

Northwest Forest Plan

FISCAL
YEAR 2000
REPORT

BUREAU OF
LAND
MANAGEMENT

WESTERN
OREGON AND
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA





Introduction

Through the Northwest Forest Plan, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is implementing a comprehensive strategy that maintains and restores late successional forests and their dependent species and recognizes the importance of the forests to the region's economy.

The BLM Districts implementing the Northwest Forest Plan in western Oregon are; Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford, and the Lakeview District's Klamath Falls Resource Area. In northern California, the Field Offices implementing the Northwest Forest plan are Alturas, Arcata, Clear Lake, and Redding.



This report provides a synopsis of major BLM programs and achievements in western Oregon, and northern California accomplished during Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 within the Northwest Forest Plan geographic area.

Forestry

BLM manages 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon — lands that are managed under the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately 500,000

In FY 2000, the BLM offered 69.2 million board feet (MMBF) in western Oregon

acres (or 22% of the BLM western Oregon land base) are available for timber harvest. In FY 2000, the BLM offered 69.2 million board feet (MMBF) in western Oregon made up primarily of commercial thinning sales. This volume is below the 211 MMBF Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and resulted from a court ruling that found BLM to be procedurally out of compliance with two survey and manage requirements, and a second court ruling limiting BLM's opportunity to offer regeneration timber sales. This second court ruling is under appeal

to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Beginning in FY 1998, all of the BLM timber sales in the Oregon and California Revested Lands (O&C), Coos Bay Wagon Road, and Public Domain forest lands are 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 produced from logs of all sizes. However, volumes in thousand board feet will continue to be reported. The BLM continues reforestation and forest development efforts to meet resource management objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan. Reforestation includes site preparation, tree planting, and protection. Successful reforestation is the major activity following timber harvest and natural disturbances.

Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund

Using the Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund, which became operational in 1998, the BLM will continue its efforts to regain one year's lead time in Allowable Sale



Quantity (ASQ) timber sale preparation work as well as to reduce the backlog of maintenance at recreation sites in Western Oregon. The Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund was established under Section 327 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134). The Act established separate funds for the Forest Service and the BLM using revenues generated by timber sales released under Section 2001(k) of the FY 1995 Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Assistance and Rescissions Act. Public Law 104-134 directs that 75 percent of the Fund be used to prepare sales sufficient to achieve the total ASQ and that 25 percent of the Fund be used to expend on the backlog of recreation projects after necessary payments. BLM's goal is to use the Fund to regain one year's lead time in ASQ timber sale preparation work (211 MMBF) over a five to seven year time frame.

Survey and Manage



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service managers are preparing a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) to amend the "survey and manage" mitigation measures of the Northwest Forest Plan. The FSEIS will be released in late November, and a decision is expected in early January, 2001.

The document incorporates what has been learned during the last six years of implementing the "survey and manage" provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan. These provisions detail how the agencies should manage 346 rare and little known species closely

associated with late-successional or old-growth forests. The species are primarily bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), fungi, lichens, mollusks (snails and slugs), amphibians (salamanders), and vascular plants (plants with stems).

The FSEIS identifies Alternative 1 as being preferred. While providing approximately the same level of protection intended in the Northwest Forest Plan; Alternative 1 better identifies the protection species need; sets survey priorities; clarifies survey and manage language by eliminating inconsistent or redundant direction; and establishes a process for adding or removing species from the survey and manage species list when new information becomes available. The changes should increase the efficiency of the survey and manage program and reduce unnecessary impacts to forest management activities. Survey and manage requirements apply to all forest management activities that could have the potential to disturb the habitat of the species covered by the requirements. When a species is found to be present, protection measures are implemented. In addition to conducting survey and implementing protection measures, the agencies are also conducting strategic surveys to determine the abundance and distribution of late-successional or old-growth related species across the Northwest Forest Plan area.

Prescribed Fire

The BLM uses prescribed fire and mechanical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and the risk of wildfire, improve wildlife habitat and riparian zones, and restore watersheds and grasslands. Fire exclusion from suppression efforts has resulted in a lack of periodic, natural fire in our forests and grasslands. The absence of periodic, low intensity fires has increased the risk of large, catastrophic fires and has negatively impacted the health of our forests and grasslands. As part of an effort to use fire as a resource management tool, BLM has reviewed



existing resource management and land management plans to better integrate the use of fire into our stewardship efforts. Prescribed fire is used only under appropriate conditions and in appropriate sites. Prescribed fires are implemented only when weather and fuel conditions allow for minimized smoke impacts on air quality and when fire can be controlled. BLM works closely with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington State Department of Ecology to ensure the public air quality is protected. The prescribed fire programs are generally conducted in the spring and fall. BLM's largest prescribed fire programs are in central and eastern Oregon, and in southwestern Oregon in the Medford District.

Recreation

Loon Lake in the Coos Bay District, Shotgun Creek in the Eugene District, and Hyatt Lake in the Medford District, are just a few of the many areas in western Oregon enjoyed by recreationists. To continue needed recreation maintenance, a portion of the Timber Sale Pipeline Fund was directed at the backlog of maintenance at recreation sites and visitor services in western Oregon. The recreation sites in western Oregon continue to participate in the national Pilot Fee Demonstration program. Fees collected through this program are invested in maintenance and visitor services at the site where the fees are collected.



Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The Aquatic Conservation Strategy, a key component of the Northwest Forest Plan, is a framework for managing federal lands, with an emphasis on restoring aquatic and riparian resources. The strategy provides the foundation for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, and provides the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a benchmark to ascertain protection of aquatic species on federal lands within the range of the northern spotted owl.

As part of the strategy, the BLM has worked cooperatively with the Forest Service and private and state landowners to conduct watershed analysis—a systematic procedure to characterize the aquatic, riparian and terrestrial features within a watershed. Watershed Analyses provides the foundation for implementing stream and river enhancement projects, timber sales, and road building and decommissioning projects.



Late Successional Reserve Assessment

The Northwest Forest Plan is built in part around a system of late-successional reserves (LSR) to protect old-growth dependent species. The BLM and Forest Service have developed an interagency process for reviewing proposed actions in reserves and LSR assessments. The assessments guide future agency actions in the LSRs. LSRs adjacent to National Parks will contribute to the parks' biological diversity, wildlife viability, and ecological integrity.



Adaptive Management Areas

The Northwest Forest Plan created ten Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) to foster innovative methods for ecosystem-based management and to promote collaboration between managers, scientists and communities. More than 260 research and monitoring projects are ongoing in the AMAs. Building relationships between agency managers and staff, scientists and

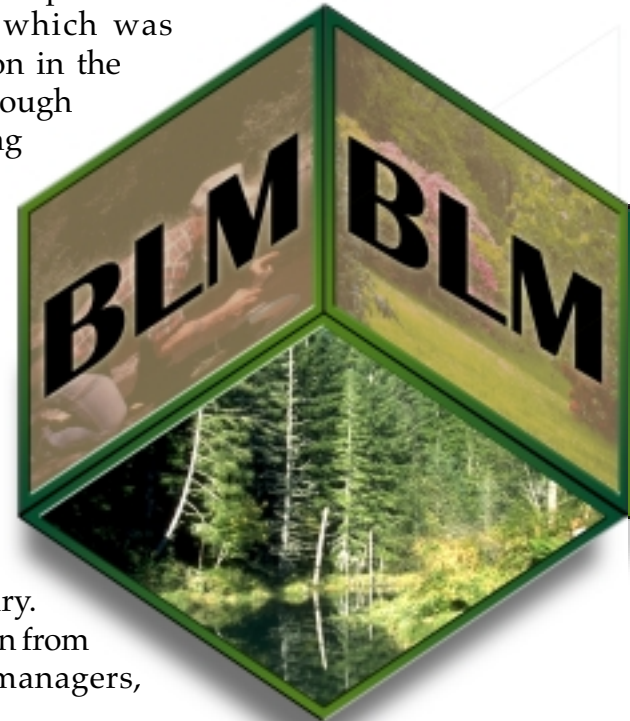
communities is key to the success of the adaptive management program. Watershed councils, schools, Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs), tribal governments and others are forming partnerships with AMA managers to accomplish assessments and studies, research and monitoring, and ecosystem planning and restoration projects.

In April, the Central Cascades AMA, which is jointly administered by the BLM Eugene District and Willamette National Forest, hosted a public forum, *Young Stand Thinning and Diversity Study*: in the Eugene-Springfield area. Eight scientists presented their findings to over 140 attendees, who then participated in small group discussions to explore implications for current management practices and additional focus topics for follow-up workshops and field tours.

The ten AMAs are currently compiling findings from the many studies and more formal research activities that have been occurring over the last several years. The findings will be published as “learning summaries” and placed on the AMA web site, www.teleport.com/~amanet/ to facilitate innovation and change in the way we do business across the Northwest Forest Plan area.

Three of the AMAs continue to function as the U.S. representatives to the International Model Forest Network, which was established to foster cooperation and collaboration in the advancement of sustainable forest management through a worldwide network of landscape level working model forests. The Cispus, Applegate and Hayfork AMAs have hosted international delegations, exchanged specialists and have provided assistance to other model forests in Mexico and South America.

The AMA Network is also participating in a research and development project funded by a three year National Science Foundation grant, the Forest Service and BLM. The “Adaptive Management Portal” is a research, development and application project to implement a virtual library. The goal is to place resource management information from a wide variety of sources at the fingertips of managers,



scientists and citizens needing such information to make informed decisions. The Adaptive Management portal will catalogue the many information sources and provide instant links to the needed information. The Computer Science Department of the Oregon Graduate Institute is focusing on research and development while the AMA Network is providing design criteria and testing the developments with real examples.

Ecosystem Restoration (Jobs-in-the-Woods)



The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative was designed to assist workers, businesses, tribes, and communities in Washington, Oregon, and northern California affected by reductions in timber harvests. The Jobs-in-the-Woods component of this initiative improves ecosystem health while at the same time providing economic assistance to local communities. Providing short-term employment for displaced timber workers is accomplished through contracts with businesses in local communities. Much of the watershed restoration work under the Northwest Forest Plan has been completed through the Jobs-in-the-Woods program. This ecosystem restoration work also compliments the aquatic objectives of Governor Kitzhaber's Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Monitoring

The Northwest Forest Plan identifies three different types of monitoring requirements: Implementation monitoring, Effectiveness monitoring, and Validation monitoring.

Implementation monitoring occurs on an annual basis and assesses the degree to which the Northwest Forest Plan standards and guidelines are being followed in project implementation (timber sales, roads, and restoration projects). Results of the implementation monitoring are analyzed by a Provincial Monitoring Team made up of scientists from the Forest Service, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Regional Ecosystem Office. They have found Northwest Forest Plan actions to be 95 percent compliant with the Plan's standards and guidelines.

Effectiveness monitoring modules for late-successional and old-growth forests, the northern spotted owl, and the marbled murrelet have been developed by interagency teams to determine the standards and guidelines are achieving desired outcomes.

A research and monitoring group conducts Validation monitoring. This monitoring tests the scientific assumptions or hypotheses under which the standards and guidelines were developed.

Advisory Committees

Community and citizen involvement are important components of Northwest Forest Plan implementation. The two primary formal groups that involve the public in the



management of federal forests are the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC) and the Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs).

The IAC is the group that fosters and receives advice at the regional level from the states of Oregon, Washington and California, the tribes, and the counties. There are 12 PACs in the Northwest Forest Plan geographic area. The PACs consist of representatives of state agencies, counties, local stakeholders, interest groups, and federal agencies. These PACs serve as a link to state watershed councils which are tasked with improving water quality and fisheries habitat throughout western Oregon.

Litigation

The Northwest Forest Plan, signed in 1994, was declared sufficient by the courts to settle the then ongoing lawsuits. However, two new lawsuits have substantially impacted the region's ability to implement the Plan. The Pacific Coast Fishermen's Federation v. National Marine Fisheries Service primarily relates to implementation of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan. The government is appealing Judge Rothstein's adverse ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The plaintiffs in this lawsuit have filed a new complaint to include an additional 20 biological opinions, affecting a wider geographic area.

A separate suit, The Oregon Natural Resources Council Action, et al. v. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was filed in the U.S. District Court of western Washington. A settlement agreement was reached in the case.

The impact of these lawsuits has caused an approximate two-thirds reduction in BLM timber sales offered in FY 1999 and FY 2000.



Third Year Evaluation

The BLM's western Oregon Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are scheduled to be formally evaluated at the end of every third year after implementation. The majority of work on the first set of evaluations has been completed, and these evaluations will be made available to the public this winter. The evaluations include the Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Medford Districts and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District. Coordination of the evaluations will occur among all BLM Districts, the Oregon State Office, and regulatory agencies.

The purpose for the evaluations are to determine whether there is significant cause for amendment or revision of any or all of the approved plans. Evaluations include a cumulative review and analysis of monitoring records, with the broader purpose of determining if the RMP's goals and objectives are being met, and whether the goals and objectives were realistic and achievable.

If an evaluation concludes that the plan's goals are not achievable in anticipated time frames, a plan amendment or revision will be initiated, including appropriate environmental analyses and public involvement. As part of these third year evaluations, the allowable timber sale quantity will be reevaluated to incorporate results of watershed analyses, monitoring of our activities and projects in the first three years, further inventory, and site specific or province level decisions. Cumulative information was summarized and published in the series of 1998 Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Reports.



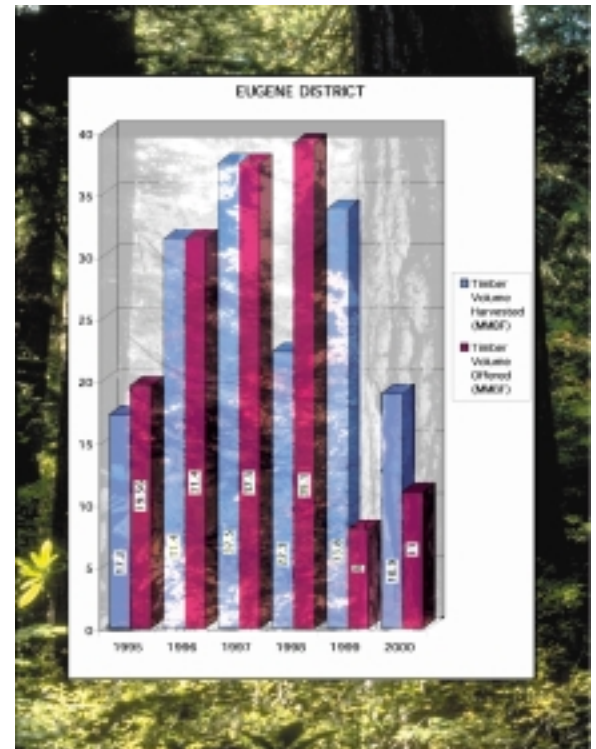
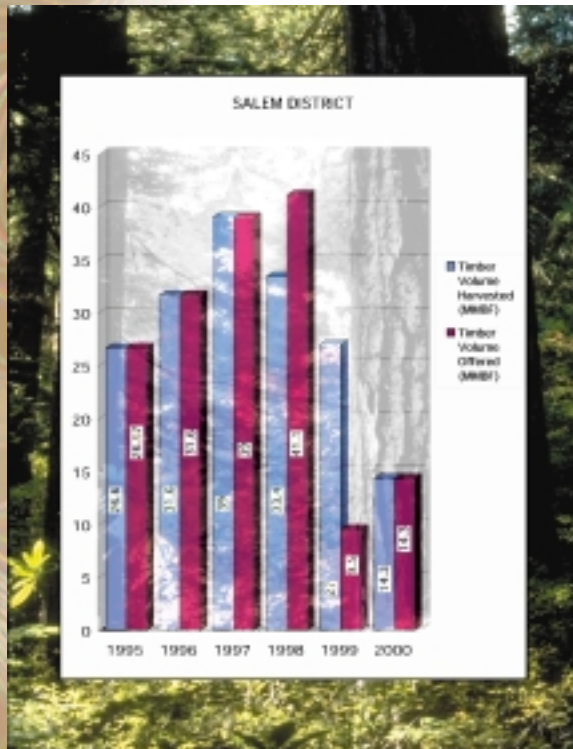
FY 2000 O&C Appropriated Dollars

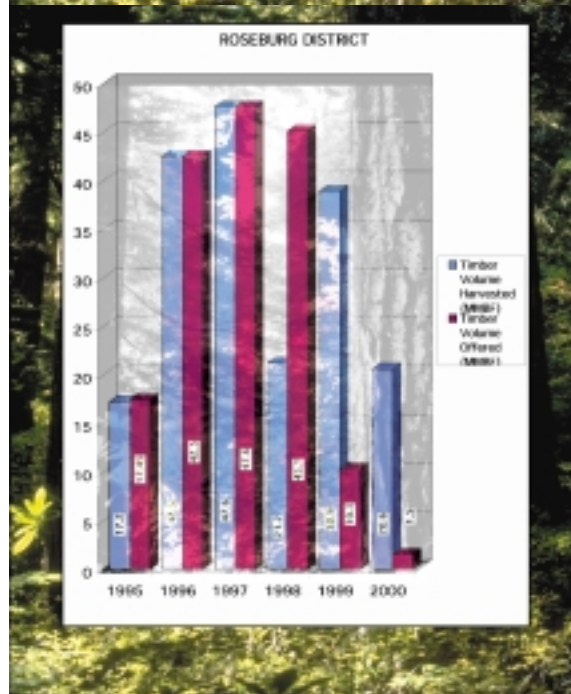
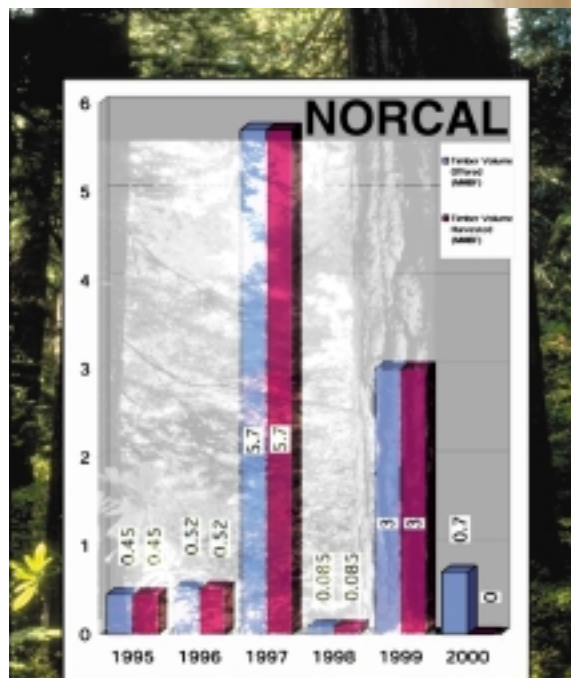
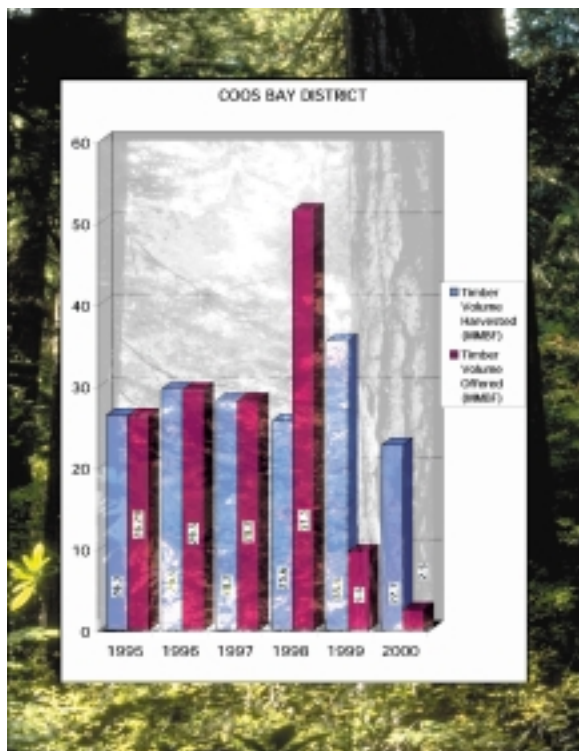
Forest Management	\$22,883,000
Reforestation and Forest Development	\$24,383,000
Other Forest Resources Management	\$32,123,000
Transportation & Facilities Maintenance***	\$10,139,000
Planning	\$1,125,000
Data System Operation and Management	\$2,149,000
Construction and Acquisition	\$284,000
Jobs-in-the-Woods	\$5,689,000
Total	\$98,775,000

***BLM merged Transportation and Facilities Maintenance into
one single category for FY 2000.

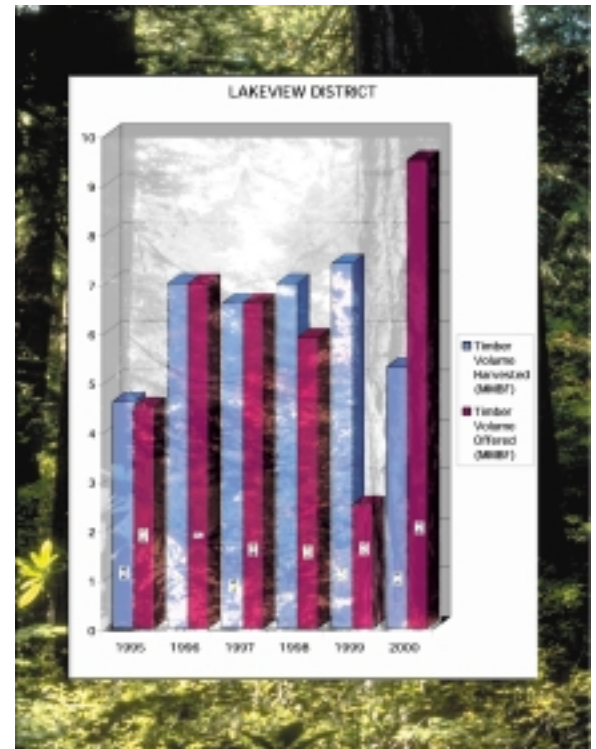
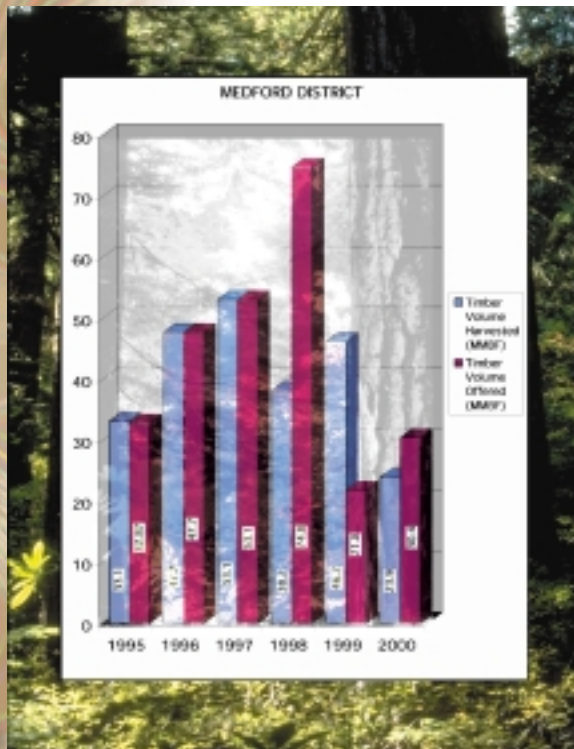


Timber Volume Harvested and Offered (1995 -2000)






Timber Volume Harvested and Offered (1995 -2000)









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