

# Record Volume of Timber Sold In Medford District This Year

The Medford district of the bureau of land management sold a record-breaking 133,726,000 board feet of O. and C. timber during fiscal year 1958, according to Ross A. Youngblood, district manager.

Timber sales during April, May and June accounted for 80,596,000 board feet of the total, with the peak monthly volume of 62,858,000 board feet in June. Yearly sales volumes have increased steadily in the Medford district during the past four years. The volume for fiscal year 1958 represents a 10,000,000 board-foot increase over the volume sold during the previous year.

Youngblood attributed the increased interest in district timber sales, evident since January, to a stronger lumber market. He noted that the 113,513,000 board feet of timber sold since January was the highest volume of timber ever sold by the district during a comparable period.

\$1,302,641.02. This represented approximately one-third of the \$3,187,830.46 collected during fiscal year 1958.

Collections for timber sales, always the largest item of the district collections, increased from \$259,530.05 in April to \$381,411.45 in June for a total of \$1,280,261.05 for the period. This increase corresponded to increasingly favorable logging weather and the stronger market. Receipts from O. and C. timber sales amounted to \$1,273,808.25 of the total timber sale collections for this period.

Rems-of-land, principally special land use permit charges, grazing fees and right-of-way permit fees, accounted for \$6,955.75 of the quarterly collections. Charges for timber trespasses accounted for another \$1,597.20.

**Awarded Contracts**

The Medford district awarded contracts for soil scarification, or preparation for seed-

ing, on three tracts totaling 738 acres during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1958. Two of these tracts were in the Chase mountain area of Klamath county. The third was in the Butte Falls area of Jackson county. All were scenes of old forest fires which had denuded the land of commercial forest cover, thereby allowing brush and weed-species of trees to invade.

Julius E. Purvine of Corvallis was the successful bidder on all three tracts. The contract prices for the tracts near Chase mountain, involving areas of 419 acres and 214 acres, were \$2.40 per acre and \$22.40 per acre respectively. The Butte Falls tract, 105 acres, was contracted at \$30 per acre. The total contract price was \$18,167.20.

This scarification contract completed the district rehabilitation program for the fiscal year. The program was initiated on a large scale during fiscal year 1958 through the use of \$900,000 made available by the 18 O. and C. counties of Oregon from their share of the receipts from timber sales on O. and C. lands.

**Scarification Contracts**

The Medford district awarded contracts for the scarification of 1,849 acres during fiscal year 1958 at a total cost of \$50,455.80. Some scarification projects have already been completed. Others have started, or soon will start. All 1,849 acres will be reforested during fiscal year 1959.

In addition to scarification projects, the district contracted snag falling projects on 1,874 acres during the fiscal year. These projects required the fall of approximately 5,690 snags. Snag falling generally preceded scarification on brush areas where snags were numerous; snag falling also preceded one reforestation project.

Snags are felled as a safety precaution to protect men working in the area on scarification or reforestation projects and as a measure to reduce fire hazard in costly plantations. Snags attract lightning, a principal cause of Medford district fires. They also aid in the spread of "going fires" by throwing sparks ahead of the fire fighters.

**Plant Seedlings**

The Medford district planted 242,670 Douglas-fir seedlings and 303,629 ponderosa pine seedlings by reforesta-

tion contracts during fiscal year 1958 at a cost of \$16,602.40. Direct seeding or seed-spotting of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, and sugar pine seed was used to reforest 1,159 acres by reforestation contract at a cost of \$6,065.51.

Timber sale contractors reforested another 319 acres of O. and C. land under terms of bureau timber sale contracts.

During the past quarter, Medford district reforestation foresters completed an inventory of the unproductive forest land in the district in an effort to determine the size of the "back-log" of land to be reforested in the next few years.

**Program Instituted**

The program was instituted as part of a reforestation inventory designed to study the reforestation need in the five O. and C. forest districts. Plans are being made for the reforestation of approximately 3,500 acres in the Medford district during fiscal year 1959 at a cost of approximately \$65,000. The O. and C. counties have made \$500,000, available to the bureau of reforestation in the five O. and C. districts during fiscal year 1959.

The Medford district completed basic field and office work on the forest inventory of the Josephine master unit which includes all the O. and C. public domain land in Josephine county. This will

result in an increased allowable cut for the bureau lands in the unit. Forest inventory of the district lands in Jackson and Klamath counties will be completed by July, 1959.

Forest inventory on the Medford district involves the construction of maps of the area showing timber types by species and age, roads, drainages, and section corners. These maps are constructed from aerial photographs interpreted by skilled foresters.

**Permanent Sample Plots**

Volume and growth data for the forest land being inventoried is measured through a system of permanent sample plots comparable to systems used by the U.S. forest service and private companies—with active forest inventory programs. Thus the district not only collects growth and volume data necessary for better management on its own lands. It also can pool its data with those of other agencies for an analysis of the forest problems of the entire north-west.

Work has begun on the West Fork of Evans Creek Access road during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1958. The 16-mile reconstruction contract was awarded to the Lewis River Logging company at Vancouver early in June. The project is part of the access road program of the bureau, supported both by federal appropriations and by

funds made available to the bureau by the O. and C. counties from their share of the timber sale receipts.

**Raises Timber Value**

A well developed system of access roads raises the value of timber tributary to the roads, and makes timber available to small operators who cannot afford the expense of extensive road construction.

A contract for the construction of a bridge on the Whitehorse Creek Access road and one on the Snow Creek Access road was awarded to Q. L. Rufener, Inc., of Portland for a contract price of \$64,470.50. The bridges are being constructed under the bureau access road program.

District work plans have been completed for fiscal year 1959. They feature an increased timber sale volume in anticipation of a new allowable cut based on completion of the forest inventory program. The district reforestation program will also be accelerated during the coming year. This stepped-up program is necessary so that the backlog of unproductive land surveyed in the recent reforestation inventory program can be put into production.

The district work plans for fiscal year 1959 place a heavy emphasis on development planning. Well developed plans, which include projected access road systems and schedules for the harvest of

timber, are essential to a continuous flow of timber from a forest unit. Development plans for the entire Medford district will be completed within five years.

An inquiries concerning the program of the Medford district of the BLM should be direct to the district office at the city hall, Medford.

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**Public Domain Land**

In addition to the volume of timber sold from the district O. and C. lands, a volume of 3,503,000 board feet was sold from public domain lands. District records are kept separately for the two classifications of land since the formulae by which the federal government shares receipts with the local government are different for O. and C. and public domain lands.

The value of the O. and C. timber sold during fiscal year 1958 was \$3,223,318.16. This was approximately \$250,000 less than the total selling price of \$3,470,777.53 for the timber sold during fiscal year 1957.

BLM timber sale regulations do not require the purchaser of bureau timber to pay for the entire volume on a lump-sum basis. Payments may be extended on an installment basis over a two-year period.

**Total Collections**

Total collections made by the district office during April, May and June were

## Portland Woman Shot; Man Kills Himself Later

Portland—(UPI)—One man is dead and a woman was reported in "extremely critical" condition in a Portland hospital Saturday as the result of an attempted murder-suicide in the Fourth Avenue hotel here Friday night.

Virginia A. Lee, 32, of Portland was shot in the left side Friday night as she combed her hair, city police said.

The man, Lester M. Gibson, 32, shot the woman in his hotel room and then killed himself with a .32 caliber Colt automatic, police said, after they had been drinking and then had gone to his room to pack his bags for a trip to the Seattle Marine hospital.

**Smokes Cigarette**

The woman told officers that she had smoked a cigarette in the room and then got up to comb her hair when Gibson walked to his suitcase, opened it and took out the gun.

"I have a present for you," Gibson said, and shot her, she told police.

She was knocked to the floor by the impact. He then came over and shoved the gun into her face and pulled the trigger again, but the gun jammed and failed to go off, she said.

As he attempted to get it unjammed, she got up and ran down to the desk where the clerk called police.

Apparently Gibson shot himself through the heart while the woman ran for help, investigating officers said. He was dead when police arrived.

Gibson had checked into the hotel Wednesday. He previously worked on a U. S. corps of engineers dredge in California and was on his way to the Seattle hospital, officers said.

Plants have ingenious means of getting enough sunlight. Some mosses in dimly lit places grow a covering of clear cells that act as focusing lenses to gather the meager light and concentrate it in the chlorophyll.

## Shah's Yacht Hits Schooner in Italy

Naples, Italy—(UPI)—Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi of Iran escaped uninjured Friday night when his borrowed yacht rammed and sank a gravel-laden schooner outside Ischia Harbor.

The Shah borrowed the 120-ton yacht Sereno of Italian publisher and movie producer Engelo Rizzoli to visit Ischia Island shortly after his arrival here aboard the liner Independence from the United States.

The collision happened while the yacht was returning to Naples. The 54-ton motor-equipped sailing vessel Senti-nella went down within minutes after the crash. Its captain and seven-man crew were picked up by nearby boats.

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**SHAH'S YACHT HITS SCHOONER IN ITALY**

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