

Upward Trend in Activities In BLM Noted in Three Months

No downward trend was noted in the bureau of land management Medford district activities during the last three-month period, according to District Manager Ross A. Youngblood.

A number of BLM activities on the 9,005,742-acre in the Medford BLM district show an upward trend, he noted. The bulk of the BLM lands is situated in Jackson and Josephine counties. The remaining BLM Medford district lands are in Curry, Klamath, Douglas and Coos counties.

The upward trend of activities is in recreation, inquiries for homesites, occupancy trespass, reforestation, Christmas tree cutting, and mineral inquiries, Youngblood said.

The back-bone activity, however, on the BLM lands of selling and harvesting of timber continued at a satisfactory pace.

Board Feet Sold

The district, under the general direction of Operations Forester John Carnegie, had planned to sell 36,615 thousand board feet; BLM sold 35,628 thousand board feet. One year ago for the same three-month period, the district planned to sell 32,360 thousand board feet; actual volume sold was 31,793 thousand board feet.

Bidding for the BLM timber was strong in the three-month period, but not quite as strong as one year ago, he noted. The average bid price for the past three-month period was \$22.70 per thousand board feet. For the same three-month period one year ago \$36.88 was the average bid per thousand board feet. High bid for this report period on Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine was \$37.10 and \$36.25, respectively. A year ago, the high bid for the same species was \$65 and \$51 per thousand board feet.

Youngblood noted that dollar comparison, while impressive, does not reveal all the facts. The quality of the timber has an impact on bidding. However, demand for the raw product is the best reliable indicator on where bidding will stop.

Still Big Business

Even though bidding by comparison with the same period one year ago slackened, timber selling and harvest on the BLM land is a big business. The 35,628 thousand board feet offered sold for \$808,814.45.

Actual collections in this period totaled \$915,784.03. One year ago the collections totaled \$1,153,038.80, off \$137,254.77. Of the total for the past three-month period, O and C accounts receivable collections tallied out at \$905,440.39. The \$10,343.64 difference is non-reimbursable monies consisting of service fees, sale of maps, and road maintenance collections.

By federal law, however, 75 per cent of the accounts receivable collections are returned annually to 18 O and C western Oregon counties as lieu tax payment. On the basis of agreement with the O and C counties one-third of the 75 per cent, or 25 per cent is appropriated by the congress for use in capital improvement in the 18 O and C counties. The capital improvements being made to the O and C lands are reforestation, construction of recreational facilities, and access road construction.

Reforestation Noted

Progress in reforestation is about even with the district plan for this period, Youngblood said. A total of 1,883 acres was reforested. Seed spotting, or the planting of forest tree seed, mostly pine, was done on 825 acres; seedlings were planted on 785 acres; and aerial seeding of Douglas-fir by helicopter was done on 473 acres.

Planting seedlings or tree seed was done in this period by four different means: aerial seeding by BLM procurement contract; planting by BLM planting crews, termed force account; and reforesting BLM lands by planting crews under the employ of the purchasers of BLM timber. This type of reforesting was a requirement by the terms of the timbering BLM.

Highlighting BLM Medford district reforestation program for the three-month period is research experiment on survival. This project is under the general direction of the district plans forester,

Robert Hostetter, in cooperation with the Oregon Forest Research Center at Corvallis. Richard Herman of the Research Center is the technical director of the project.

The survival experiment tracts are exclosures. They are located in Klamath county near the California-Oregon line. One is accessible by the Ward road and the other by the Dixie road.

One of the most unusual happenings was a small forest fire that burst forth after lying dormant one year. It was a hold-over slashing fire set in the fall of 1959. The hold-over

was in debris from logging. No damage occurred.

Trespass cutting of BLM timber in the period on single stumpage basis total \$2,135.70. Fifteen new timber trespass cases were discovered; eight cases were closed.

While only one occupancy trespass was reported, it is estimated there are possibly 2,500 occupancy use violations, mostly squatters, presently on BLM lands in the district. This estimate was made by projecting, using known number of cases as a base.

Keno Access Road

Award of bid for the construction of the 27-mile Keno

timber access road was made to G. Frank King of Portland. Bids were opened Dec. 28. The contract calls for the completion of a 24-foot finished road ready for rock surfacing. Target date for completion is mid-October this year.

The "C" section of the Galice timber access road is 95 per cent completed, Youngblood said. Eventually one should be able to drive from Galice almost directly west to Marial. The road, upon completion of the "C" section, is about 30 miles long. Also the "C" section ends just short

of the Curry-Josephine county line.

The Deer Creek timber access road is only 25 per cent completed. Progress was slow on this job. Upon completion of this access road one can drive from Williams to Selma. However, the Star Gulch bridge and approaches are about 95 per cent complete. Star Gulch is a tributary to the Applegate river.

Finish Traverses

BLM Medford district engineering personnel finished traverses, easement descriptions, maps, and other attendant data needed for the purchase of 75 miles of logging

roads located principally in Douglas county.

In this three-month period, BLM purchasers of timber built as a condition of the sale nine miles of logging timber roads at an estimated cost of \$80,000.

Two timber access road maintenance crews of the bureau of public roads were maintaining BLM roads. The Galice crew began winter improvement on the Mt. Reuben road, meanwhile doing skeleton maintenance on the Galice access road, as log hauling continued until about

Christmas. The other crew stationed at Medford completed maintenance improvement on the Jamison Gulch, Sardine Creek, Middle Creek roads, all in Jackson county, as well as continued maintenance on the West Fork Evans Creek mainline access road.

Study Appraisals

Study continued in the techniques of timber appraisal, with District Appraiser Fogelquist assisting in a mill study at an Olson-Lawyer Lumber company mill. The study was under the direction of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment station.

Prime purpose of the study was to observe the lumber recovery in Shasta fir logs. Over 700 Shasta fir logs were diagrammed, log graded, and scaled.

The study in the form class of standing trees was continued. The object of the study is to determine averages in form class for the various species of trees in the Medford district. This is a continuing study, Youngblood said.

There were no lost-time accidents to BLM employees during the period. Activities in orientation, in the field of training employees, and participating in various public programs shared will in the BLM agenda during the last three months. BLM Medford district discussed BLM programs on TV, at Medford Rotary, Explorer Post 8, the Methodist Men.

A number of cash incentive awards were given to employees during the Christmas shopping season, and a Presidential citation to the district for sharing in the employment of handicapped people was presented.

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SEE PAGE 14-A

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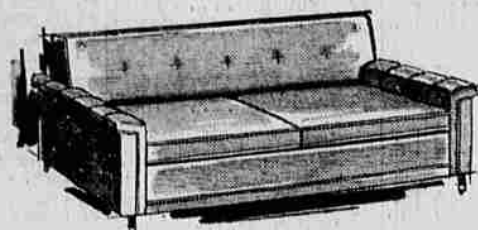
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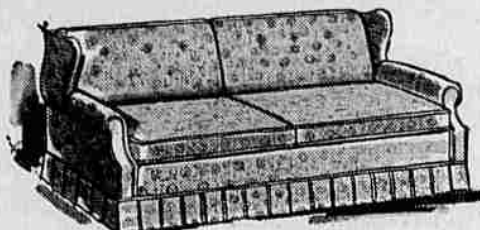
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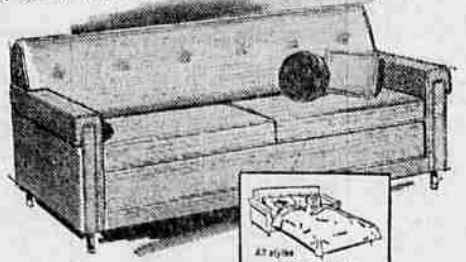
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