

BLM News Release ▼ BLM News Release**1301 South 'G' Street ▼ Lakeview, Oregon 97630 ▼ <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview>**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LV-07-01
For release: June 7, 2007Contact: Scott Stoffel
(541) 947-6237**Military Aircraft Crash Scenes Declared Historic Sites**

LAKEVIEW -- On June 14, 2007, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will officially declare two military aircraft crash scenes historic Federal government sites at a Flag Day ceremony. Two interpretive plaques will be unveiled during this event reflecting this designation and depicting the historical significance of each location. The two debris fields are located within one mile of each other in the Oregon desert, approximately twenty-five miles southeast of Christmas Valley, Oregon. Upon conclusion of the ceremony, each plaque will be installed at the pertinent debris field.

The first debris field contains the remnants of a Lockheed P-38 Lightning that crashed on February 11, 1945 while conducting a World War II gunnery training flight. The pilot, 2nd Lt. Max Clark, age 25, was killed in the crash. The second contains the remnants of a Navy Grumman A-6 Intruder Bomber which crashed on September 19, 1973 during a low level night training mission. The pilot Lt. Alan Koehler, age 27, and navigator Lt. Cdr. Philip Duhamel, age 33, were both killed in the crash.

Major components of both aircraft are disbursed across the landscape, drawing frequent visits by members of the public. In response to this increased interest, the BLM's Lakeview District developed a plan for managing and conserving these historical properties. The plan was completed in June 2006. It identified the need for the development of interpretive products to educate visitors on the story behind each accident and promote protection of the integrity of the aircraft remains.

“Designation as a historic site of the Federal government ensures the preservation of these cultural artifacts for future generations,” said BLM's Lakeview Resource Area Archeologist Bill Cannon. “Installation of the interpretive plaques will enhance the appreciation and enjoyment for the visiting public.”

The Flag Day ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 10:30 a.m. It will be held at the Lake County Courthouse War Memorial, located at 513 Center Street, Lakeview, Oregon. For additional information about this ceremony, please contact Bill Cannon at: BLM, 1301 South “G” Street, Lakeview, Oregon, (541) 947-6111, or by email at Bill_J_Cannon@blm.gov

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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