

in western Oregon. By June 30, 1964, our massive timber salvage program was virtually completed with the sale of all major concentrations of salvage timber on BLM lands. This accomplishment earned for the Bureau a Secretarial Unit Citation.

Again, during the Christmas week of 1964 another disaster struck western Oregon. Unprecedented floods and high water destroyed forest access roads and bridges. Over one thousand miles of access roads used by BLM timber operations were damaged or destroyed, and about 75 bridges and large culverts were washed out or badly damaged. Prompt action by the Congress enabled the Bureau to repair and replace the lost facilities with a minimum impact on employment and community stability.

The most recent disaster was the 1966 Oxbow fire which covered over 40,000 acres of public and private lands. It killed over one-half billion board feet of merchantable BLM timber. Before the ashes were cold, BLM foresters were preparing salvage timber sales. We said we would sell this burned timber by December 1967 and we did. The volume was over 509 million board feet and sales value was \$21 million. A Presidential Unit Citation for this accomplishment was presented on January 16 to our western Oregon people who so effectively completed the sale of timber and the rehabilitation of lands in the Oxbow burn.

These events show the conservation response of BLM, backed up by the Department and Congress, and furthermore demonstrates the