

Revamped Atlas Fires Successfully

Cape Canaveral, Fla.—A revamped Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile thundered 5,000 miles Tuesday night to punctuate congressional queries into whether we are losing the missile race with Russia.

It was the second straight Atlas success after consecutive failures. However, a minimum of two will be necessary before the huge war rocket reaches operational readiness.

About 1 1/2 hours after launching, the Air Force announced the shoot apparently was a complete success. An attempt was expected later to recover a tiny data capsule carried in the blunt "heat sink" nose cone of the missile. The capsule was equipped to record technical information about the flight.

Tuesday night's launching gave a dramatic punch to earlier statements by a top Air Force officer in Washington that there was "no cause for alarm" over the string of misfirings, ranging from Feb. 20 to June 6. The last successful shoot was July 21.

Of every 100 hens eggs placed in an incubator, from 10 up to two dozen fail to hatch into chicks, but the success factor is said to be improving.

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Scheduled Goals of BLM Reached in Medford Area

On June 30 the Medford district of the bureau of land management closed its books on all activities for fiscal year 1959. District Manager Ross A. Youngblood commented that all scheduled goals were reached, and for some projects completion was somewhat ahead of the target date.

The sale of timber from the Oregon and California Revested Grant Lands (O&C Lands) and public domain lands are big business for the fiscal year. In fact, sale value reached an all time district high totalling \$6,410,874.41. By far the bulk of this value in sale of timber came from the O&C lands, he said. Only \$153,685.80 worth of timber was sold from the unreserved and unappropriated Public Domain lands in the Medford district.

A review of the timber sale record shows also that demand for the O&C timber stands was exceptionally good, hence at most oral auction sales bidding for the timbered tracts was brisk as buyers paid about \$2,000,000 more for the timber than it was appraised. The total volume sold was 208,709 thousand board feet, and it was appraised by Medford BLM district appraiser at a value of \$4,653,306.96.

Interesting Point
One interesting point is illustrated by the timber sale bidding record and that the demand for white fir logs has sharply increased over prior years, Youngblood said. A short time back southern Oregon mills demanded pine logs. After the war this demand shifted to Douglas-fir logs. All this time white fir trees were considered a woods white elephant or a logger's bottleneck as in harvesting the pine or Douglas-fir crop the white fir trees were in the way of the logger. Such is not presently the case. It was also noted demand for other minor forest trees is on the increase.

District receivable account for 1959 shows the result of other district field action next to timber sales was by district personnel to process timber trespass cases, and for this activity \$18,732.23 was collected.

The collected value does not represent a true picture of total personnel time expended in field and office to

process and collect a timber cutting trespass, Youngblood said. For many cases, the property lines affected by the cutting must be established. This work is performed by BLM cadastral survey crew. Medford BLM district has had a cadastral crew busy establishing property corners and running boundary or property lines between corners in an effort towards closing a number of trespass cases. A total of 16 cases were closed last year. The current fiscal year started with 181 unclosed trespass cases.

Land Office Business
A land office business in personnel time was transacted in renting land in the Medford district last year. Collections, however, were not large, although rating third in the total amount collected, the district manager said. Rent collections came from grazing leases, special use permits and basic fees for rights-of-way. Total rent for land collections was \$15,765.11.

The lease of land for grazing of livestock in the Medford BLM district is an important item to adjoining land owners and thus the forage contributes helpfully to the ranching unit economy of the Medford area. About 45 per cent of Medford BLM District, or 392,786 acres were leased for stock grazing privileges last fiscal year. This acreage provided spring, summer, and some fall range for about 5,000 head of cattle. The acreage is leased to 181 individuals and grazing associations. Rental for the livestock forage totaled \$11,945.24.

Collections for the use of BLM access roads totaled \$6,725.10. As more BLM roads are built into presently untapped timber stands road-use fee collections will increase. The fees are assessed the private commercial users of the access roads and the fee will continue until the private timber share of the road investment is amortized, he said.

Buyers of BLM timber that use privately controlled logging roads likewise pay a use fee. When the Government's share of the construction cost has been absorbed no fee will be assessed licenses of government.

For the access roads the BLM maintains, as the Galice Access rd., all haulers pay a maintenance of road fee. Medford BLM district receivable account disclosed that \$39,263.06 was collected. The money goes into the road maintenance fund and reallocated to bureau of public roads which does the access road maintenance for the BLM.

Miscellaneous Collection
The miscellaneous collection action totaled \$385.10. This collection is for services such as billing fees, sale of maps, and the like. Miscellaneous fees like road maintenance fees are not deposited to the O&C account.

All other O&C collections are deposited to the O&C fund account, and at the end of the fiscal year, 75 per cent of the collections from sale of timber, rent of land, sale of minor forest products as huckleberry brush and fern, sale of rock and other earth construction material, and road use fees go to the 18 Western Oregon or O&C land grant counties in lieu of payment of taxes.

For the Medford district, therefore, 75 per cent of the receivable account totalling \$5,026,979.65 will go to the O&C counties.

Jackson county as one of the O&C counties gets 15.68 per cent of the 75 per cent of gross receipts less one-third which is appropriated by Congress with the consent of the O&C counties to the O&C access road program. Last fiscal year Jackson county received \$1,720,960.67 in lieu of tax payments. Collections are considerably above fiscal year 1958, thus all O&C counties will receive more in lieu of tax payment for fiscal year 1959.

Top Importance
Basically, from a resource manager's viewpoint, providing for a new forest crop for future cutting is of top importance. There are three methods available to regenerate a new stand of forest trees; one is requiring a silviculture harvest cut that lends itself to best help that nature can provide to regenerate the new crop; two is to reforest, either by planting or seeding immediately following harvest cut; three is to use a combination of the two.

In the Medford BLM district, a sizeable reforestation program was conducted last fiscal year. The district planned for and supervised the planting of 2,068,700 seedlings of 3,328 acres of BLM land. Seedlings included Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine; moreover, 806 acres were seeded by airplane and by hand. Tree seeds used were ponderosa pine, sugar pine and Shasta red fir.

Some of the land reforested had to have a suitable seed or seedling bed prepared, which for Medford district required the removal and piling of the brush on the tract to be reforested. The land preparation work is called scarification which consists of raking or gouging the brush off the land by a crawler tractor, equipped with tooth dozer blade, Youngblood said. This type of treatment was done to 475 acres of BLM land.

Additional Employment
This reforestation project not only assisted in the job of regenerating a new crop of trees it also provided additional employment in the fall, winter and early spring months thereby bolstering local county economy in a small way.

Medford district BLM spent \$89,139.92 in fiscal year 1959 on reforestation and \$10,402.50 in scarifying land prior to planting.

The job of inventoring or taking stock of what is on the BLM lands is an important function and actually is a never ending program. However, for the first time a complete forest inventory was finished on Medford district lands; in fact it was finished three months prior to its target date of June 1. Hence the total job both field and office was finished for the O&C lands on April 1.

BLM foresters found on the O&C lands a sizeable more volume of presently merchantable timber, young stands of trees growing better than was expected, and also the cutover

and fire killed areas were re-seeding not unsuccessfully with the net result that the sustain yield annual forest tree cutting could be increased from 169.9 million board feet to 221 million board feet for Medford BLM district, Youngblood said.

Public Domain Lands
For the public domain lands commingled with the O&C lands all inventory field action has been completed and most of the office activity. Present sustain yield allowable cut is 6 million board feet. Some increase is expected by the new inventory.

The access road program progressed along at a reasonably good clip during the year. The West Fork Evans creek access road was completed at a cost of about \$500,000. The Lewis River Logging company was the contractor and the work was under the general supervision of Ed Baker. Total length of the access road is about 16 1/2 miles.

The construction of the road makes available a total volume of slightly in excess of 1,000,000,000 board feet, and around 600,000,000 board feet of this total is situated on tributary BLM lands. Moreover, the completion of this road makes a complete tie-in with the Goolaway Gap forest road, and thus it is possible that National Forest timber situated in the upper reaches of the Cow Creek drainage can come to Medford and Grants Pass mills for processing.

Road Location Surveys
A number of road location surveys in several important drainages were completed during the fiscal year. Location surveys were completed in Powell creek and Deer creek in Josephine county, and in West Fork Elk creek and East Fork Evans creek in Jackson county. The number of miles in the surveys totals 40 miles.

All location survey work is performed by the bureau of public roads, which has maintained a location survey crew in the Medford BLM district during the year.

Medford district engineers determined the location of the access road by going into the drainage to be surveyed prior to the arrival of the location survey crew. The BLM engineers determined the location by setting the control points, thus BLM is assured that the location survey and the resulting logging access road is exactly constructed to get the maximum use by loggers of the adjacent timber.

Logging Roads
About 20 miles of good forest logging roads were constructed as a condition of BLM timber sales. The value of the roads constructed by BLM timber buyers amounts to about \$350,000. A number of these roads constructed as a condition of timber sales are summer and fall haul roads, and thus are not usable for logging in the winter months. However, a few are winterized as a condition of the timber sale contract so that winter logging may be permitted.

The May creek road in the main Evans creek drainage area is an example of a road that was winterized so that logging could be permitted the entire year. Since one of the requirements of the O&C Act is that the O&C lands must be managed on a sustained yield basis to contribute towards community stability, it is felt that to point in this direction a reasonable number of logging access roads must be winterized so that logging may be permitted during the winter months, Youngblood noted.

Action to determine the status of mining claims has increased in the Medford BLM district during fiscal year 1959. One of the reasons for this is that the allowable cut from the O&C lands has been increased which has resulted in more mining claims being found through process of road construction and sale layout.

Public Law 167 also has accelerated mining validity

determinations on the BLM lands. To spark the work and to be a help to the local miners in discussing their mining problems, Stan Shepard, a mining engineer, was added to the Medford district staff.

Easements Necessary
Before access roads can be constructed either by the use of appropriated funds or by means of a condition to a timber sale, many times easements are necessary to acquire. This is a continuing job as the Medford district BLM lands are commingled with numerous small, medium, and large ownerships.

Last year, 34 easements were acquired and a number are in the process of negotiation. Additionally, a number of right-of-way agreements were approved with adjoining private landowners. For the most part the right-of-way agreements are reciprocal in nature and provide, under certain stipulations, mutual equal use of all roads by the private owners of the adjoining lands and licensees of the government. The licensees in all cases would be purchasers of BLM timber.

In fiscal year 1959 the total number of fires increased over immediate previous years. However, only one fire was of consequence, and this fire, known as the Bunker creek fire, burned approximately 400 acres.

Blister rust control activity was conducted in the year, and primarily on a maintenance basis in established blister rust control units. The control units on which activity occurred in fiscal year 1959 were in the Illinois Valley areas and in the Galice-Peavine area of Northwest Josephine county.

Medford BLM district has a 13-member advisory board group, which met twice last year. B. L. Nutting, general manager of Medford Corporation, is the current advisory board chairman; he succeeded the late S. S. (Doc) Simpson.

Training Sessions
To keep BLM personnel apprized of new techniques in the appraising of timber, a number of training sessions were conducted last year. One school was held outside the district and a number of them were held in the Medford district under the direction of District Appraiser F. W. Fogelquist.

An important advance step in timber appraising techniques was set up during the year. Measuring standing trees by log diameters and heights on a taper-table basis was changed to the more acceptable procedure of form class measurement of standing trees.

Because of varied heights and diameters, as is the case of standing trees in the Medford BLM district, this method of tree volume estimate tends to give a more exact measurement of the true volume on each tree by log sizes. Using this form class measurement of standing trees as a beginning point, the grading of the logs by the use of external characteristics to re-

flect the quality of the logs as they actually exist in the variable stands in the Medford district was revised. Because the stands in the Medford district are so variable, this revised method of valuing the quality of the logs in the standing trees has resulted in a lower stumpage price for the less-quality timber stands and a higher stumpage appraisal for the high-quality timber stands.

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