Parks, City of Sandy, and American Whitewater to complete the water trail plan.

Wilderness: BLM monitored trail conditions and wilderness values in the Table Rock Wilderness located in the Cascades Resource Area.

Recreation Partnerships and Special Events

The recreation program greatly depends on special events and partnerships to maintain high quality recreation facilities, trails, services, and programs. The events include National Trails Day, National Public Lands Day, Earth Day, annual river clean-ups, and several other less formal work party events. These special events and work parties would not be successful without the assistance of partners. The partners include: Molalla Riverwatch, American Wildlife Foundation, WolfTree Inc., Peachuck Lookouts, Boy Scout troops, Applegate Rough Riders Motorcycle Club, Northwest and Linn County youth crews, Clackamas County Environmental Youth Corp, AmeriCorp, volunteer hosts, and other individuals who lend their enthusiastic help throughout the year. Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses work with the BLM at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area to assist in preserving and interpreting the Yaquina Head Lighthouse and surrounding area.

In 2012, the BLM continued the development of the Sandy Ridge Trail System, in partnership with the Northwest Trails Alliance, the International Mountain Bike Association and several Portland based bicycle retailers. These groups provided more than 1,800 hours of volunteer labor towards the development of this non-motorized trail system outside Sandy, Oregon.

2012 Co-Sponsored Fundraising Events: In 2012, the BLM co-sponsored the Molalla River Poker Ride, in cooperation with Molalla River Watch. Over 100 people participated and all proceeds raised support the ongoing maintenance of the Molalla Trail System.

Other Recreation Management Areas

Molalla River Recreation Corridor: Cascades Resource Area began construction on the Molalla River Recreation Sites in FY 2012. The sites, when complete, will provide 26 developed campsites on a scenic stretch of the Molalla River in Clackamas County. These sites will include vault restrooms, potable water, developed campsites and a volunteer host presence. The Resource Area is constructing both sites according to conceptual plans in the Molalla River-Table Rock Recreation Area Management Plan in order to address damaging riverside recreation use and concerns over public safety.

Peachuck Lookout: Located just outside the Table Rock Wilderness, Peachuck Historic Lookout is a popular attraction to those hiking in and near the wilderness. The Salem District, with the help of a volunteer group, the "Peachuck Lookouts," completed annual maintenance on both the Lookout and the Lookout Trail.

Sandy Ridge: In May 2012, the Salem BLM completed construction of the Sandy Ridge Trailhead and opened the site to public use, making it the first new recreation facility on the Salem District in nearly 20 years. The Sandy Ridge Trail System features over 12 miles of mountain bicycling trails that are popular with residents from Oregon and beyond. Annual visitation to the system has risen to approximately 30,000 since the construction began in 2009. The new trailhead facility provides visitors safe access into and out of the system. It also provides high quality space for mountain-biking events, bicycle demonstrations and day use picnicking. The trailhead features a vault restroom, visitor information, two picnic sites and a one mile beginner trail which encircles the parking lot. The Sandy River Basin Integrated Management Plan, signed in 2009 identified this trailhead and trail system.

Non-Motorized Trails

Molalla Shared-Use Trail System: The District maintained 25 miles of trails in this popular trail system. Molalla RiverWatch partnered with the BLM to host several successful volunteer work parties. These work parties saw an increase in volunteer participation from the previous year. Other volunteer trail maintenance groups included the Northwest Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Wilderness International and Clackamas County Juvenile Department. The Horse, Hiker and Mountain Biker Annual Ride, a partnership event between the BLM, the Molalla Saddle Club, and Molalla Riverwatch, had 100 participants. The BLM will use of the monies generated from this event on the shared-use trail system.

Motorized Roads and Trails

Off-Highway Vehicle Areas (OHVs): Approximately 7,200 people visited the Upper Nestucca OHV trail system. The Salem District worked in partnership with the Applegate Rough Riders to maintain 10 miles of trail in the Nestucca Trail System. The Resource Area completed a trail sustainability report for this trail system in 2011 and used this report to help prioritize trail maintenance activities in 2012 and set the future direction for trail planning. The District permitted Applegate Rough Riders to hold one OHV event during FY 2012.

Back Country Byways

The Salem District continued to maintain signs and facilities along the Quartzville, South Fork Alsea, and the Nestucca National Back Country Byways.

Volunteer Program

Salem District volunteers and hosted workers logged approximately 49,515 hours during Fiscal Year 2012. Salem's volunteer workforce totaled 652 volunteers. Their contributions are valued at \$1,078,931 (based on 2011 dollar value of a volunteer hour at \$21.79 per hour). Overall, BLM spent \$75,220 to support the volunteer program. Volunteers contributed work in a variety of programs, none of which could have been accomplished with BLM funds alone. Some volunteers seek experience for future jobs. Others want to contribute toward a worthwhile project.

In 2012, 52 volunteers contributed 9,690 hours to serve more than 300,000 visitors of the BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Volunteer hosts served as interpreters, lighthouse tours, provided educational programs, and oriented visitors at the interpretive center. In addition, nine youths contributed 3,588 hours of service, instructing approximately 5,000 school children and providing information to visiting family groups.

Marys Peak Resource Area hosted Cycle Oregon on July 14 with a century ride utilizing the South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway. More than 900 cyclists and 30 volunteers journeyed the length of the scenic byway with a lunch stop at the Alsea Falls Day Use Area.

Youth, Education and Outreach

The Salem District manages approximately 403,870 acres in northwest Oregon, a diverse urban and rural region that stretches from the Pacific Coast to the Cascade crest and includes nearly three quarters of Oregon's population. The District's recreation program serves these residents and nearby communities – by providing high quality recreation opportunities, improving physical health, and employing and educating youth. A main component of this service is the program's environmental education and community outreach efforts. Highlighted below are some of the most successful efforts:

Aquila Vista Environmental Education Site: Located in the Molalla River Recreation Corridor, the BLM hosted approximately 400 students and adults who participated in natural resource education programs provided in partnership with Molalla Riverwatch, the Molalla School District, and the American Wildlife Foundation. Groups such as the Boy Scouts helped improve and maintain the site.

A youth crew, funded by Title II funds from the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act of 2000, and Northwest Youth Corp, helped improve trails to make them more accessible to visitors and participants in educational activities.

Larch Mountain Environmental Education Site: Approximately 500 students participated in natural resource education programs in partnership with the Corbett School District. The Columbia River Environmental Youth Crew work spent four weeks at this site to maintain and enhance the non-motorized trail system and rebuild damaged shelter structures.

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site provided 28 different environmental presentations and activities for youth and families. Fourteen volunteers, hosts and employees of Fishermen's Bend conducted presentations and activities ranging from 30 minutes to 2 1/2 hours. A total of 3,500 people attended these presentations, which included topics such as leave no trace, geology, bicycle and water safety, using a compass, insects, first aid, geocaching, bats, recycling, and stargazing. The programs have grown in popularity, drawing campers and residents from nearby communities such as Lyons, Gates and Mill City. Fisherman's Bend is frequently featured in *The Canyon Weekly News* serving local communities. On the last weekend of April, 291 boy scouts and 161 adults pulled Scotch broom and spread gravel at Fisherman's Bend.

Project YESS: Project YESS is currently engaged in restoration work to support land managers and community partners in the Sandy River Basin. Project YESS at Mt. Hood Community College is an education and employment skills development program that serves local low-income, at-risk youth from East Multnomah County.

Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (YHONA): YHONA provides a variety of coastal and marine education programs on ecology, natural systems, and history targeting different age groups, needs, and interests. YHONA presented eleven unique programs to 2,245 people for a total of 204 hours. The programs included Rocky Shores training (70), Lighthouse Halloween (70), Victorian Christmas (279), National Public Lands Day (422), Youth Employment Recruitment Fairs (35), Whale Watch Weeks (953), Yaquina Century Bike Race (156), International Migratory Bird Day (242) Environmental Education Spring Staff Training (8) and Interpretive training (10).

YHONA provided educational presentations to schools from throughout Oregon. A total of 6,812 students participated in curriculum based intertidal ecology programs. Rangers in period costume interpreted lighthouse tours for 67,866 visitors. The YHONA staff presented stewardship information for the sensitive resources such as the tidepools, birds and sea mammals to 38,518 visitors. YHONA staff also gave interpretive orientations about the lighthouse history, natural history of Yaquina Head, and tidepool ecosystems through the Interpretive Center for 77,853 visitors.

SMILE: The BLM, in partnership with Willamina School District and Oregon State University continued to use a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Willamina High School's SMILE (Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences) program. This educational outreach program teaches students the basics of natural resource management and field studies. The program supports elementary, middle school and senior high school students and their teacher-mentors in 14 rural school systems across Oregon in learning about natural resources. It provides not only knowledge but team and leadership skills.

The SMILE Program encourages students to go to college to study in science and natural-resource related fields. Statewide the program is directed through OSU's Department of Education. Thirty high school students, 30 middle school students and 20 elementary students spent three separate days in the field taking stream temperatures, measuring stream flow, identifying trees and plants, studying fish populations and collecting macro-invertebrates for classroom study.

Wildwood Recreation Site: In 2012 Wildwood Recreation Site hosted numerous boy scouts participating in overnight and day use outings. As part of their agreement, the groups completed service projects in the park. These projects consisted of such things as spreading river rock around park structures, spring cleaning around picnic sites and shelters, and prepping volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. The projects are beneficial in educating the scouts in hands-on park maintenance, giving them opportunities to collect scout badges, and assisting Wildwood in providing high quality experiences to the public.

Cascade Streamwatch Partnership: Cascade Streamwatch is an internationally-recognized environmental education program located at Wildwood Recreation Site, just west of Mount Hood. For 18 years the BLM has partnered with Wolfree, a Portland-based nonprofit dedicated to improving environmental awareness. Combining classroom time with hands-on learning, Wolfree brings Oregon's forests and watershed to urban Portland students. Each year, the program serves between 3,000 and 5,000 students.

2012 District Youth Outreach Program: In FY 2012, the Salem District Office provided employment for 11,653 youth. The District worked with a wide variety of youth crews on several diverse projects including: annual trail maintenance, new trail construction, invasive non-native species removal, and park maintenance.

Visual Resources

Visual resource management (VRM) guidelines continued to be implemented during analysis of all proposed projects and actions. In 2012, BLM assessed visual resources on timber sale planning, river restoration and recreation management related projects.

Rural Interface Areas

The Resource Areas review projects to determine if they are within a designated rural interface area. If appropriate, the Resource Area may revise project designs or incorporate mitigating measures to reduce the effects to neighboring land owners.

Energy and Minerals

It is the policy of the BLM to make mineral resources available to the public, including commercial users.

Locatable Minerals: The Mining Law of 1872 authorizes the rights to explore for, and develop locatable minerals. Locatable minerals include both metallic minerals and nonmetallic minerals. They are recognized by the standard experts; are not subject to disposal under some other law, and make the land more valuable for mining purposes than for agriculture. These minerals do not include common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, and cinders.

Most of the public land in the Salem District is open to mining claims. In 2012 Salem District received no applications for mining notices or plans of operation.

Leasable Minerals: The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 authorizes the rights to explore for, and develop leasable minerals. Leasable minerals include oil, gas, coal, oil shale, potash and geothermal resources. The BLM State Office geologists manage the BLM's oil and gas program for the Salem District. Salem District currently has no oil and gas production on public lands within and the District received no applications permits to drill for oil and gas in 2012.

Saleable Minerals: The Materials Act of 1947 authorizes the sale of mineral materials from public land. Saleable minerals are common variety minerals such as sand, gravel, rip-rap, and volcanic pumice. Mineral materials may be provided to federal, state, and local governments at no cost under provisions of free use permits. The Salem District did not issue any permits for the sale of mineral materials (rock) in 2012.

Wind Energy: The Bureau completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for wind energy development on BLM lands nationwide in 2009. The BLM also identified potential transmission line corridors which would allow development of high potential sites. The EIS simultaneously amended all BLM resource management plans to allow wind energy development. Although a small number of high potential sites are located in the Salem District, the lack of nearby existing transmission line facilities will likely preclude their development in the near future. In 2012, the Salem District received no applications for wind energy.

Lands and Realty Program

The Salem District BLM Lands and Realty Program consists of the following categories or subject areas: rights-of-way (including communication use leases), land leases, recreation & public purpose leases, land tenure adjustments (purchases, sales and exchanges), compliance, trespass abatement, and withdrawals. Uses of public land in the Lands and Realty Program must be consistent with *Salem District Resource Management Plan* dated May 1995 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Right-of-Way Grants: In 2012, Salem District issued 15 individual right-of-way grants for a total of 214 grants since fiscal year 1995. The District also amended one right-of-way grant.

Land Leases: In 2012, the Salem District received one new application for a communication site lease, and did not receive any land lease case closure actions.

Recreation and Public Purposes Leases (R&PP): The Salem District has 11 active R&PP leases. In 2012, Salem issued one R&PP lease to the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for Silver Falls State Park (241 acres) and continued to process the application for a new R&PP lease to the Pacific City Joint Water and Sanitary Authority.

Land Tenure Adjustments

The BLM acquires and disposes lands to support a variety of recreation and resource program objectives.

Acquisitions: As shown in Table 14, The Salem District purchased three parcels totaling 404.10 acres in Clackamas County in 2012. The District used land and water conservation funds for this acquisition. This acquisition is intended to provide improved access and to protect critical habitat, open space, and the visual resources of the area. Since the Sandy River acquisition project began in 2001, the BLM has acquired 21 parcels totaling 3,150.10 acres at a cost of \$16,883,000. The 2011 Annual program summary lists the land acquisitions from 1995 – 2011, see the Salem District website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php>.

Table 14 - 2012 Land Acquisitions

Name	Case File Number	Date	Acres Acquired	Acres Conveyed	Remarks
Total as of FY 2011			7237.04	2240.54	Net increase to BLM – 4996.5 acres
Sandy River Clackamas Co.)	OR66978 OR66998 OR66977	9/28/2012	404.10	0	Purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds.
Total as of FY 2012			7,641.14	2,240.54	Net Acreage increase to BLM - 5400.60 acres
Source: Serial Register of Realty Cases - Salem District					

Exchanges: The Salem District has no pending Land Exchanges for 2012. Since implementation of the RMP, the District has acquired 4524 acres in seven land exchanges. The District has conveyed 2,241 acres out of federal ownership through land exchange.

Sales: The Salem District did not sell any public lands in 2012. Since fiscal year 1995, Salem sold 16 sales resulting in conveyance of 15.82 acres out of federal ownership.

Withdrawals: Salem did not revoke any land withdrawals in 2012. Since fiscal year 1995, the District processed three withdrawal applications.

Compliance: In 2012, the Salem District completed 12 compliance inspections on a variety of right-of-way grants, leases, and permits.

Trespass Abatement: In 2012, the Salem District did not investigate or open any trespass cases.

O&C Revested Lands Access and Transportation Rights-Of-Way Program: The O&C Revested Lands Access and Transportation Rights-of-Way Program facilitates the management and sale of BLM timber and timber owned by private companies and individuals. BLM authorizes access, whether acquired by the BLM to cross non-BLM lands, or by private landowners to cross BLM lands, through reciprocal right-of-way agreements, road easements, unilateral O&C road use permits, and license agreements. These instruments facilitate access to public and private timber lands through the complex checkerboard ownership pattern of Salem District BLM lands.

Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements

BLM uses reciprocal right-of-way agreements when private property owners need access across public land and the BLM needs access across private property. They consist of the agreement which private land owners use to grant the BLM the right to cross private property, and permits which grant private property owners the right to cross land owned by the BLM. Right-of-way agreements are for the management of timber lands and the removal of timber and other forest products. They do not provide public access across intermingled private timber lands. The District has entered into and administers a total of 212 reciprocal right-of-way agreements. Salem did not enter into any new right-of-way agreements in 2012.

The BLM and the private land owner amends an agreement primarily when either party desires to add land or interests in land to the agreement. BLM assigns permits when a private property owner (permittee) conveys land or interests in land to third parties. In 2012, Salem completed five amendments. The District completed amendments required to eliminate duplicate acreage and to update and conform land schedules for agreements affected by the 2002 Weyerhaeuser/Willamette Industries merger. These amendments consolidated seven Weyerhaeuser/Willamette agreements into three agreements.

Unilateral O&C Road Use Permits

Unilateral O&C road use permits are for the removal of timber and other forest products from private property. The Resource Area engineers issue and administer these permits. These permits authorize third parties to construct and/or use existing roads on public land when the BLM does not need reciprocal access across private property. The BLM requires permittees to pay road use, road maintenance, and/or surface replacement fees. The Salem District did not issue any unilateral road use permits in 2012.

Road Easements

The BLM uses road easements to obtain the right to cross private property. In the vast majority of cases, BLM obtained easements across private property to access BLM timber lands for the removal of timber and other forest products from public lands. In a smaller number of cases, BLM obtained easements to provide public access across private property to public land or facilities. Easements are either exclusive, where the BLM owns and controls the road, or non-exclusive, where the private property owner owns and controls the road. Road easements also grant legal use of roads and trails crossing parcels of non-federal land to access BLM land and facilities. Easements will continue to be acquired where and when needed to support BLM program objectives. The Salem District has obtained and administers 526 road easements. The District completed two easement acquisitions in FY 2012. Since fiscal year 1995, the BLM has acquired 30 road easements.

Transportation and Roads

The Salem District road system includes approximately 2,400 miles of road. The District has not received adequate road maintenance funding to maintain the current road system; so the District has deferred maintenance on approximately 1,700 miles of road.

The District maintains arteries¹ yearly because of BLM manual requirements and active use by BLM, private timber, and the public users. The goal of the Salem District road maintenance program is to maintain system roads, other than the arteries, on a three-year cycle. With current funding, the District cannot meet this cycle as the maintenance crew and Resource Area contracts are covering only about half of the annual requirement for road maintenance.

In 2012, Salem road maintenance personnel maintained approximately 397 miles of road. Additional road maintenance work included replacing surface rock, maintaining road shoulders on asphalt roads, patching and cleaning asphalt roads, and removing trees and vegetation across roads blown down by winter storms. A separate Marys Peak Resource Area contract maintained approximately 236 miles of road. Contractors completed road system maintenance through timber sales and other contracts or agreements. Table 15 shows the road maintenance work.

Table 15 – Road Maintenance Work

FY 2012 Road Maintenance Actions	Salem District Personnel	Contract Personnel (Marys Peak contract)	Contract Personnel (timber sales, etc.)	Industry Users (right-of-way agreements or permits)	Remarks
Road Miles					
Graded aggregate roads	110	65			
Cleaned ditches	135	79			
Cut brush to increase visibility	152	92			
Decommissioned roads			6		
Blocked or gated roads			15		
Water barred or storm proofed roads			10		
Improved or reconstructed existing roads			45		
Constructed temporary roads to be decommissioned upon timber sale completion			9		
Brushing, surface grading, ditch cleaning, and the placement of rock.				123	
Cubic Yards					
Cleaned road right-of-way by removing slide or slough material	10,100	3,635			The increase in the yardage of slide removal was due to a major storm/flood event that occurred in January 2012.
Replaced surface rock		3,635			
Number					
Cleaned culverts	703	40			
Cleaned bridge decks	5				
Replaced culverts that blocked fish passage	3				The fish passage structure improved or allowed access to an additional 1.1 miles of fish habitat.
Installed gates			6		

¹ Artery - A main transportation route into which local routes flow.

FY 2012 Road Maintenance Actions	Salem District Personnel	Contract Personnel (Marys Peak contract)	Contract Personnel (timber sales, etc.)	Industry Users (right-of-way agreements or permits)	Remarks
Replaced or installed culverts			508		

Cadastral Survey

In FY 2012, the Salem District Cadastral Survey crews completed 11 surveying projects ranging from 1.0 to 12.5 miles in length. In total, BLM crews surveyed approximately 41 miles and established 36 monuments. BLM crews surveyed approximately 11 miles on a cost-share basis with adjacent landowners where the BLM crew completed the surveys and adjacent landowners contributed half the cost. Private timber companies contributed approximately \$30,000 for surveys, as part of the cost-share program in the Salem District.

Cadastral Survey assisted with Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory applications. Using Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technology or surveying to high precision stations, GIS land line inventories and maps are more precise.

Hazardous Materials

In 2012, BLM responded to five potential hazardous/illegal dumpsites; and determined three sites hazardous, needing an emergency response. Since fiscal year 1995, the BLM has identified 71 potentially hazardous abandoned waste sites on agency-managed lands. Salem District staff has determined that 50 of these sites contained hazardous materials, and have cleaned up all of these sites. The District has removed drug lab waste, abandoned barrels of corrosives and heavy metals, dynamite and explosives, oil based paints, pesticides, used paint thinners, lead contaminated soils, solvents, and asbestos from these sites.

During the 2010 CASHE (Compliance Assessment, Safety, Health, and Environment) inspection, inspectors discovered an underground storage tank (UST) and dry well at Horning Seed Orchard. Salem staff sampled, tested and removed the UST and the District received a closure letter on November 29, 2012 from Oregon DEQ.

The District recycled 35 pounds of mercury containing fluorescent bulbs and disposed of 500 pounds of hazardous wastes from the Alsea road maintenance shop. These wastes included expired paints, solvents and other hazardous chemicals.

District staff sampled, tested, and pumped the oil/water separator, and closed the vehicle washing area. The District plans to remove the vehicle washing area in FY2013 or FY2014.

Law Enforcement

The Salem District's law enforcement program addresses the public safety and resource protection issues integral to managing public lands in northwest Oregon.

The Salem District has Oregon’s largest population and the heaviest urban use of public lands. The program has three rangers: the Salem District Ranger, the Cascades Resource Area Ranger, and the Tillamook Resource Area Ranger.

Rangers work cases ranging from recreational activities, stolen vehicles, to theft of special forest products and marijuana eradication from public lands. The Law Enforcement Rangers lead the Law Enforcement Assistance (LEA) Agreements/ Contracts with Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Tillamook, and Clackamas Counties. This allows the BLM to fund county deputies’ time in law enforcement forest programs. The law enforcement agreements/ contracts enable the county deputies to patrol Salem District lands targeting specific high use areas known for incidents including the Molalla River, Nestucca River, Little North Fork Santiam, and the Quartzville Wild and Scenic River.

Polk and Clackamas Counties have a “Dump Stoppers” program - a cleanup, educational, violation investigation, and prosecution program designed to reduce trash dumping on federal lands. The efforts and results of these programs have been tremendously successful. Dump sites are now more difficult to find for the assigned work crews. Salem funds some of these LEA agreements and "Dump Stopper" programs through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Title II program).

Salem District had 95 law enforcement incidents in 2012 (Table 16). Salem had fewer law enforcement incidents in 2012 compared to last year’s statistics. Salem resolved few of the vandalism and timber and firewood theft incidents due to the heavy law enforcement workload. District staff processed 92 misdemeanors and three felonies, and issued 18 federal citations.

Table 16 - Law Enforcement Incidents, FY 2012

Incidents	#	Incidents	#
Natural Resource Violations	18	Search and rescue	2
Fire	0	Weapons violation	0
Drug violations	7	DUII/ liquor law violations	0
Stolen vehicles recovered	0	Camping violations	19
Thefts - other	10	Littering/dumping	4
Theft of special forest products	13	K-9 utilizations	0
Vandalism	16	OHV violations/incidents	6

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

Federal Agencies

The Provincial Interagency Executive Committees (PIECs) are a primary method for cooperation and coordination between federal agencies. The PIECs, organized in accordance with the Northwest Forest Plan, include the following federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Natural Resource Conservation Service. In addition, personnel from several of these agencies participated in project level planning, conflict resolution, Endangered Species Act consultation, and implementation monitoring.

Salem District routinely consults with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service on actions that may affect species federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

State of Oregon

The Salem District continued its long-term working relationships with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department Environmental Quality. These relationships cover a diverse assortment of activities such as timber sale planning, fish habitat inventory, wildlife population and water quality monitoring, hazardous material cleanup, air quality maintenance, and wildfire suppression.

Counties

The Salem District administers land in 13 counties. While involvement levels vary between counties based on the amount of BLM lands, the District frequently communicates with various county commissioners and other staff. The purpose of this communication is to inform, coordinate, and obtain or provide input on BLM proposed projects. County commissioners and agencies receive copies of all major publications, project updates, and project proposals. The District regularly communicates with the Association of O&C Counties on issues of mutual interest.

Cities

The Salem District works with cities to ensure that timber harvest and road building are done in a manner to protect water quality in watersheds used by cities for their municipal water supply.

Tribes

The District consults with Native American groups on BLM projects and sends them all major publications, project updates and project proposals. BLM has broadened coordination with Native American groups as a part of the RMPs for Western Oregon planning effort.

Watershed Councils

The Salem District participated in and supported local watershed councils. A watershed council provides a forum for exchange of information and ideas among all interested stakeholders about the activities proposed or occurring within a watershed. Table 17 shows the current status of Salem District involvement in watershed councils.

Table 17 - Salem District Involvement with Local Watershed Councils

Watershed Council	Resource Area	2012 Involvement
Alsea	Mary's Peak	Attend Watershed Council (WAC) meeting on a quarterly basis. BLM has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Alsea WAC on trout, coho large woody debris restoration projects.
Clackamas River Basin	Cascades	No current interaction on this watershed council
Lower Columbia River	Cascades	BLM has a MOU for the North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area.
Lower Nehalem	Tillamook	Occasional meetings with members. Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). Provide technical committee support as requested.
Luckiamute	Mary's Peak	Limited involvement. Collaborate when needed with the project review committee. Have a financial assistance agreement and MOU on Maxfield Creek Restoration Project and Rapid Bio Assessment (RBA) surveys. BLM has a MOU for the Mid-Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area.
Mary's River	Mary's Peak	Limited involvement. Collaborate when needed with the project review committee. Have a financial assistance agreement utilizing the Secure Rural School Act (RAC) funds to help implement Duffy Creek Restoration Project. A project is being developed on Botkin Road. BLM has a MOU for the Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area.
Mid-Coast	Mary's Peak	Limited involvement. Maintain communication, provide technical support where needed.
Nestucca/Neskowin	Tillamook	Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). Provide technical committee support as requested.
North Santiam	Cascades	Limited involvement. Maintain communication, provide technical support. BLM has a financial assistance agreement for riparian invasive plant management. Noxious weed control.
Pudding River	Cascades	Serve on the technical advisory committee. Regularly attend meeting. Provide assistance on projects, where needed.
Rickreall	Mary's Peak	Regularly attend Council meetings. Coordinating large woody debris restoration on Upper Rickreall Creek. Developing a MOU along with an Environmental Assessment on a Large Woody Debris project.
S. Santiam	Cascades	Limited involvement. Maintain communication, provide technical support. BLM has a financial assistance agreement for Crabtree Creek Japanese Knotweed Control and Riparian Restoration.
Sandy Basin	Cascades	Maintain regular communication and involvement with occasional projects.

Watershed Council	Resource Area	2012 Involvement
Scappoose Bay	Tillamook	Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). BLM has a MOU for the North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area. Provide technical committee support as requested.
Siletz	Mary's Peak	Not involved at this time.
Tillamook Bay	Tillamook	Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). BLM has a MOU for the North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area. Provide technical committee support as requested.
Tualatin	Tillamook	Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). BLM has a MOU for the Four County Cooperative Weed Management Area. Provide technical committee support as requested.
Upper Nehalem	Tillamook	Provide technical support. Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership). BLM has a MOU for the North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area. Provide technical committee support as requested.
Yamhill Basin	Tillamook & Mary's Peak	Regularly attend Council meetings. Assisted in leading watershed tour for stakeholders (federal and state lawmakers). Maintain communication and provide technical support. Cooperating with the watershed council on a restoration project, and provided technical assistance and in-kind contribution of Large Woody Debris. Work together to improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife by sharing resources, producing specialized plant material and providing education to the local community (Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership).

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

Receipts generated from the harvest of timber on federally-managed lands that have historically provided partial funding to local counties, have dropped dramatically over the past 15 years. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (The Act) (Public Law 106-393) established a Salem District resource advisory council (RAC) and a six-year payment schedule to local counties in lieu of these federal timber funds. The Act has provided millions of dollars to the counties under Title I of the Act. The RAC, which includes representatives from local communities, collaborates with federal land managers in the selection of projects to be conducted on federally-managed lands or to benefit resources on federally-managed lands.

Funds for these efforts are provided through participating counties under Title II of the Act. A copy of the Act and additional information can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/index.php>.

Congress passed a one year extension of the Act in 2012 and therefore the RAC reconvened to review projects in accordance with Title II of the Act. In FY 2012, the Salem District Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) recommended for approval more than \$500,000 in Title II projects to be funded in Fiscal Year 2013. Please reference the Salem BLM web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/rac/index.php> for information on projects that were approved in FY 2012.

Partnerships

Work continues in the Northwest Weed Management Partnership to ensure seamless and broad technology transfer and information sharing among members. The members include six established and one new cooperative weed management area in northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington, and four invasive species working groups.

Tillamook Resource Area and other interested parties are creating a new partnership called the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP) through a new MOU that builds upon the success of the Tillamook Resource Area Riparian Restoration Effort. NORP will include the original groups plus about twenty other agencies and schools that wish to share resources to restore not only riparian and wetland habitats but also prairie, Oregon white oak, and other important habitats in and around the North Coast Range.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that promotes and funds voluntary actions that strive to enhance Oregon's watersheds. The Board fosters the collaboration of citizens, agencies, and local interests. The Salem District provides support to OWEB by providing technical assistance to their evaluations teams and work with the local watershed councils on development of grant proposal to OWEB for restoration activities. In 2012, Cascades Resource Area provided technical assistance to the Sandy Basin Watershed Council and its partners; Mary's Peak Resource Area provided technical assistance to the Yamhill Basin Council on a project to benefit water quality in Gooseneck Creek and Tillamook Resource Area worked with multiple watershed councils on the development of a proposal to OWEB for culvert replacement, fish habitat improvement and fish habitat surveys.

Other Partnerships

Table 18 - Other Partnerships Described in this APS

Partners	Types of Projects	Described in APS Section
Sandy River Basin Partners	Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout on the Salmon River habitat restoration	Fisheries – Fish Habitat Restoration
Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and Benton county public works	Fish passage projects for Oregon coast coho salmon	Fisheries – Fish Habitat Restoration
Freshwater Trust, Forest Service, Molalla River Watch and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Juvenile fish density and distribution surveys	Fisheries – Fish Inventory and Assessment
Applegate Rough Riders	Maintain trails in the Nestucca Trail System.	Recreation – Motorized Roads and Trails
Northwest Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Wilderness International and Clackamas County Juvenile Department. the Molalla Saddle Club, and Molalla Riverwatch	Molalla shared-use trail system: Volunteer trail maintenance groups	Recreation – Non-motorized Trails
Northwest Trails Alliance, and the International Mountain Bike Association and several Portland based bicycle retailers	Sandy Ridge Trail System: volunteer labor towards the development of this non-motorized trail system outside Sandy, Oregon.	Recreation - Recreation Partnerships and Special Events
Molalla Riverwatch, American Wildlife Foundation, WolfTree Inc., Peachuck Lookouts, Boy Scout troops, Applegate Rough Riders Motorcycle Club, Northwest and Linn County youth crews, Clackamas County Environmental Youth Corp, AmeriCorp, volunteer hosts, and other individuals	Volunteer work such as campground hosts, trail building, and interpreting sites such as the Yaquina Head Lighthouse	Recreation - Recreation Partnerships and Special Events
The Nature Conservancy, Northwest Oregon Weed Management Partnership	Invasive plant management and habitat improvement	Terrestrial Habitat and Species Management – Invasive Plant Management
Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership	Improve riparian habitat for fisheries and wildlife	Watershed Councils
Cascade Streamwatch Partnership	Environmental Education	Youth, Education and Outreach
Willamina School District and Oregon State University	SMILE (Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences) program	Youth, Education and Outreach
Corbett School District	Natural resource education programs at Larch Mountain Environmental Education site	Youth, Education and Outreach
Molalla Riverwatch, the Molalla School District, American Wildlife Foundation, and the Northwest Youth Corps	Natural resource education programs at Aquila Vista Environmental Education site and youth work on trails.	Youth, Education and Outreach

PLAN REVISION AND MAINTENANCE

Progress of Resource Management Plan Implementation

Land Use Allocations

Most of the changes to Land Use Allocation (LUA) boundaries and acreage reflect acquisitions in the Sandy River Basin. Table 19 shows LUA acreage revisions since the beginning of 1995 RMP implementation.

Table 19 - Revised Acreage within Land Use Allocations

Major Land Use Allocation*	Acres in RMP Record of Decision	Acres before Adjusting for Unmapped LSRs (NSO, MM)	Acres after Adjusting for Unmapped LSRs (NSO, MM)
Late-Successional Reserves outside the Adaptive Management Area	132,100	133,472	135,409
Late-Successional Reserves inside the Adaptive Management Area	79,700	80,409	80,793
Adaptive Management Area	43,700	41,927	41,543
General Forest Management Area (Matrix)	107,300	104,927	104,060
Connectivity / Diversity Blocks (Matrix)	27,400	27,286	26,345
Other	7,900	15,849	15,720
TOTAL	398,100	403,870	403,870
<p>*See Salem RMP page 5 for original footnotes. LSR = Late-Successional Reserve NSO = Northern Spotted Owl MM = Marbled Murrelet Riparian Reserves are included in all land use allocations listed above. The amount of acres within Riparian Reserves is estimated at approximately 55 percent of the land base or 222,000 acres (based on mapping and analysis factors).</p>			

Reinstating the 1995 Salem District Resource Management Plan

Plaintiffs in the Pacific Rivers Council V. Shepard litigation filed a partial motion for summary judgment in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon on Endangered Species Act (ESA) claims, and requested the court to vacate and remand the 2008 Record of Decision for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. A magistrate judge issued findings and recommendations on September 29, 2011 and recommended granting the Plaintiffs' motion for partial summary judgment on their ESA claim. The Court recommended setting aside the agency action, vacating the 2008 RODs and reinstating the Northwest Forest Plan as the appropriate remedy.

On May 16, 2012, the Court issued a final judgment that vacated the Western Oregon Plan Revision (WOPR) Record of Decision, returning the management of the federal lands to the Northwest Forest plan. The BLM incorporated the Northwest Forest plan into the 1995 resource management plans that were in place prior to December 30, 2008, as modified (e.g. 1995 Salem District RMP). Therefore the BLM reinstated these 1995 resource management plans (RMP) including the Salem District RMP.

Survey and Manage Species

Since the initiation of the 1995 Salem RMP there have been several changes to the guidance regarding Survey and Manage species that were noted as SEIS Special Attention Species in Appendix B-1 and Manage Actions/Direction that was noted on pages 30 and 31 for these species. These species and direction are no longer applicable because of the following:

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

Subsequently in May 2013, the 9th Circuit reversed the District Court's approval of the 2011 Survey & Manage Settlement Agreement, concluding "Because the consent decree allows for substantial, permanent amendments to Survey and Manage, it impermissibly conflicts with laws governing the process for such amendments." The 9th Circuit remanded the decision back to the District Court for further proceedings consistent with its opinion. The future of Survey and Manage is currently unresolved. When resolution is determined, Salem District will follow that Survey and Manage guidance.

Clarification of 1995 RMP Snag, Coarse Wood, and Green Tree Retention Requirements

Unclear wording on pages 21 and 25 of the Salem District RMP has led to confusion about whether snag, green tree and coarse wood retention requirements apply only to regeneration harvest or also apply to commercial thinning. The language in question is as follows:

Retain snags within a timber harvest unit at levels sufficient to support species of cavity-nesting birds at 40 percent of potential population levels. Meet the 40 percent minimum throughout the Matrix with per acre requirements met on average areas no larger than 40 acres.

In addition to the previous green tree retention management action/direction, retain green trees for snag recruitment in harvest units where there is an identified, near term (less than three decades) snag deficit. These trees do not count toward green tree retention requirements.

In a cutting area, leave a minimum of 240 linear feet of logs per acre, averaged over the area and reflecting the species mix of the original stand. All logs will be at least 20 inches in diameter at the large end, and be at least 20 feet in length.....Where this management action/direction cannot be met with existing coarse woody debris, merchantable material will be used to make up the deficit.

Part of this direction comes from the analysis described in Appendix V in the *Final Salem District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP/FEIS), September 1994. The analysis described on page V-2 made the following assumption:

Distribute hard snags to the following criteria: In harvest units, retain the number of hard snags or green trees to support the desired population of dominant woodpeckers (individually scattered or in clumps larger than two acres); retain all hard snags in areas reserved from timber harvest¹ (e.g., non-suitable woodland, protected old growth/spotted owl, riparian, bald eagle).

The analysis also estimated population levels (percent of maximum potential) of dominant woodpecker populations at the end of 100 years (RMP/FEIS, page V-3).

The Salem District Wildlife Biologist has researched all related references in the RMP/FEIS, the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, 1995 (RMP); and the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat of Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (NWFP).

As a result of this research, the District Wildlife Biologist has determined that the standards from pages 21 and 25 only apply to regeneration harvest and are not meant to apply to thinning treatments. The following text from the RMP, RMP/EIS and NWFP support this clarification.

Appendix D, page D-2 of the RMP, in the General Forest Management section, under the heading Commercial Thinnings, states:

The objectives of commercial thinning may include one or more of the following: to increase the proportion of merchantable volume in the stand, to produce larger, more valuable logs. To anticipate mortality of small trees as the stand develops, to maintain good crown ratios and stable, windfirm trees, to accelerate development of trees which can later provide large-diameter snags and down logs, to manage species composition, or to promote development of desired understory vegetation [emphasis added].

Chapter two of the RMP/FEIS, Management Direction Common to All Alternatives, page 2-86 states:

At a minimum, snags would be retained as non-merchantable material in timber harvest² units. They would also be retained on lands not allocated to timber production. Some snags may be removed from areas where public safety is a concern. Where relevant to meeting cavity-nester objectives, some green trees on lands not allocated to timber production would be girdled or topped to create snags [emphasis added]. Timber sale contracts would include stipulations to retain all snags and non-merchantable trees that can be left safely in timber harvest¹ units. In alternatives providing retention of wildlife trees, green trees would be retained to provide habitat for cavity users and a source of future snags. If non-merchantable trees are unavailable, merchantable trees would be retained for this purpose.

² Timber harvest in this context refers to the definition for regeneration harvest in the glossary found in chapter 6 of the RMP/FEIS.

Chapter four of the RMP/FEIS, page 4-33 states:

Under the proposed resource management plan, green tree retention requirements in the General Forest Management Area would be adequate to provide at least 60 percent of optimum population levels in the long term. However, some green trees reserved for snag recruitment may have to be killed or topped to provide snags.....In this analysis, three snags per acre corresponds to 100 percent population levels, 1.8 for 60 percent levels, and 1.2 for 40 percent levels.

The glossary in chapter six of the RMP/FEIS contains the following definitions:

Regeneration Harvest – Timber harvest conducted with the partial objective of opening a forest stand to the point where favored tree species will be reestablished [emphasis added].

Commercial Thinning – The removal of merchantable trees from an even-aged stand to encourage growth of the remaining trees.

Page C-42, paragraph D, in the NWFP, the foundation of the RMP, states:

As a minimum, snags are to be retained within the harvest unit at levels to support cavity-nesting birds at 40 percent of potential population levels.....To the extent possible, snag management within harvest units should occur within areas of green-tree retention.

Page B-11 in Volume II of the Appendices of the NWFP states:

General Forest Management Areas – Emphasis would be placed on the use of intensive forest management practices and investments to maintain a high level of sustainable timber production while maintaining long-term site productivity, biological legacies, and a biologically diverse forest matrix.

Regeneration harvest units would retain a minimum of 6-8 green conifers per acre, along, with, snags, coarse woody debris, and hardwoods to provide a biologically diverse stand.

Appendix J of the RMP, page J-6 contains the monitoring requirements for projects in the Matrix land use allocation. The monitoring requirements were directed at regeneration harvest timber sales to determine if snag, green tree retention, and coarse wood requirements of the RMP/ROD were met. No mention of thinnings is alluded to in these monitoring requirements for snags, green trees, or coarse wood.

Page 68 of the RMP states:

Potential minor changes, refinement or clarifications in the plan may take the form of maintenance actions.....Maintenance actions are not considered a plan amendment and do not require the formal public involvement and interagency coordination process undertaken for plan amendments. Important plan maintenance will be documented in the annual District Planning Process Report (*i.e. Annual Program Summary as we now call it*).

Conclusion:

Based on the statements and definitions described above, clarification to the guidance on page 21 and 25 of the Salem RMP for Matrix (GFMA) lands is warranted as part of the 2012 Plan maintenance for the 1995 RMP. The Salem District manager has approved following changes to pages 21 and 25 of the Salem RMP as the 2012 Plan Maintenance:

Replace the following paragraph:

~~“Retain snags within a timber harvest at levels sufficient to support species of cavity-nesting birds at 40 percent of potential population levels. Meet the 40 percent minimum throughout the Matrix with per acre requirements met on average areas no larger than 40 acres.”~~

With the following language:

“In the Matrix, retain snags within a regeneration harvest at levels sufficient to support species of cavity-nesting birds at 40 percent of potential population levels. Meet the 40 percent minimum throughout the Matrix with per acre requirements (1.2 snags per acre) met on average areas no larger than 40 acres (=48 snags / 40 acres), recognizing that snags do not occur evenly spaced on a landscape. Large snags are favored over small snags to meet future coarse wood needs of downed logs of at least 20 inches in diameter at the large end. Retain additional 20 inch DBH or larger green trees (over and above the six to eight per acre for green tree retention) for snag recruitment where snag levels do not meet these parameters. Timber sale contracts would include stipulations to retain all snags and non-merchantable trees that can be left safely in regeneration harvest units.

In the Matrix, the objectives of commercial thinning prior to regeneration harvest may include one or more of the following: to increase the proportion of merchantable volume in the stand, to produce larger, more valuable logs, to anticipate mortality of small trees as the stand develops, to maintain good crown ratios and stable, windfirm trees, to accelerate development of trees which can later provide large-diameter snags and down logs, to manage species composition, or to promote development of desired understory vegetation.”

MONITORING

Water Quality

Implementation Monitoring

Performance monitoring, as identified in OAR3400042-0030 (7), is an important component of the Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) process and requires annual reporting.

The Cascades Resource Area completed Best Management Practices (BMP) implementation monitoring on the House Mountain Timber Sale in 2012; the Tillamook Resource Area completed BMP implementation monitoring on post-harvest treatment of roads within the Dairy and Scoggins Creek sub-basins and the Marys Peak Resource Area completed BMP implementation monitoring for the Bummer Ridge timber sale and Hull Park and Neumann Roads culvert replacement in 2012.

The field reviews for timber sales indicated that BMPs were implemented and they are effective in reducing sediment delivery to the associated stream courses; the field reviews for road reconstruction and culvert replacement demonstrated the need for the Hydrologist to participate with the resource area engineer technicians in development of contract specifications and implementation of these specifications to ensure adequate level of protection to water quality that is consistent with RMP direction.

Effectiveness Monitoring

In 2012, the Mary's Peak Resource Area conducted turbidity and stream flow monitoring on Maxfield Creek and monitored temperature on Condenser Creek. The monitoring of turbidity and stream flow meets the requirement of decision documents to undertake the Maxfield Creek Timber Sale. The temperature monitoring of Condenser Creek utilized the Western Oregon TMDL Shade Monitoring Protocol that was approved by ODEQ in 2012. Salem will use this protocol to evaluate the effectiveness of the channel and riparian restoration project and to provide a long term effectiveness monitoring component to the Willamette River Water Quality Restoration Plan.

Salem monitored pesticide spraying at the Horning Orchard in compliance with the Integrated Pest Management FEIS (June 2005). In 2012, staff used drift cards and the results showed zero detect. The monitoring results are in the 2012 Horning Seed Orchard Annual Monitoring Report. This report is available at the Salem District Office or the Horning Seed Orchard.

TMDL Validation Monitoring

Salem District personnel completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) temperature validation monitoring in the Molalla-Pudding River Basin. This validation monitoring included Molalla River and its perennial tributaries. The purpose of the TMDL validation monitoring is to determine the level of compliance with the TMDL temperature standard at representative stations throughout the Molalla sub-basin.

Where appropriate, the District continues to use the Western Oregon Shade Temperature Monitoring Methodology as described in the Willamette Basin Water Quality Restoration Plan across the District. Salem District plans to continue baseline temperature monitoring in 2013 in the Yamhill River Basins (Mary's Peak and Tillamook RAs). The District is expected to continue validation monitoring of water temperature in 2013, including sites in the Molalla River sub-basin (Dead Horse Creek, Lukens Creek, Molalla River, and Table Rock Fork).

The BLM cooperates with the U.S. Geological Survey on five continuous recording stream flow stations in the Salem District. These stations are located in headwater watersheds: Tucca Creek, East Fork Lobster Creek, Bull Creek, Schaffer Creek, and Nate Creek. The real time data from these sites is available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/sw>.

The BLM provides support to the Trask Watershed Study that is coordinated through Pacific NW Research Station and multiple partners including the US Geological Survey. The Trask Watershed Study is looking at the long term effect of thinning from increasing elevated peak flows and changes to the sediment contribution from BLM roads.

Fisheries

The Salem District, in cooperation with ODFW Salmonid Life-Cycle Monitoring Project, completed the 25th year of smolt monitoring of Oregon Coastal coho salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout in Lobster Creek in the Alsea Watershed.

Special Status Plants

Site Monitoring: During 2012, Salem conducted known site monitoring for special status plants at 47 sites.

Noble Polypore Fungus (*Bridgeoporus Nobilissimus*): Work continued with the *Bridgeoporus nobilissimus* (BRNO) working group on the DNA detectability study. Surveyors sampled ten BRNO plots with one positive result.

Frigid Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon Austrofrigidum*): District staff visited two sites containing *Dodecatheon austrofrigidum* and found these sites to be in good condition.

Duplicate Tube Lichen (*Hypogymnia Duplicata*): District staff visited three sites of *Hypogymnia duplicata* and found these sites to be in good condition.

Special Status Wildlife

Marbled Murrelet: District staff conducted murrelet monitoring in known murrelet habitat at five sites on Salem District administered lands with the known highest level murrelet use. Staff surveyed 590 acres. Surveys showed occupancy with low activity at three sites and detected no activity at two sites.

Northern Spotted Owl: District personnel also conducted district-wide monitoring of known spotted owl sites (occupied or previously occupied) on 73,710 acres. Of the 100 sites surveyed, spotted owls occupied 31 sites, producing three spotted owl fledglings. Staff encountered barred owls at 72 of the 100 monitored spotted owl sites.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 -4 in previous editions of the APS: The glossary, acronyms and abbreviations (2011 APS Appendix 1 and 2) have not changed from previous editions of the APS. Land Acquisition and Land Sale Tables from 1995 to 2011 (Appendix 3 and 4) in previous editions of the APS have not changed. These appendices can be found in the FY 2011 APS located on the Salem District website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/plans/index.php>