

CURRENT STATUS OF THINNING AND MORTALITY SALVAGE PROGRAM

Thinning and mortality salvage programs have been long part of BLM's forestry efforts in western Oregon. Commencing in the early 1950's, BLM timber sales programs included salvage timber for sale which was not chargeable to the annual allowable cut. This program has added almost one billion board feet to the industry's supply over the last nine year period.

Much of this salvage volume comes from harvesting residual trees and logs left on areas logged in years past. Usually, the trees left on the cutover area were considered cull within the standards of utilization practiced at the time of cutting. Utilization standards keep improving. Product research and technological change have made the cull trees and logs of the 1940's and 1950's merchantable in the 1960's.

Emphasis has been given to capturing other timber volume previously lost in the growth process. There is a level of timber mortality in growing stands. BLM timber sales programs recognized that each acre of timber harvested contains a certain amount of timber mortality not included in the computation of the allowable cut. This mortality volume is added to the annual cutting budget.

In the late 1950's, BLM commenced thinning cuts. It was recognized young growth management had to move forward, hand in hand, with the conversion of the unmanaged old growth forests. At Tillamook an intensive