

Noxious Weeds

In FY 2000, the Jobs-in-the-Woods program manually treated 1,000 acres of Scotch and French broom along 1,200 miles of road. Prison crews manually removed noxious weeds from the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. The Oregon Department of Agriculture assisted in the treatment of 5 acres of gorse throughout the District.

In 1997 an inventory involving 13,000 acres was performed identifying 2,131 miles of road side occurrence. An additional 10,000 acres were inventoried in FY 99 and 2000 involving the southern end of the District. Control efforts in the 1998-2000 period were based on these inventories. Biological controls were placed on gorse and purple loosestrife populations on BLM lands. This program is expected to expand significantly as biological controls are developed for the broom species. Biological control of the tansy ragwort populations appears to be maintaining the existing populations and is expected to be the sole treatment for this species. Additionally, in cooperation with the Coos Watershed Association, an inventory was completed for purple loosestrife for the Coos sub-basin. This information was the basis for biological control applications, in cooperation with USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in FY 2000.



Scotch Broom is a noxious weed found on much of the District.

Fire/Burning

All fuels treatment activities were accomplished meeting the Department of Interior 9214 Manual (Prescribed Fire Management Policy as revised in July 2000) and in accordance with the Oregon Smoke Management and Visibility Protection Plans. In FY 2000, prescribed fire management activities occurred in 23 units totaling 163 acres. Fuels consumption varied due to factors such as time of year, aspect, types and condition of fuels, and ignition source. No intrusions into designated areas occurred as a result of fuels treatment projects on the District. Prescribed burning prescriptions target spring-like burn conditions when large fuel, duff and litter consumption, and smoldering is reduced by wetter conditions and rapid mop-up. Fuels treatment activities are implemented to improve seedling plantability and survival, reduce brush competition, reduce activity fuel loading levels, protect resource values, re-establish native vegetation and reduce natural fuels loads to lower the probability of catastrophic fire. Proposed management activities are analyzed during the interdisciplinary review process and alternative fuels treatment methods are utilized where appropriate.

In FY 2000, four human caused and two lightening caused fires totaling 4.5 acres occurred on district; none of the six fires escaped initial attack.

In FY 2000, the District dispatched 170 people off district and out of state for a total of 2,295 workdays.



Helicopter ignition of a prescribed burn

Access and Right-of-Way

Due to the intermingled nature of the public and private lands within the District, each party must cross the lands of the other to access their lands and resources, such as timber. On the majority of the District this has been accomplished through Reciprocal Right-of-Way Agreements with adjacent land owners. The individual agreements and associated permits are subject to the regulations that were in effect when the agreements were executed or assigned. Additional rights-of-way have been granted for the construction of driveways, utility lines, water pipelines, legal ingress and egress, construction and use of communication sites, etc.

In FY 2000, the following actions were accomplished:

- 7 permits were issued for timber hauling over existing roads.
- 38 supplements to establish fees for use of existing roads were executed under reciprocal right-of-way agreements.

In FY 2001 we anticipate requests for similar type of actions.

A right-of-way application was received from Coos County in FY 2000 for construction of a 12-inch natural gas pipeline from near Roseburg to Coos Bay. The majority of the proposed route would lie within Coos County's Coos Bay Wagon Road right-of way, the remainder would follow the Bonneville Power Administration's right-of-way corridor on public land for approximately 2.5 miles. Coos County has contracted preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the project, with the District responsible for preparing the Decision Record. The County is working towards completing the EA in time for the decision to be issued by BLM permitting construction of the pipeline by the end of 2001.



Road constructed under Right-of-Way Agreement in the Tioga Creek area.

Transportation/Roads

During 2000 the District continued developing Transportation Management Objectives, through an IDT process, for all roads controlled by the Bureau. The process has been completed for approximately 95 percent of the roads administered by the District, a 6 percent increase over last year. The process will continue through 2001. Transportation Management Objectives have been used to support Watershed Analysis and to determine candidate roads for the decommissioning process. Most decommissioning activities were carried out through Jobs-in-the-Woods funding, with larger culvert installation and major Emergency Repair of Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) repairs performed by contractors. A summary of road construction, repair and decommissioning is as follows:

- There were 2.47 miles of new permanent road constructed by federal action.
- 14.06 miles of road were decommissioned and 6.45 miles were fully decommissioned.
- 0.15 miles of temporary road were constructed then obliterated.

In addition to the above projects the District continues to perform extensive reconstruction and repair work to portions of the transportation system which suffered severe damage during the winter rain storms of 96-97.

During 2000 the updating of the Interim Ground Transportation Network and Road Information Database (GTRN) continued. This project will continue into 2001 and possibly 2002 before completion.



A portion of the ERFO repair on the Elk Mountain Loop Road.