

by the Congress enables the Bureau to repair and replace the lost facilities with a minimum impact.

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.

We said we would sell this burned timber by December 1967 and we did.

Since 1962 BLM has offered the full allowable cut for sale. Competitive bids for the purchase of the timber are received, and the contract for purchase is awarded to the highest qualified bidder who must be a citizen.

In the 1967 fiscal year, 1.3 billion board feet was sold on 518 tracts. At an average bid rate of \$38 per thousand board feet, this timber brought almost \$50 million. In the first 6 months of fiscal year 1968, 226 sales have been made totaling 618 million board feet. The average bid was \$35.50 per thousand board feet, a sales value of \$22 million.

In fiscal years 1967 and 1968 to date, no applications for set-aside sales in western Oregon have been made to BLM. Two tracts of Port Orford cedar were offered by BLM as set-aside sales in the Coos Bay area, however, no bids were received on these tracts.

Also, an SBA road loan program is available to qualified purchasers of BLM timber.

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 1 billion board feet to the industry's supply over the last 9-year period.

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 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 operation procedures for more extensive application. For the past 6 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 10-year potential production from thinning and mortality salvage on BLM forest lands in western Oregon.

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 salable at 140 million board feet.

As a part of our fiscal year 1968 program we requested, and Congress appropriated, \$560,000 to finance the harvest of this 140 million board feet of thinnings and mortality salvage. This 140 million board feet thinning and mortality salvage program will be maintained until new data is developed.

ALLOWABLE CUT

In February 1966, the Bureau commenced a comprehensive study on the objectives and procedures necessary to realize the best allowable