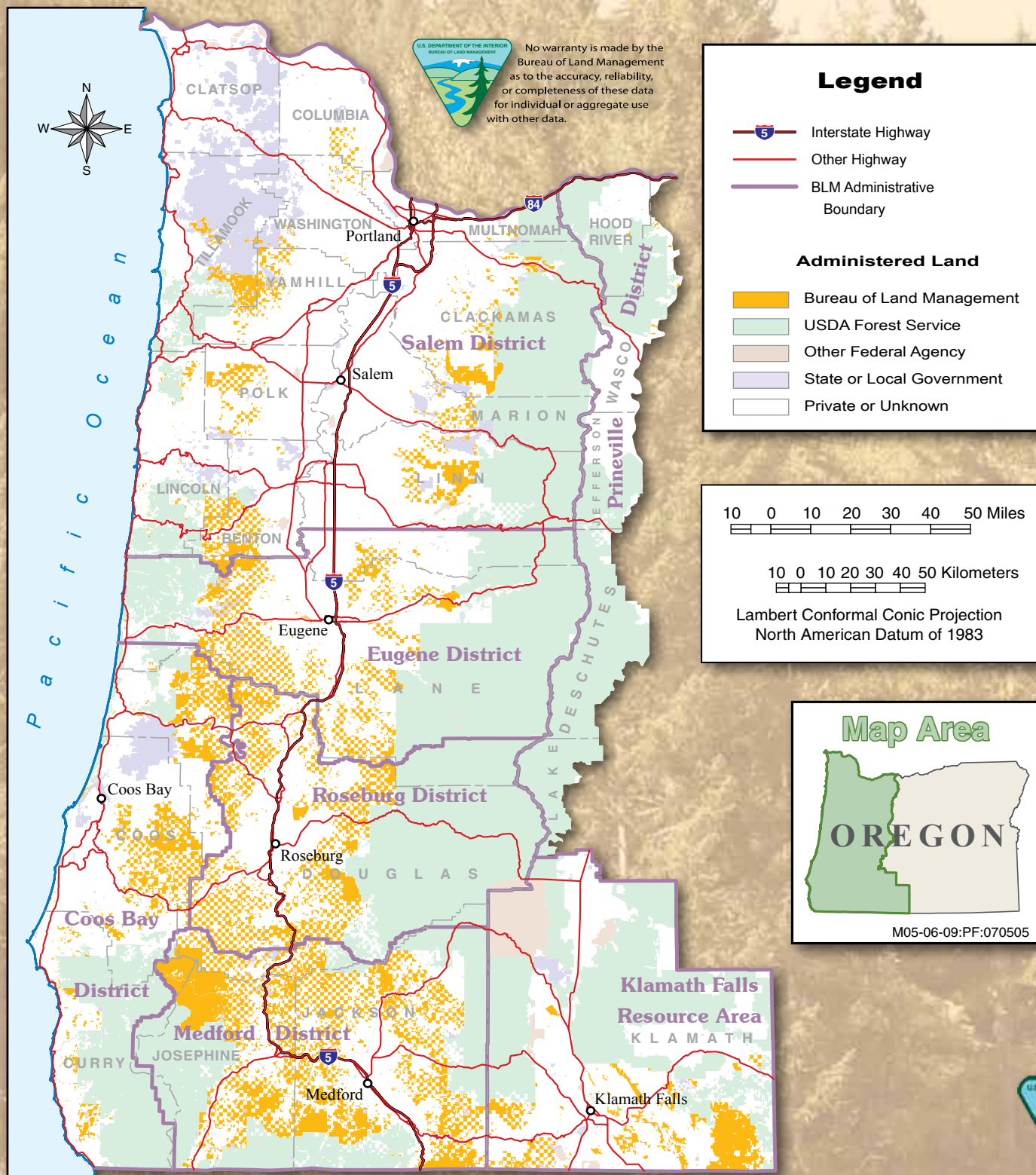


2009 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishments



Accomplishments

Introduction

The Northwest Forest Plan guides management of more than 22 million acres of Federal forests administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service in western Oregon, Washington, and northern California. The Northwest Forest Plan is a balanced, scientifically-based, long-term management plan. It is designed to produce a predictable and sustainable supply of timber and to protect the health of forests, wildlife, and waterways.

Of the 22 million acres managed under Northwest Forest Plan, the BLM manages approximately 2,557,700 million acres in the Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay, Medford, and Lakeview Districts. In northern California, the BLM Field Offices implementing the Northwest Forest Plan are Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah. Resource Management Plans guide the BLM's implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. Resource Management Plans contain goals, objectives, and management actions that—coupled with annual appropriations—direct each district's program of work.

In October 2009, the BLM released a list of about 60 proposed timber sales scheduled for 2010. These sales emphasize thinning of forest stands and the BLM estimates that about 85 to 90 percent of the 2010 timber volume will be produced by thinning. This work reflects an interim approach as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife continues to work on refinement of the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.



Forestry

The BLM manages over 2.5 million acres of land in western Oregon that are managed under the standards and guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan. Approximately 500,000 acres (or 22 percent of the BLM western Oregon land base) are available for planned timber harvest. In Fiscal Year 2009, the BLM in western Oregon offered 203.8 million board feet of timber for sale.

The BLM reforests these lands after timber harvest and natural disturbances such as wildland fires. Reforestation work includes site preparation, tree planting, vegetation control, and more to ensure healthy forests for our future.

The BLM is also working to implement an enhanced thinning program. This thinning is done to improve growth and reduce wildfire risks. Thinning is also done in response to scientific studies that indicate timely thinning can accelerate and enhance the development of old growth characteristics in younger forests. In 2009, approximately 8,245 acres

of forest and woodlands were thinned for these purposes. Stewardship contracting—a method to enhance community caretaking of public lands—was utilized on six of these thinning projects.



A New Path for BLM Forestry

For 2010, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and BLM Director Bob Abbey have directed the BLM to explore new local collaborative planning processes in areas where timber harvest is particularly important—and often controversial—such as in the Roseburg and Medford Districts. These collaborative efforts could serve as the starting point for the eventual development of new Resource Management plans for Western Oregon that will reflect the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Recovery Plan for Spotted Owls. Western Oregon BLM districts now operate under Resource Management Plans that were developed in the 1990s and based on the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Secretary also directed the BLM and FWS to jointly identify ecologically sound timber sales under the Northwest Forest Plan that can move wood to the mills immediately. As the BLM identifies these projects throughout 2010, the BLM will engage local stakeholders, counties, the Coquille tribe, elected officials, and the State of Oregon to help implement these projects as fast as possible. Using this collaborative approach, the BLM believes that timber sales volumes similar to what has occurred in recent years can be achieved.

In concert with this new approach, the Secretary formed a special interdisciplinary task force to take a fresh look at processes that have guided the management of BLM forests in western Oregon. The



task force will focus on finding a long-term strategy for forest management so that the O&C lands can reasonably, predictably, and sustainably provide economic, social, and ecological benefits. This special task force, which will include professionals from the BLM, FWS, the U.S. Forest Service, and other federal agencies, will look for opportunities to engage the public, build consensus, interagency coordination, and plan at different scales. The task force will provide its report to Secretary Salazar by spring 2010.

2009 O&C Appropriated Dollars: \$106,283,000

Forest Management: \$29,634,000

Design, administer, and monitor timber sales to meet the sustained yield forest production mandate of the O&C Lands Act, and to support habitat enhancement and restoration goals, and reduce hazardous fuels, applying best management practices while ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act; and provide special forest products such as firewood, Christmas trees, and mushrooms.

Reforestation and Forest Development: \$23,695,000

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; and maintain up-to-date inventories of sites available for reforestation and forest development.

Other Forest Resources Management: \$35,520,000

Conduct watershed analyses; comply with Clean Water Act; use smoke management to comply with air quality rules; and plan for conservation of and monitoring of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.

Transportation and Facilities Maintenance: \$11,541,000

Maintain 300 buildings and 104 recreation sites; and maintain 14,000 miles of roads, 353 bridges and thousands of culverts in Western Oregon (roads, trails, and airstrips).

Planning: \$3,560,000

Maintain viability of Resource Management Plans through plan monitoring, incorporation of new data, and amendments to the Resource Management Plans.

Data System Operation and Maintenance: \$2,008,000

Provide infrastructure management for the Geographic Information System used in each western Oregon BLM District office; keep forestry applications running and up to date, enhancing functions as needed; and maintain spatial data used for management decisions.

Construction and Acquisition: \$325,000

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

Bureau of Land Management

Oregon State Office
333 SW 1st Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97306

Eugene District Office
2890 Chad Dr.
Eugene, OR 97408-7336

Roseburg District Office
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97470

Coos Bay District Office
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459

Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Rd.
Medford, OR 97504

Lakeview District Office
1301 S. G St.
Lakeview, OR 97630

<http://www.blm.gov/or/index.php>

2009 Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishment Numbers

FY 2009 Westside Oregon BLM Timber Sale Data (numbers in Million Board Feet)		
BLM District	Offered	Harvest
Lakeview	3.2	1.6
Salem	56.4	45.8
Eugene	50.9	36.1
Roseburg	26.3	32.0
Medford	16.2	33.3
Coos Bay	50.8	22.9
Totals	203.8	171.8

BLM Tree Planting in FY 2009		
BLM District	Acres Planted	Seedlings Planted
Lakeview (Klamath Falls O&C)	331	114,000
Salem	210	69,180
Eugene	190	35,310
Roseburg	4	1,200
Medford	651	279,279
Coos Bay	581	200,348
Totals	1,967	699,317