

Fiscal Year 1997 Accomplishments Report

**Bureau of Land
Management
Western Oregon and
Northern California**



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Introduction

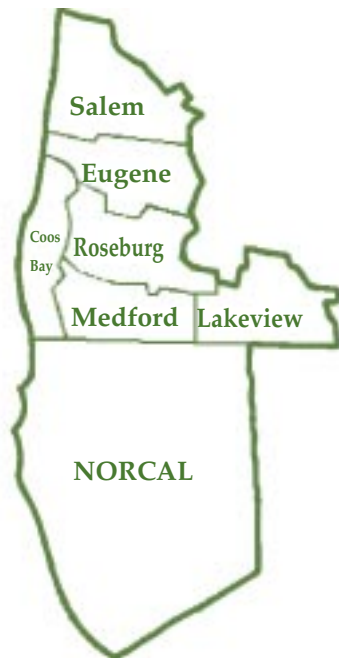
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the guidance of the Northwest Forest Plan and the six Western Oregon Resource Management Plans met and in many cases exceeded its goals and objectives during fiscal year (FY) 1997.

The FY1997 Accomplishment Report addresses the accomplishments of the BLM under the comprehensive Northwest Forest Plan in such areas as Watershed Analysis, Jobs-in-the-Woods, and Forestry. Additionally, the report details the FY 1997 O&C Appropriated Dollars, and summarizes the achievements of each Western Oregon District, and the Northern California Resource Areas (NORCAL) within the Northwest Forest Plan Area.

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

An important aspect of the BLM's implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan which cannot be measured in numbers is our strong involvement in many partnerships benefitting local communities. Additionally, the BLM is in strong partnership with the State of Oregon with the Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative — a cooperative effort to restore salmon and steelhead habitat. Citizen involvement in federal land management through the Provincial Advisory Committees and the Adaptive Management Areas continues to provide innovative techniques for implementing ecosystem management.

Northwest Forest Plan—BLM



Another significant outcome of the Northwest Forest Plan is the interagency cooperation between federal agencies. The BLM and the Forest Service are working closely on watershed analysis, late successional reserve assessments, stream restoration, and other projects, while the efficiencies developed for Endangered Species Act consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service are seen as a national model.

FY 97 Western Oregon Timber Sales

District	Target MMBF	Actual MMBF
Salem	35	39
Eugene	36	37.5
Roseburg	45	47.6
Medford	57	53.1
Coos Bay	32	28.2
Lakeview	6	6.6
TOTAL	211	212

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Forestry Program

BLM manages 2.5 million acres of land in Western Oregon from the Columbia River dividing Oregon and Washington to the Siskiyou Mountains near the California border, and east from the Pacific Ocean to the Cascade Mountains.

Under the Northwest Forest Plan, approximately 500,000 acres (or 22% of the BLM Western Oregon land base) are available for timber harvest. The Northwest Forest Plan provides for a sustainable timber harvest off of BLM lands. Under the six Western Oregon RMPs, BLM's Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) is 211 million board feet (MMBF). In FY 1997, the agency offered 212 MMBF to exceed the full ASQ.

Beginning in FY 1998, all BLM timber sales in the O&C and Public Domain forest lands will be measured, sold, and reported in volumes of hundred cubic feet (CCF). The cubic foot measurement takes into account the taper in logs and offers a more accurate, consistent measurement that accounts for lumber, chips, and the sawdust that is

FY 97 Western Oregon Reforestation

Acres of Trees Planted	7,341
Seedlings Planted	2.681 million
Forest Inventory	119,790 acres
Stand Maintenance	35,237 acres
Thinning and Fertilization	35,999 acres

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997



produced from logs of all sizes. Volumes in board feet will continue to be reported for informational purposes.

Rescissions Act Timber Sales

Timber sales with an original volume 212 million board feet were released by BLM in FYs 1995 and 1996 under the 1995 Rescissions Act. Units of these sales which had nesting threatened or endangered bird species were not allowed to be released. In FY 1997, BLM awarded 23.5 million board feet of replacement volume due to nesting spotted owls or marbled murrelets. In FY 1998, BLM plans to award 11.3 MMBF of the remaining 40.9 MMBF of replacement volume for the Rescissions Act timber sales.

Watershed Analysis

Watershed analysis has been described as a building block, or a foundation for management actions like timber sales,

FY 97 Western Oregon Watershed Analysis

District (total acres)	FY97 BLM (acres)	Completed (to date)
Salem (393,600)	33,127	45
Eugene (316,554)	52,827	77
Roseburg (423,928)	59,998	68
Medford (866,300)	117,783	74
Coos Bay (329,583)	31,262	83
Lakeview (K.Falls - 57,000)	0	96
Totals (2,386,965)	294,997	70

roads, and stream and river enhancement projects that are planned for a particular watershed. The results of watershed analysis provide managers a sound basis for management decisions involving on-the-ground projects.

To date, the BLM has completed watershed analysis on approximately 70% of BLM lands in Western Oregon.

Adaptive Management Areas

As an integral part of the Northwest Forest Plan, 10 Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) were created in Oregon, Washington and Northern California. The AMAs were developed to foster innovative methods for ecosystem management, science, community collaboration and technical applications. The BLM continues to strengthen partnerships with local communities with our work in the AMAs.

Jobs-In-The-Woods

In FY 1997, the fourth year for the Jobs in the Woods (JITW) program, BLM was allocated \$7.8 million to continue the program of watershed restoration and job creation for displaced workers in the timber impacted region.

Approximately 90% of the funds have been spent for projects and the remaining dollars will carry over and be spent in FY 1998 to complete ongoing projects.

The JITW program saw some change in emphasis, and as a result additional opportunities for BLM. The Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative and a ten party (federal) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the



BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

State of Oregon to support and participate in watershed councils will provide opportunities for JITW funding. Additionally, the Wyden Amendment to the FY 1997 appropriations process that allows BLM to spend money on private lands for restoration work which also benefits BLM lands, has provided opportunities to work closer with those who have common goals and priorities to better address restoration needs across whole watershed systems. All of the above have strengthened our commitment to partnerships and working with our neighbors.

Quality jobs and training for displaced workers remain a priority as BLM works to restore watersheds to healthy working systems. We have continued to support workforce development projects that provide training and longer term



BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

higher skill family wage jobs. We also continue to limit award of JITW contracts to those contractors within the timber impacted areas.

Through BLM's efforts many miles and acres of fish and wildlife habitat have been revitalized or created. We are working closely with individuals, grassroots organizations, communities, state and federal agencies and others to achieve healthy ecosystems across all ownerships.

During FY 1997, the BLM JITW program created 362 job opportunities through 215 ecosystem restoration projects.

FY 97 Western Oregon/NORCAL Jobs-in-the-Woods

District	Obligated <i>(in dollars)</i>	Projects
Salem	\$1,552,403	36
Eugene	1,098,966	25
Roseburg	767,689	31
Coos Bay	573,320	55
Medford	1,126,504	26
Lakeview	76,795	7
NORCAL	1,395,000	35

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

The West Eugene Wetlands Project continued to acquire, manage and restore wetlands habitat in a partnership effort with the City of Eugene and The Nature Conservancy. The Project now owns and manages over 1,000 acres of wetland habitat. More than 40 acres of wetland habitat was restored or improved with the assistance of the partners and hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers also constructed hiking trails and wildlife viewing platforms for visitors enjoyment.



FY 1997 O&C Appropriated Dollars

Forest Management

\$20,927,000

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

Reforestation and Forest Development

\$27,404,000

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

Other Forest Resources Management, including Watershed Analysis, Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries Management

\$30,692,000

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

Facilities Maintenance

\$ 3,999,000

Maintain 300 buildings and 104 recreation sites.

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

Transportation Systems Maintenance \$ 5,459,000

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

Planning \$ 1,325,000

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

Data System Operation and Management \$ 2,148,000

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

Construction and Acquisition \$ 284,000

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

Jobs-in-the-Woods \$ 8,277,000

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

Flood Damage Repair \$ 2,500,000

Emergency appropriations were made available (PL 104-208) to repair roads, bridges, landslides and other damages caused by the flooding in 1997.

Total **\$103,015,000**

A landmark achievement in volunteer efforts and interagency partnership was celebrated June 5, 1997, when the North Umpqua Trail was formally dedicated at the western trail head. An interagency plaque was unveiled that honors the trail volunteers who contributed more than 5,000 hours of labor. Approximately 300 volunteers and 11 different groups were involved at various times on the project over the past 20 years. It was the local, community support that made the case for federal funding of trail construction. The trail follows the North Umpqua River for 79 miles on lands administered by Douglas County; BLM, and the Umpqua National Forest.



BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997



Northern California Resource Areas (NORCAL)

The Northern California Resource Areas (NORCAL) awarded 35 Jobs-in-the-Woods projects during fiscal year (FY) 1997 worth \$1,395,000. All projects were administered through the Arcata and Redding Resource Areas. Emphasis in the Arcata Resource Area remains with road maintenance, drainage improvements, and decommissioning, moving through the major watersheds as analyses are completed. Upland restoration in the Bear Creek watershed of the Mattole River essentially completes all feasible restoration work in that watershed and allows a shift of emphasis into the Eel River system, another Key Watershed. Road system upgrades and non-system road decommissioning, along with new maintenance practices, are yielding tangible decreases in annual winter storm road damage.

Redding Resource Area projects, while addressing sedimentation and erosion in critical anadromous fish habitat, have increasing emphasis in fuels management, including fuels inventory and planning, fuelbreak construction, and fuels reduction in key, fire-prone areas. Project goals include the reduction of catastrophic wildfire potential, and the reintroduction of managed, or prescribed fire.

NORCAL offices continued participation in ecosystem re-training which began in 1995. Curricula are offered by Shasta College and College of the Redwoods, in cooperation with the Private Industry Council, State of California, and Department of Labor.

Jobs-in-the-Woods contracts provided a significant number of jobs to the local economies, in Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, and Trinity counties.

NORCAL	
Timber Volume (MMBF)	5.7
Acres Planted	22
Stand Maintenance (acres)	54
Thinning (acres)	112

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

Salem District

During fiscal year (FY) 1997, the Salem District sold 39 million board feet of timber with a value of \$13.3 million. The District's Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) program included four road improvements/restorations, two riparian silviculture projects, a stand examination, an upland habitat diversification, a stream habitat restoration, an Elkhorn Recreation Site water supply project, and a Cascade Streamwatch project.

In addition, the Mid-Willamette Valley, Sweet Home, Waldport and South Willamette Valley ecosystem workforce crews completed \$246,000 in projects ranging from trail construction, noxious weed inventory, native seed collection, riparian enhancement, noxious weed inventory, water sampling, tree top girdling, stream surveys to installing new restrooms at a BLM recreation site. The projects put local displaced timber industry workers back to work, provided improved habitat for fish and wildlife and improved water quality.

As a result of the flood of 1996, the Salem District sustained approximately \$19.5 million in damage to its transportation system, fish habitat structures, recreation facilities and other resources. During FY 1997, all the main access roads and many of the resource management road systems were repaired either permanently or temporarily. Contracts to replace four bridges, rebuild and pave portions of the Nestucca Back Country Byway and pave the Molalla Forest Road are currently in progress. The majority of the '96 flood damage should be repaired by the end of FY 1998. The flood repair work to date has been accomplished by using a combination of Salem District's road maintenance crews and contracts.

The sale of some Special Forest Projects jumped dramatically in 1997. The Salem District sold approximately 250,000 pounds of moss, (a 140 percent increase over the amount sold in FY 1996), and approximately 53,000 pounds of floral greenery, (a 107 percent increase over FY 1996 and a 258 percent increase over FY 1995.)



Salem District

Timber Volume (MMBF)	39.0
Timber Value (\$ millions)	13.3
Acres Planted	798
Seedlings Planted (thousands)	316

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997



Eugene District

The Eugene District sold 37.5 million board feet of timber totaling \$13.5 million during fiscal year (FY) 1997. Major Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) projects included riparian and aquatic habitat improvements involving 15 miles in the tributaries of the Siuslaw River to enhance anadromous fish spawning and/or rearing areas. These projects included the construction of a fish ladder at Hult Pond in the Coast Range, west of Eugene; the creation of approximately 1,700 snag trees on 1,000 acres to provide habitat for cavity dwelling wildlife species; the collection of native seed for threatened and endangered plant species; the planting of native seeds on meadow and wetland restoration projects; and the removal of noxious weeds from several areas.

In addition, JITW funds were used to improve the scenic Row River Recreation Trail, located near Cottage Grove, Oregon. Much of this work included paving 12.5 miles of the popular trail. Funds were also used to support ecosystem workforce demonstration projects managed by the Forest Service in Sweet Home, Oregon.

The flooding of the past two years created extensive damage throughout the District. Landslides and fallen trees blocked access, clogged culverts, washed out roads, and damaged several important recreation sites. Road maintenance crews continued to work on projects related to this flood damage. The Silver Creek Watchable Wildlife Site and boat landing was repaired and reopened. Repairs were also made at the Clay Creek Recreation Site.

The District continues their involvement as active partner and member on the Central Cascades Adaptive Management Area and McKenzie Watershed Council. FY 1997 efforts focused on water quality and municipal watersheds. In addition, the District is a member of the Willamette and Coast Province Advisory Committees. These organizations were created to allow for public participation, and to assist with the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Eugene District

Timber Volume (MMBF)	37.5
Timber Value (\$ millions)	13.5
Acres Planted	848
Seedlings Planted (thousands)	346

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

Roseburg District

Listing of the Umpqua Cutthroat trout as an endangered species required the BLM and the Forest Service to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on any federal actions that may affect the species. After a 10-month consultation process, the outcome indicated that in general the Northwest Forest Plan was adequate to ensure the survival of fish stocks, but for many timber sales some additional mitigation measures were necessary. In fiscal year (FY) 1997, the District offered 47.6 million board feet of timber with a total value of \$20.8 million.

Many displaced workers found employment at high-skill, family-wage jobs through Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) projects. Projects included road repair and renovation and culvert replacement. All of the projects, at ten different locations, were designed to protect the health of the land and benefit fisheries.

The District initiated a comprehensive fish monitoring program (smolt trapping) with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Forest Service, and Douglas County. Other FY 1997 accomplishments included the replacement of six culverts and the survey of 30 major culverts for fish passage, the survey of 110 miles of roads for potential adverse impacts to fish habitat, the survey of 10 miles of streams for upstream limits of fish distribution, and the study of 16 miles of streams to determine fish use and diversity.

Heavy winter rains caused major damage to BLM roads at approximately 70 locations— including slip-outs, slides, slumps, and washouts, and damaged culverts. By September 30, repairs had been completed at 19 out of 34 locations eligible for Emergency Relief Federal Owned Lands (ERFO) funding and at approximately 24 locations not eligible for ERFO.

More than 250 youths spent part of the year working for the Roseburg District as volunteers or as paid employees, on such projects as an archaeological excavation along the North Umpqua River. Under a partnership with the non profit Northwest Youth Corps, twenty-three 12-person crews worked on several resource management projects.



A BLM volunteer archaeological excavation this summer on a terrace of the North Umpqua River yielded an intact prehistoric rock-lined pit and artifacts. The pit may have been used to hold heated rocks for a sweat lodge or earth oven.

Roseburg District	
Timber Volume (MMBF)	47.6
Timber Value (\$ millions)	20.8
Acres Planted	1,189
Seedlings Planted (thousands)	471

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997



Regeneration harvests under the Northwest Forest Plan are generally small in size, contain green and dead standing trees, and large logs on the ground to ensure present and future wildlife habitat.

Coos Bay District

In fiscal year (FY) 1997, the Coos Bay District provided a continuous supply of forest products to benefit local economies offering 28.2 million board feet. Income generated by the sale of forest products exceeded \$11,000,000.

The Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) program continued to provide funds for needed watershed restoration improvements. The District continued its pilot program with the Coquille Watershed Association to hire displaced timber workers to accomplish JITW projects. Their accomplishments included replacement of culverts for erosion and sedimentation control, inventory of noxious weeds, construction of campground vault toilets, installation of wildlife nesting boxes, repair of Loon lake Campground, and repair of fish passage structures due to flood damage.

Under the JITW program, the District contracted with local contractors to complete ecosystem restoration work. Those projects included replacement of eight major culverts with structures that allow passage of fish, reconstruction of the Woodward Creek Road to reduce sedimentation, and tree topping in Late Successional Reserves to improve the snag and down-log ratio.

During FY 1997, the Coos Bay District implemented wildlife habitat management programs including the development of a wildlife tree and snag monitoring strategy and a coarse woody material monitoring strategy. This monitoring will be used in watershed analysis and timber sale planning. A wildlife sighting data base was implemented to keep records for all wildlife sighted by employees. The District completed all marbled murrelet, Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle pre-timber harvest surveys within the range of proposed timber sales, and began surveying for Del Norte Salamander. Initial surveys for forest carnivores (lynx, American Marten and Fisher) also were conducted.

At year's end, the District began developing a Memorandum of Understanding to be used with local watershed associations to implement an amendment that allows the expenditure of federal funds on non-federal land to enhance watershed conditions. For more details about the Coos Bay District's accomplishments and activities, please visit the District's internet site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay>.

Coos Bay District

Timber Volume (MMBF)	28.2
Timber Value (\$ millions)	11.8
Acres Planted	676
Seedlings Planted (thousands)	275

BLM Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments for FY 1997

Medford District

During fiscal year (FY) 1997, the Medford District offered 53.1 million board feet (MMBF) of timber, totaling \$14.4 million. The District's Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) program included ecosystem restoration projects such as hardwood thinning, brush field maintenance, cutbank stabilization, native seed growing, replacement of large culvert structures on streams to allow for anadromous fish passage, and road decommissioning.

The Ashland Resource Area continued to work on ecosystem restoration projects in the Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA). Many more field trips and coordination meetings were held with the public, as well as the continuing dialog with the Applegate Partnership. For FY 1997, the AMA produced approximately 23 MMBF, which is 40% of the District's total Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ).

The Grants Pass Resource Area's Wild and Scenic Rogue River Management program continued to grow with over 8,000 private permits being issued, totaling \$90,000 in permit fees. Several of the boat ramps and camping areas on the Recreation portion of the river, and camping areas on the Wild portion of the river were severely damaged by the winter floods. Flooding damaged portions of the Rogue River trail system in the Wild section of the river. All these facilities were repaired by the river crew or by contract before the heavy tourist recreation season.

During the heavy winter flooding, the District experienced considerable damage to roads and structures in both Jackson and Josephine counties. The District completed 15 major projects using Emergency Relief Federal Owned Road (ERFO) funds, that included hauling 24,000 cubic yards of slide material and 15,000 cubic yards of pit run rock to repair roads. The District spent approximately \$250,000 on flood damage over and above the ERFO funds to complete other flood restoration projects.



Medford District	
Timber Volume (MMBF)	53.1
Timber Value (\$ millions)	14.4
Acres Planted	3,748
Seedlings Planted (millions)	1.2

Lakeview District

The District's Klamath Falls Resource Area sold 6.6 million board feet of timber at a value of \$1.2 million in fiscal year (FY) 1997. The Jobs-in-the-Woods (JITW) program included projects such as prescribed fire treatments to improve ecosystem health and to protect crucial wildlife habitat. The prescribed fire project is in its final year of a 3-year contract, involving approximately 2,400 acres. Another JITW project included the enhancement of nesting habitat for bald eagles. This project was completed on approximately 250 acres and included the thinning of juniper woodland in eagle habitat areas to improve forest health and to ensure recruitment of future eagle nests and roosting trees.



Lakeview District

Timber Volume (MMBF)	6.6
Timber Value (\$ millions)	1.2
Acres Planted	158
Seedlings Planted (thousands)	67

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