

Medford BLM District Reports Successful Year During 1958

The Medford district of the bureau of land management has reported a successful year during 1958.

For timber sales, an all-time high in terms of volume was marketed last year. The total volume disposed of in 1958 was 198,587,000 board feet, for which was paid a record price of \$4,963,682.53.

The next highest calendar year on record in the Medford office was 1957 when 114,215,000 board feet was sold for a contract bid price of \$3,024,113.70. On a fiscal year basis, that is from July, 1956, to July, 1957, about 123 million board feet was marketed, the previous high 12-month period.

Later Part of Year
In the latter part of calendar year 1958, in particular, buyers of BLM timber seemed to be interested in bidding. The average price for stumpage in 1958 was \$24.98 compared to an average appraised price of \$21.30. Percentage wise, BLM buyers paid 17 per cent above the appraised price, with most of this active bidding being in the last half of the calendar year.

Cutting timber on BLM lands in calendar year 1958 was high, as indicated by the rate of collections, which totaled \$3,874,589.97, or about \$1,000,000 under the contract price. The comparison shows that the rate of cut follows closely behind the rate of timber sales.

Payments to O and C counties came from the yearly collections. Until the money is collected, payments cannot be made to the counties, or funds distributed in accordance with the O and C fund distribution formula set by congress by the O and C Act of August, 1937.

Minor Products
Sales from minor forest products from the Medford district BLM lands in calendar year 1958 was insignificant as to volume and value. Sales of this material totaled \$475, and type of material sold was huckleberry brush and items

of like nature. Medford District forestry personnel believe that minor forest sales activities should increase in the future. Presently hardwood sales are almost non-existent except for fuel wood. On Medford district BLM lands there is a large acreage of hardwood timber, and personnel expect that activity in the minor forest products field will be considerably increased.

Another important item that always takes considerable time is processing timber cutting trespasses. The end-of-year record shows that 653,000 board feet of timber was cut in trespass in the Medford district. Collections received for timber cut in trespass totaled \$18,134.30.

A sizeable total of personnel time is expended in timber trespass work, in that it involves timber cutting boundary line running and similar types of survey work and appraisal analysis. Medford district records showed an uncollected balance of \$169,686 on timber cutting trespasses at the end of the year. Most of these cases are in the process of being completed and it is expected that most of this value will be collected.

Land Rent Activity
The BLM also noted that land rent activity was moderately heavy in calendar year 1958, particularly rentals in the form of special land use permits, grazing leases, rights-of-way fees, road use fees and fees of like nature. Total collections for the rents of land for calendar year 1958 was \$31,005.63.

The number of active grazing leases at the end of the year was 184, covering acreage totaling 431,913, or approximately one-half of the Medford district. The number of stock grazed on BLM lands during calendar year 1958 was 33,111. There were 46 special land use permits of record at the end of the year.

A major activity of importance on BLM lands in calendar

year 1958 was reforestation. Most the funds for reforestation were made available by the O and C counties from receipts allocated from an allotment formula.

Scarification
The Medford district spent \$57,410.30 on getting forest land ready for tree planting and tree seeding. Scarification of areas is a means of eradicating the brush and other undesirable vegetation from the forest land area and making it possible to plant or seed.

During the year, 1,878 acres were scarified at a cost of \$51,075.30. Likewise, 1,246 acres were cleared of all fire-killed snags thus making the areas ready for tree planting and seeding. Snags were then cleared at a cost of \$5.08 per acre.

A total of 2,258 acres of BLM lands were planted last year at a cost of \$16,322 per acre. In addition, 1,776 acres were spot-seeded to ponderosa pine or broadcast seeded to either pine or other tree seeds at a cost of \$6.94 per acre.

Expended on All Phases
The Medford district expended \$49,188.60 on all phases of reforestation in calendar year 1958. Most of the work was contracted to the lowest bidder, with a good number of contractors coming from other parts of Oregon;

one or two of the contractors were local people.

In addition to the contract planting or seeding by use of appropriated funds, 807 acres were planted under terms of BLM timber sale contracts during the year, and 147 acres were seeded.

Reforestation is assisting nature, hence is an important function of forestry work in that it assures the regeneration of a new crop for future generations.

Another important function carried on by BLM foresters last year was the inventory program. A review of district program goals and target dates at this time shows that the district is somewhat ahead of schedule.

Classification Completed
Classification of forest cover types and condition classes was completed on Nov. 7, 1958. The inventory includes all 817,752 acres of O and C land and 96,445 acres of public domain land in the Medford district.

During calendar year 1958 approximately 500 permanent sample plots were established on BLM lands. Additional plots required to provide continuous timber inventory data will be established during the first few months of 1959.

Compilation of type maps and the acreages of the various timber types will be completed early in 1959, after which new annual allowable cuts can be computed. Electronic computing machines will be used in tabulating inventory data.

New Allowance Cuts
It is anticipated that all field and office work will be completed in time for new allowable cuts to be declared by July 1. An interim allowable cut, based on preliminary inventory data, was announced on July 3, 1958. As a result, the Medford district's allowable cut was increased from 116,700,000 board feet per year to 169,900,000 board feet per year of O and C timber, plus 6,000,000 board feet of public domain timber.

The only access road under construction in calendar year 1958 was the West Fork Evans Creek road, which is under contract to Lewis River Logging company. When the road is completed it will open up about 1 billion board feet of timber. The timber is owned only partially by the government.

Road maintenance is becoming more and more important as larger forested areas are opened for timber sale activities. Presently the BLM Medford district maintains a bureau of public roads maintenance crew stationed at Galice. The crew maintains about 100 miles of road, primarily in the northwest part of Josephine county. It is anticipated that another road maintenance crew may be needed in the Jackson county area.

Access Roads Planned
Several access roads are being planned for the Medford district, and to get the roads ready for construction, one road location survey crew has been busy throughout the entire year of 1958.

Two mining engineers were kept busy examining mining claims in the Medford district during the last year. Mining activity seems to be on the increase as compared with former years.

In order to make access roads ready for construction following surveys, easements over private property on which the road will be located must be secured. One man has been keeping busy negotiating for easements during calendar year 1958. Twenty-four easements were acquired, covering 15 miles of road area.

947 Acres Burned
District records disclose that 947 acres of BLM forest lands were burned in calendar year 1958. The estimated damage to timber on this acreage totals \$12,600. There was a total of 84 fires in the year on BLM land in the district. Most were lightning-caused; only about 14 per cent of the total were man-caused.

Blister rust activity was confined to ribes eradication work in the Josephine county area.

participation in the American Automobile association's 1957 national pedestrian program contest.

Rudy Tetreault, district manager for the OSMA, presented the report to the city. Compared to Other Cities

Medford's score was based on comparison with 535 other cities with comparable population. It received 36 points out of a possible 100, while the established standard was 67 and the leading city, Monroe, N.C., received 94.

Among significant recommendations included on the report were these: Injured pedestrians should be required to file a complete report so their opinions as to what caused the accident can be considered.

The city should enforce its pedestrian traffic laws, starting with an educational program of several weeks' duration.

A study should be made on the need for additional policemen or adult crossing guards at school crossings.

Engineering Program
A well-rounded engineering program with attention to maintenance of existing pedestrian facilities and construction of new facilities should be undertaken.

The Medford Safety council should meet often enough to be active in promoting pedestrian safety.

Unofficial organizations should be enlisted to help support and carry out the official pedestrian program. Their services should be utilized "to a great extent."

Elementary schools should devote at least one hour a week to teaching traffic safety.

Public Playgrounds
The need for increasing the number of supervised public playgrounds should be studied.

All high schools should offer driver education with behind-the-wheel instruction for every student.

Those in charge of public information for pedestrian safety should seek to get businesses in the city to sponsor newspaper advertisements on safety.

Pedestrian messages on posters, calendars, cards, leaflets, bumper banners and the like should be used to a greater extent.

Special projects, such as a "Pedestrian Safety day" or other events or campaigns, should be planned.

8,061 Children Counted in Census
A total of 8,061 children between 4 and 19 years old live in Medford school district 549C, according to the 1958 census report conducted by the school.

The figure represents an increase of 236, or 3.02 per cent, over the 1957 census of 7,825.

In the district, there are 67 pair of twins, 18 mixed, 26 girls and 23 boys, the report showed. There are 123 married persons, which includes 108 girls, and 15 boys.

Four children have birthdays on Feb. 29.

Foreign birthplaces represented in the census report include England, The Netherlands, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Germany, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Austria, France, Siam, Japan, Argentina, Guatemala, and Canada.

CRIMES CONFUSE HIM
Chicago - (UPI) - Joseph Pancko, alleged professional burglar already under charges of falsifying his driver's license application, today explained why he missed a court date Wednesday for arraignment on a burglary charge. "I just got confused with so many cases pending," he said.

Wargrave, England - (UPI) - Thames river floods have forced local merchant Tony Shaw to make his deliveries in rowboats. Shaw sells fish.

Conservation Topic Of Television Show

George A. Loftin, supervisor of the Sams Valley Beagle Soil Conservation district, and Robert R. Lonzway, of the Soil Conservation Service, appeared on a Portland television station last week.

They presented the subject "Conservation Plan With Streambank Protection" on station KGW-TV.

The value of conservation plans which embrace the operation of the farm's conservation needs was discussed by Loftin and Lonzway.

The major conservation practice of streambank protection on the G. W. Jess farm along the Rogue river near Eagle Point was used as an example. They pointed out that Jess has 1,650 feet of frontage protected with about 2,500 cubic yards of gravel covered with 1,650 cubic yards of large angular rock. The top of the bank is seeded to grass.

Seniors Plan Benefit At Eagle Point High

Eagle Point - The Eagle Point High school seniors will present a benefit variety show for the Teen-Age-Program for the March of Dimes in the high school auditorium Wednesday, Jan. 28.

The show, "Senior Follies," will start at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the show will be forwarded to the March of Dimes.

Doctors believe a low fat content may reduce many current heart ailments.

America's inadequate highway system involves a loss of about \$3 billion annually to the public in lost time, mishaps and other factors. About 39 per cent of the deaths and 35 per cent of the injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents occur on Saturdays and Sundays.

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