

# Good Weather Gives Opportunity For Continued Work on BLM Land

Land use activities were heavy on lands administered by the Medford district of the bureau of land management during the last calendar quarter of 1959, according to District Manager Ross A. Youngblood.

The sale of timber tracts and the harvesting of the timber on many of the tracts vibrated along at a fast clip. According to the three-month period record, a total of 16 tracts of BLM was offered for oral auction bidding.

## Well Distributed

The bureau of land management appraised the 31,793,000 board feet on the 16 tracts at \$838,184.90. A number of interested bidders thought otherwise about this price, because the tally book for the last quarter period for 1959 revealed that about a one-third increase was offered for the timber, totaling \$1,171,787.15. The highest bid price for pine was \$65 per thousand board feet, and the highest for Douglas-fir was \$51.

Sales of timbered tracts were well distributed

throughout the Medford district, as seven tracts are located in Josephine county, three in Jackson county, two in Klamath county, and four in Douglas county. The largest volume sold was situated in Jackson county. The average volume per tract for the 16 tracts was 1,917,000 board feet.

The total of all collections for this same period, amounting to \$1,153,038.80, was about equal to the bid price of the timber sold. Collections for the sale of timber totaled \$1,135,776.31.

A review of the district harvesting record, or timber cutting reports, discloses that logging of timber from the tracts was inordinately heavy for the three-month period. Since the late fall and early winter weather was good, logging activity continued at a rapid pace, which, in comparison to the average year for the same period, revealed that total woods activity was above normal, Youngblood noted.

Collections for the same three-month period in 1958

for all activities showed only \$767,206.77.

## Compares Years

Youngblood compared calendar year 1958 collections with calendar year 1959 collections to determine if the upward trend was consistent. The record showed the upward trend was about the same, or specifically, collections for calendar year 1959 were about double that of 1958. The increase is partly the result of the increase in the allowable cut from the O and C lands, and partly because of the consumer demand for wood products in 1959.

In timber sales activity, the Medford BLM office met its planned goal for the last quarter of 1959. It was unable, however, to erase as many timber trespass cases as was planned. Collections from trespass cases during the period tallied at \$2,258.10. Demands were made on the trespassers for three cases in Jackson county and one in Josephine county having a total value of \$2,683.05.

Trespass cases are not tallied

all field activity is performed or the case is actually closed; however, the district time record showed for this period that a good number of man hours were used in trespass investigation. A number of above-normal size trespass cases are presently being investigated.

## Road Maintenance

Road maintenance fee collections for this period totaled \$16,985.54, and over \$15,000 of this total was for maintenance fees on the Galice BLM federal access road.

Road maintenance fees are not accounts receivable collections; this money goes back into a fund used to maintain the access roads. Likewise, there are miscellaneous collections from the sale of maps, court costs and the like that are not accounts receivable collections.

All other collections on O and C land activities are accounts receivable collections, and are distributed to the O and C counties in lieu of taxes in accordance with the formula provided for in the O and C Act of Aug. 28, 1937. The formula provides for distributing to the 18 O and C counties 75 per cent of the gross receipts.

Each county's share in the 75 per cent of gross receipts is computed on a percentage arrangement using the assessed valuation of O and C lands in each county as of 1915 to the total valuation of all O and C lands for the same year. Douglas county, having the largest acreage of O and C lands, has the largest percentage, 25.11; Jackson county comes next with 15.68 per cent, followed by Josephine county with 12.02 per cent. Although not having the smallest percentage of the 18 counties, Klamath county's share is only 2.39 per cent.

## Access Road Account

With the approval of the O and C counties, Congress has appropriated one-third of the 75 per cent to the O and C access road account. This appropriated money is used for the construction of federal access roads into the O and C forests. The completion of the Galice access road in northwest Josephine county has facilitated the offering of the allowable cut in the northern part of that county. The completion of other access roads in Jackson and Klamath counties will further facilitate the offering and marketing of the O and C allowable cut.

District personnel in the October-through-December period obtained easements, surveyed, and prepared maps for the Medford district's access road projects. Presently under bureau of public road contract is the construction of the Central bridge near Ruch, the construction of the Thompson Creek bridge in the Illinois Valley district of south Josephine county, and the topping with crushed rock the West Fork of Evans Creek access road.

Finalizing Medford district action has been just about completed in the getting of the Keno access road in southeast Jackson county and northwest Klamath county ready for advertising bids. This road, when completed, will open up a large block of virgin O and C old-growth timber totaling about 650,000,000 board feet. When the road is completed, it will be 27½ miles long and will be a through route from Dead Indian to Keno.

## Galice Access Road

Finishing touches have been completed on 7½ miles of new construction to extend the Galice access road. The project is expected to be advertised soon after the snow melts, or as soon as the bidders can inspect the job.

Work on plans is just about completed on the Deer Creek BLM access road in south Josephine county. It is anticipated this road will be advertised for bids in March.

Two other access roads located in Jackson county are earmarked for construction in 1960. They are Salt Creek, which is a tributary to Little Butte creek, and the West Branch of Elk creek. All easement arrangements for the roads have not been made as yet.

For the October-December period, 11 road easements were acquired, including one by condemnation. Also for this same period, four right-of-way agreements with four separate timber or lumber companies were completed. It is estimated that the acquiring of these 11 easements and the completion of the four right-of-way agreements have made 948,000,000 board feet of BLM timber accessible for harvesting on a sustained-harvest cutting basis.

Prior to this, the volume was blocked by lack of access. It is the policy of the bureau of land management to make

16 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or., Sunday, Jan. 17, 1960

all sales of timber offered on the market for bidding equally accessible to all bidders. Mining Claim Activity

Three men have been working steadily making preliminary field examinations for mining claims, as provided under Public Law 167 of August, 1955. Four townships, totaling about 80,000 acres received preliminary treatment in the October-through-December period.

While goals and target dates in most activities have been achieved or exceeded in this reporting period, the district manager reported such had not been the case in the reforestation activity. Mainly the shortage of forest seedling planting stock has hampered the district from meeting this planned commitment. A small loss of seedlings by an ammonia leak in a local cold storage warehouse added a little more "discomboberation" to Medford district reforestation plans, Youngblood said.

Two procedures are in use in the Medford district to activate the planting of seedlings on cutover forest lands—by bid contracts and by the terms or conditions of timber sale contracts. First priority for seedlings go to BLM timber sale contracts. Fifteen bid contracts were let for the planting of 720,000 seedlings on 1,300 acres. A total of 765 acres were planted in this period by BLM timber sale purchasers. Two bid contracts were let to seed 314 acres.

## Scarification

Not all logged-over or burned-over land can be reforested without readying the tracts for seeding or planting. Readyed tracts for planting is called "scarification," which includes brush eradication or, in some cases, harrowing the soil much as the farmer does in preparing his fields for seeding grain. In this period 483 acres were readyed by scarifying so they could be planted by early this spring.

The actual planned goal for reforestation in this current planting season, which ends about April 1, is 2,500 acres. The lack of seedlings may prevent the attainment of this goal.

There is an upward trend in occupancy trespasses on the BLM lands in the Medford district. The increase in population trend in southern Oregon may have a direct bearing on this type of trespass, according to Youngblood.

## Reserved for Timber

The O and C lands, by congressional law, are reserved for the continuous production and harvest of forest crops. Where the O and C lands can be classified for individual leasing, homesites are permitted. Since the highest multiple use cannot be achieved by individual leasing of tracts for homesite purposes, low preference is given to this type of use.

The pressure is greatest on BLM lands fronting on the Rogue river. Public Land Order No. 1726, which withdrew these lands for recreational use by the general public, prevents mining claims generally, and makes homesite leasing almost impossible.

## Germany Subject of College Program

Ashland—Southern Oregon college will present Neil Douglas Jan. 18 in the Churchill hall auditorium at 10 a.m. in a film lecture titled, "This is Germany," a full length color motion picture.

The film shows advances of the most prosperous nation in Europe and delineates clearly the troubled situation in East and West Berlin.

To get his pictures for "This is Germany," Douglas has studied the peoples of every part of the Western German nation for nine years and by constant contact has kept his information current. This film shows the story of Berlin separated with all its political implications for the United States and the rest of the world.

## BREAK FOR LIFERS

Jackson, Miss.—(UPI)—Mississippi Gov.-elect Ross Barnett chose eight Negro convicts—all serving life terms for murder—to begin work today as servants at the governor's mansion.

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## Simpson Attends Portland Session

Ashland-Hugh G. Simpson, director of information at Southern Oregon college, Friday attended a public relations meeting in Portland called by Dr. John R. Richards, chancellor of the state board of higher education.

The meeting, a SOC spokesman said, was in regard to the public relations program to be carried out by the state system of higher education's various agencies concerning a measure, "State Bonds for Higher Education Facilities," which is slated for next November's ballot.

SOC President Dr. Elmo Stevenson told a gathering Wednesday that the measure would cost the taxpayers nothing, yet is something which Oregon education "can't afford to lose."

The measure, which passed the last legislature without a dissenting vote, is self-liqui-

## Convictions in 1959 Highest in History

Salem—(UPI)—Some 181,405 motorists were convicted in 1959 of violating various Oregon traffic laws—the highest

conviction figure in state history. Convictions in 1958 totaled 160,193.

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RECEIVE PLAQUES—Boyd Gibson, left, principal of Ruch school, and Francis Guidry, right, principal of Jacksonville school, display United Medford Crusade plaques awarded for 100 per cent participation in the UMC. Second from right is Dr. Leonard B. Mayfield, superintendent of Medford schools, and Del Landing, campaign chairman of the 1959 UMC. All schools in the Medford district have received plaques for participation in the UMC. (Knackstedt photo).

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