

young growth forest management program was initiated in 1962 covering 56,000 acres of BLM managed lands in Oregon's Coast Range. Innovation and testing of new ideas for the management of young growth forests is a key part of developing practical operating procedures for more extensive application. For the past six years this work has moved forward within this framework -- all the while selling the allowable cut.

In 1966 our field office developed a "Report on Ten-Year Potential Production from Thinning and Mortality Salvage on BLM Forest Lands in Western Oregon." One objective was to determine the potential volume which could be harvested from thinning in young-growth stands and salvage of mortality in old-growth stands over the coming decade. The report was based upon an analysis of existing inventory data.

It tentatively identified an annual potential timber volume of 218 million board feet from thinning of young growth stands and mortality salvage from mature forests. Further review set the annual volume saleable at 140 million board feet. The reduction was caused by a technical review of the age of response of stands to thinning, some overlaps for salvage mortality that would be picked up in normal harvest operations and the need to schedule advance roading for some additional thinning sales.

As a part of our FY 1968 program we requested, and Congress appropriated, \$560,000 to finance the harvest of this 140 million board feet of thinnings and mortality salvage.