

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03000050

Date Listed: 2/20/2003

Mitchell Recreation Area
Property Name

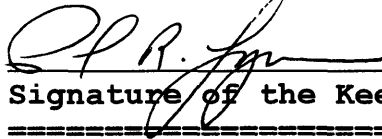
Lake
County

OR
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

2.20.03

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:

Add Fremont National Forest to the location block.

Photographs:

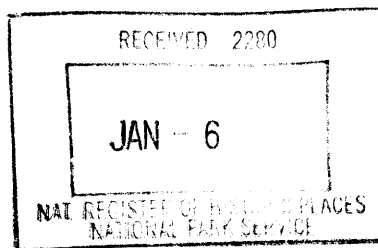
The current condition photographs were all taken by Mary Ellen Rodgers in 2001.

These revisions were confirmed with Orlando Gonzales, Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Mitchell Recreation Area

other names/site number Mitchell Monument

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Forest Service Road 34 not for publication
city or town Bly vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Lake code 037 zip code 97622

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (See continuation sheets for additional comments.)

12/31/02
Signature of certifying official Date

USDA Forest Service- R6- Fremont/Winema National Forests
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

September 3, 2002
Signature of commenting or other official /Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

Mitchell Recreation Area

Name of Property

Lake County, Oregon

County and State

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

___ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the
National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the
National Register

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other (explain): _____

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ___ private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ___ building(s)
- ___ district
- site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____ 1 _____

buildings

_____ 1 _____

sites

_____ 2 _____

structures

_____ 1 _____

_____ 2 _____

objects

_____ 4 _____

_____ 3 _____

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DEFENSE
RECREATION and CULTURE

Sub: Battle site
Monument and Outdoor Recreation

Mitchell Recreation Area

Name of Property

Lake County, Oregon

County and State

=====

6. Function or Use - Continued

=====

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION and CULTURE Sub: Monument and Outdoor Recreation

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

roof _____

walls _____

other Basalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mitchell Recreation Area

Name of Property

Lake County, Oregon

County and State

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Social History

Period of Significance 1945-1950

Significant Dates: May 5, 1945

August 20, 1950

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Tom Orr: Recreation area and monument designer
Robert H. Anderson: Monument builder/stonemason

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mitchell Recreation Area
Name of Property

Lake County, Oregon
County and State

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Bly Ranger Station

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 22.66 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>10</u>	<u>676545</u>	<u>4699830</u>	3	<u>10</u>	<u>675950</u>	<u>4699490</u>
2	<u>10</u>	<u>676545</u>	<u>4699500</u>	4	<u>10</u>	<u>675950</u>	<u>4699830</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Mitchell Recreation Area

Name of Property

Lake County, Oregon

County and State

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Mary Ellen Rodgers/Graduate Student

organization University of Oregon date July 31, 2001

street & number 1341 East 20th Avenue telephone (542) 338-8537

city or town Eugene state OR zip code 97403

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Agriculture, U. S. Forest Service, Bly Ranger District Attn: Orlando Gonzales

street & number P.O. Box 25 telephone (541) 353-2701

city or town Bly, Oregon state OR zip code 97622

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018) Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 1

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Narrative Description

The Mitchell Recreation Area is a 22.66-acre parcel of forested land located on United States Forest Service Road 34 (USFS 34), 13 miles northeast of Bly in Lake County, Oregon. Since its dedication as a commemorative site by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company on August 20, 1950, the parcel has been in continuous use as a recreation area commemorating the site of the only casualties in the continental United States from enemy action in WWII. The nine miles of paved Forest Service road leading to the site meanders through the Sprague River Valley. This area consists of fenced pastureland dotted with juniper trees and basalt rock. It is managed either by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or private owners. At about 5,300 feet above sea level on the southeast side of Gearhart Mountain, the road wraps around the northern boundary of the elongated cocoon shaped parcel. The entire parcel is encircled by ponderosa pine forestland owned by U. S. Timber Land since 1997.¹ As the road continues past the parcel, the elevation and the density of the pine forest increases on land that is predominantly part of the Fremont National Forest. Due to heavy snow this area is accessible only in the summer months.

1940's - Weyerhaeuser establishes a tree farm.

The Weyerhaeuser Timber Company was established in Tacoma, Washington about 1900. In 1906 they began buying Klamath area ponderosa pine forestlands. When the railroads arrived in 1909, the big logging companies began cutting pine in the Klamath Basin. Weyerhaeuser was the last of the big companies to begin mill operations. In about 1930 they opened their first mill in Klamath Falls. Weyerhaeuser also built logging camps near Bly and used the railroad to move their logs to the mill.²

Before and at the time of the bombing incident, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company owned the future parcel and surrounding land. Weyerhaeuser memos³ and historic maps referred to the area as Salt Springs. At that time, Forest Service Road 34 was unpaved and managed by the Forest Service. Historic maps suggest the road had no official name at the time⁴ but the local citizenry referred to the road as the Dairy Creek Road or Bly-Paisley Road.⁵ The Forest Service has always referred to the road as USFS 34. The parcel was forested with ponderosa pine and true fir. The topography was rocky, uneven, and sloped down from the road to the south. The Box and Salt Springs flowed on the eastside from the road towards Leonard Creek.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 2

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

During the 1940's Weyerhaeuser's motto was "*trees are a crop.*" Their vision was to grow a new crop of trees every 80 years in order to provide stability for their company and workers while being environmentally responsible. They established tree farms throughout the Pacific Northwest to carry out this vision. By 1943, the company had logged the future parcel and surrounding land and established a pine tree farm called the Weyerhaeuser-Klamath Tree Farm on their property near Bly.⁶

In response to the fire and safety hazards produced by the increasing unregulated use of private tree farms by hunters, fishermen, and picnickers, Weyerhaeuser and other Northwest timber companies established focused public recreational access in designated timber areas in 1949.⁷ The balloon bomb incident on their tree farm near Bly provided an opportunity for Weyerhaeuser to set aside 16.5 acres surrounding the site to be a public recreation area that also served as a public relations effort to commemorate the incident.⁸

1950's and 60's – Weyerhaeuser establishes a commemorative site.

In 1949, Tom Orr, a branch forester for Weyerhaeuser, designed the monument and recreation area. The monument was built on the exact location of the explosion (ground zero). Its base measured 8'x8' and 1.5' high. On top of the base was placed a truncated pyramid that measured 5'x5' at the base and 3'x3' at the top with a height of 6.5'.⁹ Bob Anderson, a prominent local stonemason, built the uncoursed rubble monument from native basalt stone. Anderson, along with his partners Emil Schiesel and Chuck Bennett, built a monument at Fort Klamath, the Zion Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, the Rickbeil Home at Cove Point, and the Favell Museum. Anderson also built many of the rock walls around Crater Lake. With Mr. Schiesel he built the Veteran's Memorial on the grounds of the Klamath County Courthouse. Anderson likely built the site's two stone fireplaces since they are of the same materials, age, and style as the monument.¹⁰ The fireplaces measure about 3'x2' and are 4.5' tall (including an exposed metal flue).

An 18"x36" bronze tablet with ornamental border and inscribed with the event's data is centered in the face of the monument at 5' above ground level. Meierjohan-Wengler Metalcraftsman in Cincinnati Ohio, design number 76668, manufactured the tablet.¹¹ A 6' tall chain link fence with two turnstile type accesses protected the 50'x50' area surrounding the monument from cattle that freely roamed the area.¹² It was manufactured by The American Chain Link Fence Co. in Medford, Massachusetts.¹³ Originally the monument site was to be 75'x75' or 100'x100' to accommodate the 9 trees visibly damaged by fragments. At the time of construction, there were 3 trees with visible bomb fragments in the final 50'x50' space.¹⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 3

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

At the establishment of the recreation area in 1950, the company placed two stone fireplaces, large wood picnic tables, garbage cans, and two latrines on the site to accommodate campers and picnickers. The previously mentioned basalt stone monument with a surrounding chain link fence was erected about 200' from the road. Narrow parking strips were established along the road. It was not intended for vehicular traffic to travel beyond these small areas, thus walking trails to the fenced monument were built.¹⁵ A sign that read, "Mitchell Recreation Area and Monument/Erected by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company" was placed near the roadway.

In 1961 this sign had been replaced with one stating, "The Weyerhaeuser Company/The Mitchell Recreation Area/Klamath Falls Tree Farm." A 1966 Weyerhaeuser survey map notes an old logging road along the west side of the property from the main road. The fireplaces, monument, latrines, creek, and springs are noted. In the late 1960's, Weyerhaeuser memos stated the difficulties managing a historic site and that the area had begun to fall into disrepair. Consideration was given to donate the land to the federal government.

1990's - Rededication and transfer to the Forest Service.

As part of the rededication activities in 1995, six cherry trees from a Klamath Falls nursery were planted at the request of Yoshiko Hisaga. As a schoolteacher during the war, Miss Hasaga had supervised Japanese girl students in the wartime balloon project. Before her death she spoke with Professor John Takeshita regarding her wish to plant trees at the site. One tree was planted just outside the fenced monument area to the north. The others were planted inside the fenced area. Professor John Takeshita of the University of Michigan personally raised funds in Japan, purchased the trees, and supervised the planting of the trees.¹⁶ As a youth, Professor Takeshita spent four years at the Tule Lake Relocation Center in California. He has been diligently facilitating the peace process between Japanese and Americans since that time. Presently, circular vehicular dirt turnarounds lie to the west of the monument. The westerly dirt road extends south to form a circuitous route from Leonard Creek back towards the main road. These dirt roads may have been established to support the traffic during the site/monument rededication ceremonies in 1995. In 1996, the parcel was donated by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation to the Department of Agriculture and is presently maintained by the U. S. Forest Service, Bly Ranger District.¹⁷

Minor additions to the parcel were made in 1997. On the northwest side of the property stands a Romtek style cedar restroom built from a kit by the Forest Service fire crew.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 4

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Permanently installed in front of the building, a handsome rustic 7.5' cedar bench was built by volunteers and engraved with their names. In addition, 58' of 3.5' tall cedar post fencing defines the space as a rest area.

Presently, a dirt road borders the southeast boundary of the parcel. The road then becomes a rugged footpath. This area of the parcel is undeveloped. The riparian environment has both marshy and dry characteristics. It is home to a variety of native species of trees, plants and flowers such as the aspen, Douglas spirea, bachelor buttons, paintbrush, and elephant head. The boundary continues in a northwesterly direction, up a forested ridge and ends back on the main road (USFS 34).

The Forest Service states that the site is now free of shrapnel from the incident.¹⁸ Volunteer true fir, ponderosa pine, and manzanita shrubs have joined the 7' cherry trees in the fenced monument space. One pine tree directly southwest of the monument is the only original tree remaining with visible bomb fragment damage. The Forest Service, due to disease, has recently felled several large pine trees. Nevertheless, a substantial under story has developed throughout the parcel. The springs still flow to Leonard Creek. A Forest Service sign reading "The Mitchell Recreation Area/Fremont National Forest" marks the parcel on the northwest corner near the main road.

Integrity.

The recreation area and monument site are maintained in excellent condition and have a high degree of integrity. The intact stone monument and bronze plaque still reflect their original high degree of craftsmanship. The original fence still defines the monument/bomb site and is in excellent condition. Small wood picnic tables replaced the original tables but the two stone fireplaces remain in good condition. The metal flue is missing from the north fireplace. The original latrines were removed. The 1997 rest area additions are small in scale and were placed approximately 200' to the southwest of the monument/bomb site. They do not detract from its integrity.

The parcel has more vegetation than the period of significance but it still retains the wooded, isolated feeling of the bombing incident. Historic photos suggest that Weyerhaeuser may have cleared a significant amount of vegetation to construct the monument (1949).¹⁹ A historic photo taken immediately after the bombing incident (1945)²⁰ shows more vegetation than at the time of the monument construction. Therefore, the area's current growth is more consistent with the look of the area on the date of the bombing incident.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 5

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

A cultural landscape has dynamic qualities that cannot be frozen in time as other cultural resources such as historic structures that were built to remain the same.²¹ Even though only one tree inside the fenced area still has evidence of bomb fragment damage, the site has symbolic integrity. As nature has healed its scars from the explosion so has this site healed deep wounds for those making the pilgrimage to achieve inner peace and reconciliation at this site.²² Miss Hisaga's desire to have cherry trees planted to help make this "a place where people could gather to contemplate the importance of peace and understanding among peoples across nations" is just one of many examples of the meaning this commemorative site holds for those effected by the balloon bomb operation and other events of WWII.²³

It is imperative that the bombsite and commemorative space retain its 22.66-acre buffer zone. The isolated forest setting must be preserved to properly convey the historic feeling and association of the particular event and convey the general nature of the isolated locations where the balloon bombs generally fell. Refer to National Register Bulletin, Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields, page 13, paragraph 1. If the boundaries of the nominated area were reduced, the integrity of the site would be vulnerable to commercial logging activity and development. Additionally, the boundaries should correspond with the 22.66-acre parcel to protect the aesthetics of the recreation area, and to assist the Forest Service with site maintenance and safety in a remote area.

USFS Road 34 is still the only road to the area. The Weyerhaeuser tree farm is no longer in operation but the lush timberland surrounding the parcel is a testimony to the ponderosa pine that was planted in the 1940's. The parcel has been used and managed continuously as a recreational and commemorative space since its dedication in 1950. There is currently evidence of new logging activity on the private land adjacent to the parcel.

Site Resources.

Contributing:

- 50'x50' Monument/Bomb Site with Fence (1): Contributing Site
- Stone Monument (1): Contributing Object
- Stone Fireplaces (2): Contributing Structures

Noncontributing:

- Restroom (1): Noncontributing Building
- Rest Area Bench (1): Noncontributing Object
- Rest Area Fence (1): Noncontributing Object

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 6

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Endnotes

1. Posting Diagram. Additional Documentation Map 5.
2. Western Pine Association 5.
3. Orr 2.
4. Metzker's Map of Lake County, Oregon. 1961. 94
Metsker's Map of Lake County, Oregon, 1958. 75.
Metzker's Map of Lake County, Oregon, 1940.
Metzker's Map of Klamath County Oregon, 1936. 150, 159.
Map of Lake County. Swender Blue Print Co. Portland, Oregon. 1922.
5. Conversations with Forest Service personnel. Some survey maps mislabel this road "Dairy Creek Road" or "USFS Number 3610" (See Additional Documentation Maps 3 and 4). On Highway 140, about 15 miles southeast of the spur (Campbell Road) to the site, USFS 3610 leads to USFS 34. If one were traveling from Lakeview to the site there would understandably be some confusion since USFS 34 is not physically marked at that end. There was a road sign noting the Mitchell Recreation Area and referring to a road as Dairy Creek Road in 1992 (Webber 236) but the sign is no longer there today. There presently is no directional sign that guides the traveler to this site. USFS 34 is marked a few hundred feet east of its source at Campbell Road.
6. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company Annual Reports.
7. Arnst 22-21, 34, 38.
8. Weyerhaeuser Jr., J.P.
9. Orr. A considerable amount of resources were expended by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company to design the recreation area. The Bly Ranger Station holds the correspondence, drawings, watercolor, and model photos documenting the establishment of the site.
10. Norbel 2.
11. Meierjohan.
12. Weyerhaeuser Jr., J. P.
13. Mafera.
14. Orr 4.
15. Orr 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 7

Page: 7

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

¹⁶. Allen. Also, Takeshita.

¹⁷. State of Oregon.

¹⁸. Webber 216.

¹⁹. Additional Documentation Photograph 2.

²⁰. Additional Documentation Photograph 1.

²¹. Birnbaum 2.

²². Fincher 85-90. There are many accounts of the reactions of Japanese and Americans regarding this site. This article captures the essence of what this event means to those involved.

²³. Takeshita.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 1

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Mitchell Recreation Area is historically significant for its association with military events as the site of the only fatalities by enemy action in the Continental United States during World War II. The explosion of a Japanese Balloon Bomb at this site on May 5, 1945 killed six local residents. This particular event is the most recognized representation of the use of a Japanese strategic weapon against the United States during a major global war and documents the first use of an intercontinental ballistic weapon in history.

The area is historically significant as a commemorative property for its association with social history. On August 20, 1950, The Weyerhaeuser Timber Company dedicated the property surrounding the bombsite as The Mitchell Recreation Area. It has become a traditional place for those wishing to offer condolences and to remember the events of a major global war. The area has become a peace symbol that has inspired an increasing amount of dialog between Japanese and Americans affected by the events of WWII.

Historical background and significance of the event.

World War II (1939-1945) involved every major power on earth and was the costliest war in history. Though the war had been raging in Europe since 1939, the United States was not directly involved in the hostilities until December 7, 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Japan joined the Axis alliance of Germany and Italy and then declared war on the Allied alliance of United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union. As Japan continued their quest to conquer Southeast Asia and beyond, most of their major engagements with U.S. military took place in the Western Pacific.¹

WWII Japanese attacks in North America.

The North American continent was not entirely spared from hostilities associated with the war. While the Germans disrupted shipping on the Atlantic seaboard, the Pacific Coast was subjected to sporadic attacks from the Japanese. The Japanese objective was to delay American attacks that would distract Japan from continuing their Asian conquests. In April of 1942, the American Doolittle Raids on Tokyo by 16 carrier based B25 medium bombers broke the Japanese military's confidence their boundaries were impregnable. The Japanese initiated reprisals against the United States for this unexpected raid.² From the Aleutian Islands to Mexico, the Japanese made small temporary conquests, inflicted some physical damage, and caused significant psychological damage from isolated attacks by their submarines, ships, aircraft, and balloon bombs.³

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 2

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

WWII Japanese attacks on Oregon.

After the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Oregon, as well as other areas along the Pacific seaboard, became concerned about a Japanese invasion. On June 21, 1942, a Japanese submarine surfaced near the mouth of the Columbia River on the north coast of Oregon and shelled Fort Stevens. Another attack came later that summer when a Japanese submarine resurfaced near Brookings, Oregon. From that submarine, a Japanese pilot flew inland and dropped incendiary bombs that caused fires on Wheeler Ridge. Oregon's way of life rapidly changed in response to these incidents. Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps. Loggers and farmers armed themselves and patrolled the Oregon Coast. Sandbags and machine gun nests replaced tourist stands. Towns were blacked out every night. Air raid drills were conducted in schools. Shipyards, army and navy bases were built in response to the enemy threat and to support thousands of GIs that were transiting to and from the war. Oregon lifestyles were temporarily but significantly transformed during the final years of WWII.⁴

Japanese balloon bombs.

Of all the strategies Japan used to create havoc in North America, the balloon bombs made the greatest physical inroads into the continent. The simple construction masked the considerable research the Japanese invested in the development of what is considered by experts as the world's first intercontinental weapon.⁵

An early use of the balloon as a military strategy occurred when Austrian Lieutenant Uchatius used hot air balloons in Venice during the Italian War of Independence (1848-1849). However, an unexpected shift in the wind drove some of the balloons back on the besiegers.⁶ In 1937, the British developed a balloon bomber program called "Operation Outward" to augment its air offensive against Germany. Their use of 99,142 free floating balloons did some damage and had some harassment value for the British. However, the damage to relations with Sweden and Switzerland because of wayward balloons and interferences with traditional aircraft operations shelved a short-range system that had little impact.⁷

Japanese engineers overcame the difficulties of these past efforts by being the first to develop an automatic, barometrically operated balloon ballasting system. For the first time balloon effectiveness was not entirely subject to the whims of nature. An aneroid barometer gave the balloon the ability to automatically adjust its altitude under certain climate conditions. In 1947, this technology was instrumental to a team of American scientists from New York University who were developing balloons for use in meteorological applications and possibly in detecting Soviet atomic tests.⁸

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 3

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

The Japanese balloon bombs were seventy feet tall. The paper canopy was 33 feet in diameter. The canopy was connected to the main device by shroud lines. These shroud lines were attached to a platform supported by a small metal ring that contained an automatic altitude control device, battery, and a demolition charge. A larger ring was connected parallel and beneath the smaller ring. This ring had about 32 bags of sand attached at its perimeter with 2 incendiary bombs and an antipersonnel bomb attached in the center. After the balloons were released from Japan they followed the jet stream at about 30,000 feet. As the balloons lost altitude, a demolition charge released the ballast bags to keep them aloft. After about a 70-hour flight, the balloon bombs reached North America. The release of the remaining ballast bags freed the high explosive bombs, and finally, the device was rigged to self-destruct without a trace.⁹

The Japanese launched about 9,300 balloon bombs between November 1944 and April 1945. Japanese propagandists broadcasted false information regarding bomb successes to the United States and Japan. One broadcast claimed that 500 casualties had been inflicted and numerous fires started. The report went on further to claim that the United States government was forced to issue warnings that had upset American citizens. In reality, American as well as Canadian and Mexican news agencies were directed by the United States government to keep silent about the balloon incidents. This silence was a critical strategy that caused Japan to eventually abandon what seemed to them an ineffective program.¹⁰

American countermeasures.

On November 4, 1944 an American navy patrol craft spotted the first fragments of a balloon bomb in the Pacific Ocean 66 miles southwest of San Pedro, California. It was first believed that these balloons were weather balloons or Japanese anti-aircraft barrage balloons that had strayed to the United States by accident.¹¹ During the next several weeks, balloons were found in Montana, Hawaii, and Oregon. On January 4, 1945 two men working in a field in Medford, Oregon heard a loud explosion, saw flames 20-30 feet high, and discovered a hole in the ground 6 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep.

On that same day the U.S. Office of Censorship requested that news agencies refrain from publishing reports of the incidents.¹² From that day the bombs were referred to by their codename "paper." These incidents were downplayed by American military because of the widespread panic this information would have caused in an already tense wartime environment.¹³ Brigadier General W. H. Wilbur, Chief of Staff of the Western Defense Command coordinated the campaign to counter the balloon threat. Fragments were sent to the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D. C. and to the California Institute of Technology. Ballast sand analysis revealed five locations in Japan that Air Force

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 4

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

reconnaissance photographs revealed to be manufacturing and releasing balloon bombs toward North America.¹⁴

In April 1945 an experimental program called the "Sunset Project" had been implemented to determine effectiveness of radar in detecting and safely downing balloon arrivals to the United States. Though not seen as a physical threat to the American populace, the danger from the incendiary bombs attached to the balloon was considered a major threat to West Coast forests. In March of 1945, the "Firefly Project" directed the Army to assist the Forest Service in fire control. About 2,700 army troops and 200 African American paratroopers from the 555 Airborne Division were assigned to combat the threat of fire. The real possibility that the balloon would be used to transport bacterial agents inspired "Project Lightning".¹⁵ Brigadier General Wilbur describes the great resources mobilized to counter the biological threat:

"...we enlisted the services of state health officers and veterinarians, county agricultural agents, 4-H clubs and agricultural college authorities in the defense program. Decontamination squads were trained; stocks of decontamination chemical, suits and masks were set up at strategic points. Farmers and ranchers were urged to report the first signs of any strange disease in their cattle, sheep, or hogs."¹⁶

After the war the General visited General Kusaba (who had been in charge of the Japanese program) to complete the factual picture of the campaign. General Wilbur describes the seriousness of the attacks:

"We have tried to belittle this attack. The fact remains that it marked a significant development in the art of war. For the first time missiles were sent overseas without human guidance, and the threat of great damage was very real. We can consider ourselves fortunate that winter snows eliminated the forest-fire hazard. If the balloon assault had continued into the dry summer, when our vast western forests were like tinder; if the Japanese had maintained their March 1945 rate of launching an average of 100 balloons a day; and if they had equipped them with hundreds of small incendiaries instead of a few large ones – or with bacterial agents - they would have wrought havoc."¹⁷

Balloon bomb attacks on North America.

The evidence of balloon bombs in North America has been well documented by government, academic, military, and professional researchers.¹⁸ As of 1997 there have been 361 known incidents of actual sightings and bomb material discovered in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.¹⁹ Most of these discoveries occurred between 1944-45 but material is still being discovered. In March of 1945, a balloon bomb caused the Hanford Atomic Energy Plant in

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 5

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Washington State to close down its secret nuclear reactors for three days. This plant made the plutonium that would eventually destroy Nagasaki.²⁰ Most balloons caused little damage. The greatest number of incidents (45) and the most significant occurred in Oregon.²¹

Deaths in Oregon.

Bly is an unincorporated community located in Southern Oregon with a population of about 700. It is on the Sprague River 57 miles east of Klamath Falls on Highway 140. Bly, a Klamath Indian word for *up* or *high* (as in up-river) was established in 1873.²² Bly historically provided support service for a large ranching community and was the stagecoach stop between Lakeview and Klamath Falls. A highway constructed in 1926 brought electricity, the railroad, and the logging industry to Bly. The town prospered and grew to accommodate the lumber industry. Three oil companies operated large distribution plants in Bly. During World War II, Bly supported the war effort by making flannel shirts, rolling bandages and sending its men off to fight.²³

Then suddenly the war came directly to this community's doorstep.²⁴ On 5 May, 1945, Elsie and her husband Archie Mitchell, pastor of the Missionary Alliance Church in Bly, took Sherman Shoemaker (11), Eddie Engen (13), Jay Gifford (13), Joan Patzke (13), and Dick Patzke (14) to Leonard Creek near Salt Springs about 13 miles northeast of Bly for an outing. When they arrived at the creek Elsie Mitchell and the children got out and walked towards the creek. While Mr. Mitchell was moving the car, Elsie called to him to come see what the group had found.

A terrific explosion shook the ground for a considerable distance. Debris flew through the air. Richard Barnhouse, foreman of the Forest Service road maintenance crew who was working about 150 yards away, and Archie ran to discover a gruesome scene. Four of the children were badly mangled and dead. Another died soon after. Elsie's clothes were on fire. Archie put the fire out but she too died a few minutes later. Elsie was about 5 months pregnant. Two other members of the road crew arrived when they heard the blast from 1/8 of a mile down the road. Parts of the bomb and mechanism were scattered over an area 90 feet in diameter. Fragments were found nearly 400 feet away. The explosion left a gaping hole three feet across and one foot deep. Apparently, one of the children had touched the device setting off one of the bombs attached to the balloon.

The authorities were called from the Bly Ranger Station. The sheriff, coroner, doctor, and ambulance arrived to care for the bodies. Guards were posted at the gates of the roads going

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 6

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

up to the mountain. Military personnel from Fort Lewis picked up pieces of the balloon, bombs and mechanism and brought them back to Lakeview Air Base. Forest Service men came the next day and picked up additional small pieces which were sent to Fort Lewis.²⁵ The Klamath Falls Historical Museum presently has an exhibit with ballast sand and a paper balloon fragment from the Bly incident along with a large ballast ring from a bomb found near Gladys Lake in Oregon.²⁶

The government directed the Forest Service to report that the explosion occurred from an unknown cause.²⁷ The deaths had a profound effect on the whole community. Ed Patzke, brother of two of the victims, commented that the balloon bomb incident sparked anger in Bly. "We didn't know what happened for a long time... Then, when we found out you couldn't help but have some bitterness."²⁸ Local Bly resident, Cora Conner was a switchboard operator who helped coordinate the notification of the authorities on the day of the incident. "Everyone was angry. They were getting very violent. They knew something had happened to the kids." Cora had been cautioned by the Forest Service not to tell anyone about the incident. She kept her silence and had nightmares for years as a result.²⁹

On May 14, 1945, because of the fatalities near Bly, the government released warnings about the dangers of balloon bombs through state educational systems and civic organizations. Before the Bly incident this information was disseminated only by word of mouth and only in the areas affected by the balloons. On May 22, 1945 the government allowed for limited publication of very general information regarding the balloons.³⁰ After the war ended in August 1945, censorship was lifted and the stories of the balloon incidents were revealed to the public.³¹

In May 1949, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a House-passed bill to pay \$20,000 to the victim's families. Senator Guy Gordon, Republican, Oregon and other proponents of the measure said that the public had not been adequately warned about the danger from the airborne bombs, although the military knew that several had reached this country. A year later, the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company of Klamath Falls Oregon dedicated the site of the explosion as a memorial to the memory of Elsie Mitchell and the five children.³²

Commemorative site.

In 1948, Weyerhaeuser approved the idea as a company public relations effort and began drafting plans for the site in cooperation with the Forest Service. At that time, the Forest Service managed the main road (USFS 34) through the tree farm. The company sought and won unanimous approval for the recreation area from the families of the victims. With Mr. Mitchell's permission the site was named "The Mitchell Recreation Area" after the leaders of the ill-fated party.³³

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 7

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

On August 20, 1950 Weyerhaeuser sponsored a formal public dedication ceremony at the site to officially unveil the monument and open the recreation area to visitors. Addresses were made by Colonel Karl C. Frank representing the Commander of the Sixth Army, and Governor Douglas McKay of Oregon. Families of the victims as well as persons assisting at the scene were invited. About 300 people attended the ceremony dedicating this area as what the company referred to as "a patriotic war shrine."³⁴

Elaborate albums commemorating the event were sent to 18 honored guests attending the event. R. R. Macartney, Manager of the Klamath Falls Branch of Weyerhaeuser wrote in a letter to the guests, "You were among the honored guests of this solemn and historic occasion, which commemorated civilians who gave their lives for the cause of peace in the free world....We hope that you can return to this shrine in years ahead. Our plans are to develop the area for the permanent benefit of the public."³⁵ This statement describes best the purpose of the area and the feelings regarding the event that predominated at that time. The ceremony attracted extensive media attention throughout the Pacific Northwest.³⁶

The commemorative tradition continues.

It wasn't only Americans who paid tribute at the memorial. In the past 30 years many Japanese involved in World War II came to offer their formal apologies at the site. Even though the period of significance is from 1945-1950, the case for significance is strengthened by the fact that interest regarding the event and the use of the recreation area as a commemorative space has crescendoed in the past two decades. The continued local, state, national and international interest and tributes are all the direct result of the fact that there is a physical, designated commemorative area set aside to remember the event. The following are the documented highlights:

1976: Sakyo Adachi of Japan, a meteorologist and one of the Imperial Japanese scientists who determined the feasibility of balloon warfare visited the area and laid a wreath on the monument. Later, in a letter he extended apologies to the Patzke family for the loss of their two children and was grateful he could visit the site to offer his condolences.³⁷

1987: The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. displayed a model of an intact balloon bomb in its Balloon and Airship Gallery for several years. The exhibit told the story of the Japanese assault and highlighted the deaths in Bly. The exhibit has been in storage for 10 years, but the museum still holds the balloon and other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 8

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

fragments.³⁸ In the mid 1940's the intact balloon was retrieved from Bald Mountain east of Silver Lake, Oregon.³⁹

1987: Ed Patzke and other relatives of the victims met at The Mitchell Recreation Area with internationally renowned peacekeeper Professor John Takeshita and his family.⁴⁰ The professor had translated and hand carried personal letters of contrition from several women in Japan. As young girls, these women were taken from their homes, schools and families and forced to fabricate balloon bomb canopies under deplorable conditions.⁴¹

When they heard of the deaths of the children in Bly from the professor they were moved not only to write letters, but also fold 1,000 paper cranes - a Japanese symbol of healing, atonement, forgiveness, and peace. The cranes were laid at the base of the monument and each letter read out loud.

1991: 1,000 paper cranes were made by Japanese school children from the Fukuga Elementary School in Japan and sent to Bly's Gearhart School as a prayer for the memory of the six victims of the bombing. This act was in response to a Japanese documentary entitled "The Balloon Bomb: The Untold Story of the Oregon Tragedy." It was filmed in Bly and Japan and broadcast in Japan on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Two commemorative cherry trees are planted at each school. Takao Oeki, Fukuga's school principal wrote: "While the cranes and the carp streamers are but small symbols of friendship we would be happy if the importance of friendship and the need for peace do get nurtured in the hearts of children as they grow up."⁴² The schools have become sister schools and continue to communicate and exchange gifts and letters annually. Recently the current principal has traveled on an extended visit the Fukuga School on a Fulbright Scholarship.⁴³

1995: The community in cooperation with Weyerhaeuser and the Forest Service organized a large formal rededication ceremony. Over 500 people attended an event that was held at the recreation area.⁴⁴ The commemorative cherry trees at the church, school, and bombsite were planted that year. A group of Japanese women who as girls constructed balloon canopies sent a "*haogita*" doll to the church in Bly where the six victims worshipped. This doll is now on display at the Gearhart Elementary School.⁴⁵ Betty Patzke Mitchell spoke of forgiveness at the ceremony: "I want to thank the Japanese.... They've showed that they are really sorry and had a desire to be forgiven. I really appreciate their way of showing it."⁴⁶ Betty was the second wife of Archie Mitchell and lost her brother and sister in the blast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 9

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

1995: Alphonso Johnson, a paratrooper assigned to the 555 Airborne Division, who participated in the "Firefly Project", requested to put a wreath on the monument. He noted the keen interest young paratroopers at Fort Bragg still have in the event. As publisher of a professional newsletter, he wrote an article on the events surrounding the balloon bomb and the Bly incident.⁴⁷

1996: A website designed by the grandson of Eric Guy Welch from Kanata, Ontario was dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Bly balloon bomb. The senior Welch was the Squadron Leader Command Armament, Western Air Command of the Royal Canadian Air Force who was charged with monitoring, locating, and disarming balloon bombs found in Canada during World War II.⁴⁸

2001: Klamath Peace Project, a major weeklong event in Klamath Falls, Oregon, remembered the friends and relatives of the balloon bomb victims and other Japanese and Americans coming to terms with the events of World War II.⁴⁹

Unique and endangered site.

The Bly incident is always featured in any coverage of the Japanese Balloon Bomb Campaign both here and abroad. At the local, national, and international level a myriad of books, scholarly journals and popular publications, newspaper and television reports have retold the technical and tragic then healing personal stories regarding the event over the last 50 years. The History Channel features the Bly incident in episode nine of its "The Most Series" and in "This Week in History" programs. In 1995, American History Magazine published a large feature article on the Bly incident entitled "One Small Moment" in its Special 50th Anniversary WWII Victory Issue. The Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance Online Learning Center exhibits a 1943 wedding portrait of Archie and Elsie Mitchell with a caption "The US Home Front's only war casualty."

The Bly Ranger Station receives at least three inquiries or visits a week from places as far away as England, Australia, and Buenos Aires from those who are interested in visiting the site or researching books, travel guides, or articles.

As of this writing, there is no WWII Home Front site on the National Register of Historic Places. Of this writing, the only place where the Japanese initiated sporadic attacks on the continental United States during World War II that has been formally recognized in this fashion is near Brookings, Oregon. In 2001, a sequoia tree that was planted on the spot where the Japanese pilot dropped a bomb near Wheeler Ridge has been named an *Oregon Heritage Tree*.⁵⁰

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 10

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named another WWII site, Pearl Harbor's Ford Island to its most endangered list. As with Ford Island, the Mitchell Recreation Area is another WWII site vulnerable to future commercial logging interests and development.⁵¹ (See Continuation Sheet, Additional Documentation Pages 5-9 for related sites.)

Conclusion.

The event.

The Mitchell Recreation Area is a rare WWII site historically significant for its association with military events as the site of the only fatalities by enemy action in the continental United States during World War II. The placement of the Mitchell Recreation Area on the National Register of Historic Places is a high honor that is fitting the sacrifice the victims, their families and community made for the censorship critical to preserve the national security of the United States during a major global war.

This particular event and site are the most recognized representation of the use of a Japanese strategic weapon against the United States during a major global war and documents the first use of an intercontinental ballistic weapon in history. In his book, "The Moby Dick Project," military balloon historian Craig Peebles assesses the impact of the weapon:

"FUGO (Japanese term for balloon bomb) did cause the diverting of men and equipment to home defense. It was also a major headache for the FBI and the military in time and effort.... The real importance of FUGO was technical: it was the first balloon to travel at vast distances at a controlled altitude. These were two of the technical accomplishments necessary for the U.S. reconnaissance balloon program that was to follow a decade later."⁵²

The commemorative property.

The area is historically significant as a commemorative property for its association with social history. It has become a traditional place for those effected by the Japanese internment camps, Japanese military veterans and civilians wishing to offer condolences, and the members of the Bly community coming to terms with the atrocities of a major global war. Under the leadership of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Professor Takeshita and others, the area has become a peace symbol that has inspired an increasing amount of dialog between Japanese and Americans affected by the events of WWII.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 11

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

In his 2001 book, "Netting the Sun: A Personal Geography of the Oregon Desert", scientist, environmentalist, poet, and local resident Melvin R. Adams shares deep feelings that are reflective of so many who have come to know this site and its history:

"Today a rock with a brass plaque stands near a forest road in the Gearhart Mountains; I drove past it many times in connection with my summer duties as a Forest Service road surveyor. While not a major event in the vast configuration of destruction and death that was WWII, it was and is a symbol that requires from us further redemptive acts, including remembrance, a symbol of war where children made weapons and children died because of the acts of their parents. I often visit the forest I know and love to honor it and those who are forever a part of it. Perhaps partial compensation for a short life is to reside in a place of beauty."⁵³

Educational Value of Recognition.

Ironically, a common reaction throughout mainstream publications over the last 50 years is that this is a little known event to the general public and the educational system.⁵⁴ The addition of the Mitchell Recreation Area to the National Register of Historic Places can serve as a strong educational tool that opens the door to the details of the factual events and the emotional aftermath of a major global war from the perspective of the civilian population. This event underscores the significant sacrifices Oregonians and other American made on the home front. It is the poignant story of the Japanese people torn by war. It is also the story of the weapon that exposed American military vulnerability and advanced the military and balloon technology of the United States and the world.

Endnotes

1. Concise Columbia Encyclopedia.
2. Conley 69.
3. Webber. Mr. Webber's book provides detailed accounts of these incidents.
4. Keefer.
5. Peebles 57. See also Morris.
6. Mikesh 3.
7. Peebles 52-57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 12

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

-
8. Crouch. The Eagle Aloft 641-642, 650.
 9. Mikesh 40-66. This is a general description. Balloons varied. Mikesh's book provides detailed technical descriptions of the balloon device.
 10. Conley 76.
 11. Conley 74.
 12. Time and Newsweek Magazines, New York-Herald Tribune. Detailed accounts and possible explanations of these incidents were published in January 1945 in these and other national publications until the censorship ruling went into effect.
 13. Conley 76.
 14. Wilbur 23.
 15. Conley 81.
 16. Wilbur 25-26.
 17. Wilbur 23-24.
 18. Mikesh 83. Mikesh offers a good bibliography of national and international technical and popular references to his work. The statement in this text is also evidenced by the Works Cited/Bibliography in section 9 of this nomination.
 19. Webber 267.
 20. Adams 129. The literature does not mention where the plutonium for the Hiroshima bomb was made. Most likely it was also manufactured at the Hanford facility due to the fact that only two bombs were available at the time and the small amount of plutonium required for each bomb.
 21. Webber 249.
 22. Battaile 51.
 23. Obenchain.
 24. Murphy 66-71. This account of the story provides a moving personal perspective from those closest to the incident.
 25. Klamath Falls Historical Society. 39-40.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 13

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

=====
26. Mattoon.

27. Herald and News 7 May 1945.

28. Ota.

29. Norbel 7 December 1990.

30. Conley 77. Time Magazine.

31. Herald and News 17 August 1945. The New York Times.

32. Mikesh 68.

33. Mitchell.

34. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company 13 July 1950.

35. Macartney R. R.

36. Scarbrough. One example.

37. Klamath Falls Historical Society 40.

38. Crouch phone conversation. Dr, Thomas Crouch is presently the senior curator of Balloons and Airships at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D. C.

39. Faha.

40. Center for Japanese Studies. Mr. Takeshita is a professor emeritus of health behavior and health education in the University of Michigan's School of Public Health. He is an internationally known expert on population planning. He is also highly regarded for his activities, lectures, and published works in promoting peace and understanding by assisting a great variety and number of people conquer their personal and national demons. As a young boy detained at Tule Lake during WWII, he watched for the rumored balloon bombs in the sky. He has been deeply involved in and personally moved by the commemorative aspects of the Bly incident over the last 15 years. This profile and the Fincher article "On Wings of Forgiveness" details his life's journey and involvement with this event.

41. Tetsuko. An eye witness account from a woman who made balloon canopies in Japan in WWII.

42. Associated Press 9 May 1991.

43. Allen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 8

Page: 14

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

44. Mitchell Monument Rededication Committee.

45. Juillerat 21 Dec 1995.

46. Moeller.

47. Johnson.

48. Welch.

49. Hassen.

50. Associated Press 6 April 2001.

51. National Trust for Historic Preservation.

52. Peebles 80-81.

53. Adams 130.

54. Juillerat 5 May 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 1

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Works Cited/Bibliography

Allen, Sammie. Principal of Gearhart School. Informal interview with Mary Ellen Rodgers. 3 May 2001.

Adams, Melvin R. Netting the Sun: A Personal Geography of the Oregon Desert. Washington. Washington State University Press. 2001. 128-130.

Arnst, Albert. "Tree Farm Parks." American Forests. Vol. 57 (1951): 21-22, 34, 38.

Associated Press. "Paper cranes from Japanese say sorry." The Oregonian. 9 May 1991.

Associated Press. "WWII link makes sequoia 'heritage' tree" The Register Guard. 6 April 2001: C.

The Balloon Bomb: The Untold Story of the Oregon Tragedy. Producer, Mrs. Kikuko Jo. Yamaguchi Broadcasting Co. Ltd., Koen-ku, Tokuyama-shi, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan, 1990.

Battaile, Connie H. The Oregon Book/Information A to Z. Ashland, Oregon, n.p., 1998. 51, 216, 306, 358.

Bernabe, Patricio. Fax to Weyerhaeuser requesting information for an article for the newspaper La Nacion in Buenos Aires, Argentina. 3 May 1995.

Birnbaum, Charles A. Preservation Brief: 36 Protecting Cultural Landscapes. National Park Service. U. S. Department of the Interior. September 1994.

Center for Japanese Studies. "Faculty Profile: Yuzuru Takeshita, Personal Peace, Global Healing." University of Michigan. Newsletter. Winter 2001.

Concise Columbia Encyclopedia. Franklin Electronics Publishers. New Jersey. Circa 1998. WWII.

Conley, MSgt. Cornelius W. "The Great Japanese Balloon Offensive." Air University Review. February/March 1968. 68-83.

Crouch Tom D. Senior Curator, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. Phone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 2

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

conversation with Mary Ellen Rodgers on 25 July 2001.

Crouch, Tom. D. The Eagle Aloft: Two Centuries of the Balloon in America.
Washington D. C. Smithsonian Institution Press. 1983. 641-642, 650.

De Nevi, Donald. The West Coast Goes to War. Montana. Pictorial Histories Publishing.
1998. 120 photo, 129.

Faha Frank J. Naval Reserve Lieutenant Commander who conducted the preliminary bomb
investigation. Letter to T. S. Durment of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in
Klamath Falls. 23 May 1950.

Fincher, Jack. "On Wings of Forgiveness." Reader's Digest. March 1989.

Fridlund, Paul. Two Fronts. A small town at war. Fairfield, Washington. Ye Galleon Press.
1984. 148-149.

Hassen, Judith. Curator of Klamath County Museums. Informal interview with Mary Ellen
Rodgers. 03 May 2001.

Hemmen, Gail. Historian. Historic Area Museum Fort Stevens State Park. Hammond,
Oregon. Phone conversation with Mary Ellen Rodgers. January 2002.

Herald and News. "Five Children, Pastor's Wife Die in Explosion." 7 May 1945.

Herald and News. "Jap Balloon Sighted Here in January Gave U.S. First Complete Story of
Wafted Weapon." 17 August 1945.

Johnson, Alphonso. Letter to Mr. John Monfore, Weyerhaeuser Land Use Manager.
13 April 1995.

Juillerat, Lee. "Haogita doll comes in peace to Bly to honor bomb victims." Herald and News
21 December 1995.

Juillerat, Lee. "Webber expert on Silent Siege." Herald and News. 5 May 1985.

Keefer, Bob. "Oregon at War." The Register Guard. 27 May 2001: H1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 3

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Klamath Falls Historical Society. The History of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Klamath Falls, Oregon, 1984. 39-40.

Lindstrom, David. The Japanese Submarine I-25, and the Oregon Coast. The Fort Stevens Encounter. Hammond, Oregon. Fort Stevens State Park Brochure. 1999 Update.

Macartney R. R. Letter from Weyerhaeuser Company to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer McGinnis regarding delivery of commemorative album. 12 September 1950.

Mafera, Frank. Letter from American Chain Link Fence Co. to Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. 28 November 1949.

Mattoon, Jerry. "More Japanese Balloon Bombs Still Around, Says Writer." Herald and News. 9 April 1972. 37.

Meierjohan H. Letter from Meierjohan/Wengler Metalcraftsmen to T. S. Durment of Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. 16 September 1949.

Mikesh, Robert C. Japan's World War II Balloon Bomb Attacks on North America. City of Washington, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1973.

Mitchell, Archie. Letter to T. S. Durment of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. 9 April 1950.

Mitchell Monument Rededication Committee. Meeting Minutes. 25 May 1995.

Moeller, Katy. "Bly's brush with war recalled." Herald and News. 7 May 1995.

Morris, Henry. Japanese Paper Balloon Bombs: The First ICBM. North Hills. Bird and Bull Press. 1982.

Murphy, Lisa. "One Small Moment." American History. Vol. XXX no. 2. June 1995. 66-71.

National Trust for Historic Preservation. "11 Most Endangered Places." 2001. <http://www.nationaltrust.org/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 4

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Newsweek. "Balloon Mystery. 1 January 1945. Vol. 25:36.
"Trial Balloons?" 15 January 1945 Vol. 25:40 41.

New York Herald-Tribune. "Balloon Bomb in Alaska." 2 January 1945.

New York Times. "Bomb-Laden Balloons Fizzle." 16 August 1946.

Norbel, Mary. "Artist in stone." Today's Seniors. 8 May 1995: 2.

Norbel, Mary. "After 45 years, Klamath woman tries to heal wounds from WWII"
Herald and News. 7 December 1990.

Obenchain, Ruth. "Life in Bly, 1945" Speech presented at the rededication ceremonies of the
Mitchell Recreation Area. 6 May 1995.

Orr, Tom. Memo to T. S. Durment. 20 June 1949. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

Ota, Alan K. "Balloon bombs crossed ocean bringing death." The Oregonian.
5 May 1995: C9.

Peebles, Curtis. The Moby Dick Project: Reconnaissance Balloons Over Russia.
Washington D. C. Smithsonian Institution Press. 1991. 51-82.

Porter, Julie. Oregon Heritage Tree Program Coordinator. Oregon Travel Information
Council. Phone conversation with Mary Ellen Rodgers. 25 January 2002.

Scarbrough, Hale. "Jap Balloon Bomb Spot Dedicated as Shrine." The Oregon Journal.
21 August 1950.

Schroeder, Walt. Preparer. Oregon Heritage Tree Nomination Form for Bombsite Tree.
Brookings, Oregon. 14 February 2000.

Secretary of State. Oregon Blue Book/2001-2002. Salem, Oregon. 2000. 372.

State of Oregon. Donation Deed. M0260288. Filed on 5 June 1996. Documents donation of
22.66-acre parcel by Weyerhaeuser to United States of America.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 5

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Swanson, Pam. Trinity County Fair Association. Phone conversation with Mary Ellen Rodgers February 20, 2002.

Takeshita, John. Letter to the Oregon State Preservation Office dated October 20, 2001.

Tetsuko, Tanaka. "Making Balloon Bombs." Japan At War/An Oral History. Cook, Haruko Taya, Theodore F. Cook. New York. The New Press. 1992. Essay 186-192.

Time. "WarTime Living/Picnickers, Beware. June 4, 1945. Vol. XLV No. 23. 22.
"The Enemy/What Next, Please?" 1 January 1945. Vol. 45:14.
"Science/Balloon Bombs." 11 June 1945. Vol. 45:56.

Unsworth, Michael. "The Japanese Balloon Bomb Campaign in North Dakota." North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains. State Historical Society of North Dakota. Volume 64 No. 1, Winter, 1997.

Webber, Bert. Silent Siege III. Japanese Attacks on North America in Word War II. - Ships Sunk/Air Raids/Bombs Dropped/Civilians Killed. Medford, Oregon, Webb Research Group Publishers, 1997.

Webber, Burt. Panic! At Fort Stevens. Japanese Navy Shells Fort Stevens, Oregon in World War-II. Medford, Oregon. Webber Research Group Publishers, 1995.

Welch, Eric Guy. Personal website regarding his grandfather's extensive responsibilities in the Canadian military balloon bomb defensive during WWII. 2001.
<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/balloons>.

Western Pine Association. The First Western Pine Tree Farm. Remarks made at the formal dedication by Governor Earl Snell of Oregon of the Weyerhaeuser-Klamath Tree Farm, held in Portland, Oregon, 5 August 1943. University of Oregon Archives.

Weyerhaeuser Jr., J. P. Memo from The Tacoma Office, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company To R. R. Macartney in the company's Klamath Falls office. 30 December 1948.

Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. "Bomb Site Becomes War Shrine" Weyerhaeuser Department of Public Information. 13 July 1950.

Weverhaeuser Timber Company. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company Annual Report.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 9

Page: 6

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

1940, 44, 47, 46, 48, and 49. The University of Oregon Archives.

Wilbur, W. H. "Those Japanese Balloons." Reader's Digest. Vol. 57 no. 8.
August 1950. 23-26.

When the parcel was given to the Forest Service in 1996, Weyerhaeuser donated a large amount of company documentation regarding the site to the Bly Ranger Station. The ranger station also holds historic photographs of the development of the commemorative site and 1950 dedication. A wealth of correspondence from the families and interested parties over the last 55 years can be found there as well as a copy of the commemorative album distributed in 1950. This bibliography contains the major works/publications on the subject necessary to support the narrative. There is much more documentation available that may be factually repetitive but provides additional "voices" and commentary from those touched by this incident and the balloon bomb campaign.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: 10

Page: 1

Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Verbal Boundary Description

The parcel is located in township 36 S, sections 19 and 20, and range 16 EWM. The boundary of the Mitchell Recreation Area is shown on the accompanying survey map entitled "Land Survey 1996-P-C85."

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated site include the entire 22.66-acre parcel deeded to the U. S. Forest Service on 5 June 1996. Even though the fenced monument and bombsite encompass approximately a 50'x 50' area, the entire parcel is strongly recommended for nomination.

In 1950, The Weyerhaeuser Timber Company set aside the parcel for recreational activity in order to concentrate public recreational access on their tree farms and to commemorate the event. The boundaries well exceeded the bombsite to accommodate these two purposes. The parcel was surveyed as 16.5 acres in 1966. In 1996, the parcel was donated to the U.S. Forest Service so that they may better protect and maintain the historic site. At that time, the parcel was re-surveyed and found to be 22.66 acres. The boundaries appear to be drawn consistent with the site's topography. Upon visual inspection one can surmise the generous boundaries were also drawn as a buffer to protect the area's view shed from the barren appearance logging activity could produce. In 1950, a Weyerhaeuser tree farm encircled the site. In 1997, Weyerhaeuser sold the property to U. S. Timber Lands.

The generous boundary would maintain the isolated forest setting necessary to properly convey the historic feeling and association of the particular event and convey the general nature of the isolated locations where the balloon bombs generally fell.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 1 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Maps

1. Vicinity Map. Mitchell Monument. Circa 1995.
2. USGS Map. Gearhart Mountain Quadrangle. Oregon-Lake Co. 7.5 minute series. 1988.
3. Survey Map. Mitchell Recreation Area. Weyerhaeuser Company. 1966.
4. Survey Map. Land Partition 1996-P-085. 1996.
5. Survey Map. Posting Diagram. Mitchell Monument. Lake County. 1997.
6. Site Sketch Map. 2001.
7. Site Sketch Map. Detail of monument/bomb site. 2001.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 2 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Photographs

5x7's

1. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Bomb site. Possibly northeast. Circa 5 May 1956. A photo (taken at a different time of day) in Mr. Webber's book (on page 166) is similar to this one. His caption reads, "As the bodies were removed, stakes were planted to mark the spots and old tree trunks were piled in the crater."
2. Commemorative site established on explosion site. Southeast. Circa 1950.
3. Mary Ellen Rodgers. Rest Area. Southeast. July 2001.
4. Side view outside of commemorative space. North.
5. Back view outside of commemorative space. Northwest.
6. South fireplace in picnic area. North.
7. North fireplace in picnic area. North.
8. Looking back towards site from end of circuitous dirt road in front of Leonard Creek. Northwest.
9. Dirt road of east boundary. Southwest.
10. Dirt road on south boundary. West.
11. South boundary. North.
12. Leonard Creek near south boundary. East.
13. West boundary from ridge. Northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 3 **Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon**

14. Bomb fragment damage on ponderosa pine tree (inside fence) southeast of monument. It is said that the Forest Service used hatchets to remove shrapnel near the time of the incident.

8x10's

15. Entrance to parcel. Southeast.

16. Front of commemorative space outside of fenced area. Southeast.

17. Front of monument inside fence. Southeast.

18. Back of monument inside fence. Northwest.

19. Commemorative cherry tree in far west corner inside fenced space. Northwest.

Additional 5x7's

20. Weyerhaeuser Timber Company photos. Weyerhaeuser official Ted Durment points to one of several trees in which bomb fragments were imbedded from explosion. Southeast. Circa 1947.

21. Commemorative site under construction. Southeast. Circa 1949.

22. Mason/builder Bob Anderson posing next to the monument. Southeast. Circa 1949.

23. Dedication ceremony. North. August 20, 1950.

All negatives are located at and the property of the Bly Ranger District.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 4 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

=====

The site manager requests the following parties be notified regarding the proposed nomination:

ODOT Klamath Falls Office
2557 Altamont Drive
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603
(541) 883-5662

Lake County Museum
118 S. "E" Street
P. O. Box 1222
Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-2220

Klamath County Commissioners
305 Main Street 2nd Floor
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
(541) 883-5100

Schminck Memorial Museum
128 S. "E" Street
Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-3134

Klamath County Museum
1451 Main Street
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
Attn: Judith Hassen Curator
(541) 883-4208

U. S. Timberlands
P.O. Box 10
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601
(541) 884-2240

CAT - Bly Community Action Team
Leda Hunter, President
P.O. Box 25
Bly, Oregon 97622
(541) 353-2759

Klamath Resources Area - BLM
Area Manager: Teri Raml
2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg 25
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603
(541) 883-6916

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 5 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Related WWII Japanese Attack Sites on the Continental United States.

Mexico and Canada along with 27 states, including Alaska and Hawaii were bombed or shelled by the Japanese during WWII.¹ As at the Bly site, these events had a profound impact on the local citizenry and have been memorialized on the landscape or documented in local and state history publications. The following descriptions are of the most noteworthy sites/incidents throughout the continental United States. As evidenced by the information provided in Section 8, the Mitchell Recreation Area stands out as one the most significant representations and the most devastating of the attack sites.

Grave markers of balloon bomb victims.

The grave markers of the victims of the balloon bomb explosion are modest in size and most are inscribed with the cause of death. Sherman Shoemaker's grave in Live Oaks, California states that he was "killed with five companions by enemy bomb". Edward Engen, and Joan and Dick Patzke's grave marker in Klamath Falls, Oregon reads, "all three were killed by an enemy bomb". Elsie Mitchell's grave in Port Angeles, Washington states, "the only adult civilian killed by an enemy instrument of war in the continental United States during WWII. Killed by Japanese Balloon Bomb in Bly, Oregon May 5, 1945".²

Hayfork, California: Balloon bomb recovered.

On August 28, 1978, a ceremony was held at the Trinity County Fairgrounds in Northern California. The Trinitarianus Chapter, E. Clampus Vitus commemorating the Japanese balloon bomb discovered in the Trinity National Forest on February 1, 1945, dedicated a marker. This was one of the first recoveries of an entire balloon bomb.³ Today, the modest marker still stands next to the Trinity County Fair Association Office. A rectangular bronze plaque is set in a 3' concrete base. The office manager says that to her knowledge, no special landscaping was established nor have visitors been to the site.⁴ Twenty-five balloon bomb incidents have been documented in California.⁵ This site may be the only other site besides the Mitchell Recreation Area that has a marker that interprets a local balloon bomb incident.

Japanese balloon bomb incidents in Washington and North Dakota.

In many cases the site of the incidents are not memorialized on the landscape but in local history books. A book about the history of Prosser, Washington displays photographs and describes the day when a balloon bomb exploded north of Prosser, in Black Canyon. On February 15, 1945, the Heady family witnessed the explosion. Military authorities told the family to keep the incident confidential. Soldiers came and retrieved the balloon canopy, gas

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 6 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

relief valve, and ballast gear.⁶ Twenty-eight balloon bombs incidents have been documented in Washington State.⁷

Michigan State bibliographer Michael E. Unsworth's article, "The Japanese Balloon Bomb Campaign in North Dakota" documents the details of the two balloon bomb incidents in North Dakota with historic photographs and interviews with those who witnessed the landings. He concludes the article with an interesting perspective on the effect the incidents had on North Dakotans. Between the world wars (as in other parts of the United States) North Dakota had strong isolationist tendencies. The Japanese balloon bomb campaign had proven weapons launched from other continents could reach their state, even with its interior location. After WWII, North Dakota was the base for aircraft and missiles aimed at the Soviet Union; the state was again a target for an enemy. He concludes, "Technology, first in the form of simple balloons and later in high-speed machines, forced North Dakotans to be concerned with developments in other parts of the globe."⁸

Ellwood, California: Oil field shelling.

It was February 23rd, 1942, Presidents Day. At 7:07 PM, as President Roosevelt was delivering one of his "fireside chats" the Japanese submarine I-17 began shelling oil fields in California near the Santa Barbara Channel until 7:45 PM. The shells landed in the vicinity of and at the Barnsdall Oil plant at Ellwood near the city of Goleta, a few miles west of Santa Barbara. Highway 101 was closed for a period. Some say that they saw a flashing light that appeared to be signaling toward the ocean.⁹

On the 25th anniversary of the event, a bronze plaque was placed by a group called the Native Sons of the Golden West near one of the shell impact sites east of Highway 101. The marker states that this was the first naval bombardment of the United States mainland since the War of 1812. The Goleta Valley Historical Society had also erected a marker near one of the impact sites at the beach.¹⁰

Fort Stevens: Hammond, Oregon: Military fort shelling.

On the evening of June 21st, 1942, a Japanese submarine off the coast of Oregon fired shells toward the mouth of the Columbia River at Fort Stevens in Hammond, Oregon. This was the only hostile shelling of a military base on the continental United States during WWII and the first foreign attack on a continental military installation since the War of 1812.¹¹

Historians and former military personnel continue to debate the circumstances of this incident. Why didn't American military personnel shoot back? Was there a spy signaling the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 7 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

Japanese from the shoreline? How many shells were fired? Although the Japanese state they fired 17 shells, evidence of only nine exploded shells was found. The Hitchman family had reported a loud explosion the night before. The morning after the incident, exploded shell fragments were found near the family home one-mile south of the Fort Stevens at DeLaura Beach Road.¹² This is the site where the first shell hit the mainland.¹³ Many years ago, the local American Legion Post placed a granite monument cut in the shape of the boundaries of the State of Oregon on this site. A scale model of the Japanese submarine is cut into the granite monument. Additionally, the Navy donated a new 5.5" shell (simulating the original) and placed it in concrete next to the monument. A mature tree in the immediate vicinity shows evidence of damage from the blast.¹⁴

Over the years many Japanese have visited the area to offer apologies. In 1992, on the 50th anniversary of the incident, the Friends of Old Fort Stevens and several Japanese dedicated the Pacific Rim Peace Memorial at Battery Russell at Fort Stevens State Park.¹⁵ A granite marker imbedded in concrete describes the incident along with a prayer inscribed in Japanese and English that reads, "May peace between our nations be everlasting".¹⁶

The Battery Russell site was chosen for the memorial because shells were found in the vicinity and it was the site that would have returned fire if the order had been given. It is also the site most familiar to visitors because it was the first battery interpreted in the 1950's.¹⁷

Brookings, Oregon: Forest bombed.

On September 9, 1942 a small military aircraft was catapulted from the deck of a Japanese submarine off the coast of southern Oregon. The aircraft, piloted by Japanese Flight Officer Nobuo Fujita, was to drop a bomb in the forested hills east of Brookings. This is the site of the only Japanese aerial bombing of the continental United States during WWII. This incident, along with the balloon bombs and other sporadic attacks on the west coast of the continental United States, were part of a Japanese plan to retaliate for the American Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in April of 1942. The bombing of the West Coast forests was a plan by the Japanese to panic the American people and require the Americans to devote much manpower to fight the fires. Because of the recent rainfall, the small fires caused by the bombing were quickly extinguished.

In 1962, The Brookings Harbor Jaycees invited Mr. Fujita, then a successful businessman in Japan to visit the area during the annual Azalea Festival. Mr. Fujita, his wife and three

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 8 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

children attended at which he presented his 400-year-old family Samurai sword to the city of Brookings as a gesture of goodwill and peace. In 1985, Mr. Fujita sponsored three Brookings-Harbor High School students as his guests in Japan. He returned to Brookings three more times.

On September 9, 1992, at the 50th anniversary of the bombing, Mr. Fujita placed a Coast Redwood tree (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at the site of the bomb as a token of peace. It is known as the Bombsite Redwood. In 1997, Mr. Fujita was named as an honorary citizen of Brookings only days before he died. Some of his ashes were scattered near the site by his daughter.¹⁸

The Bombsite Redwood was dedicated as an *Oregon Heritage Tree* on April 7, 2001, during a ceremony at the Historical Marker Wayside on Constitutional Avenue in Brookings, Oregon. Mr. Soejima, Japanese Consul General, and Oregon Senator Ken Messerle spoke at the dedication.¹⁹ The site is the only place in Oregon where the Japanese initiated sporadic attacks on the continental United States during World War II that has been formally recognized in this fashion.

Physical interpretation of the site began many years ago with a small sign placed by Forest Service.²⁰ Today, a historical marker stands on Highway 101 at its junction with North Bank Chetco Road. A dirt road that travels about 8 miles east of the marker, leads to a two-mile long foot trail to an interpretive kiosk and to the Bombsite Redwood placed at the site of the bomb drop.²¹

Endnotes

1. Weber, Silent Siege III 190.
2. Weber, Silent Siege III 164.
3. Weber, Silent Siege III 204.
4. Swanson.
5. Weber, Silent Siege III 249.
6. Fridlund 149.
7. Webber, Silent Siege III 250.
8. Unsworth 21-25.
9. Lindstrom, 1999 research insert page a.
10. Webber, Silent Siege III 80-84.
11. Webber, Silent Siege III 119.
12. Webber, Silent Siege III 116-119.
13. Lindstrom 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

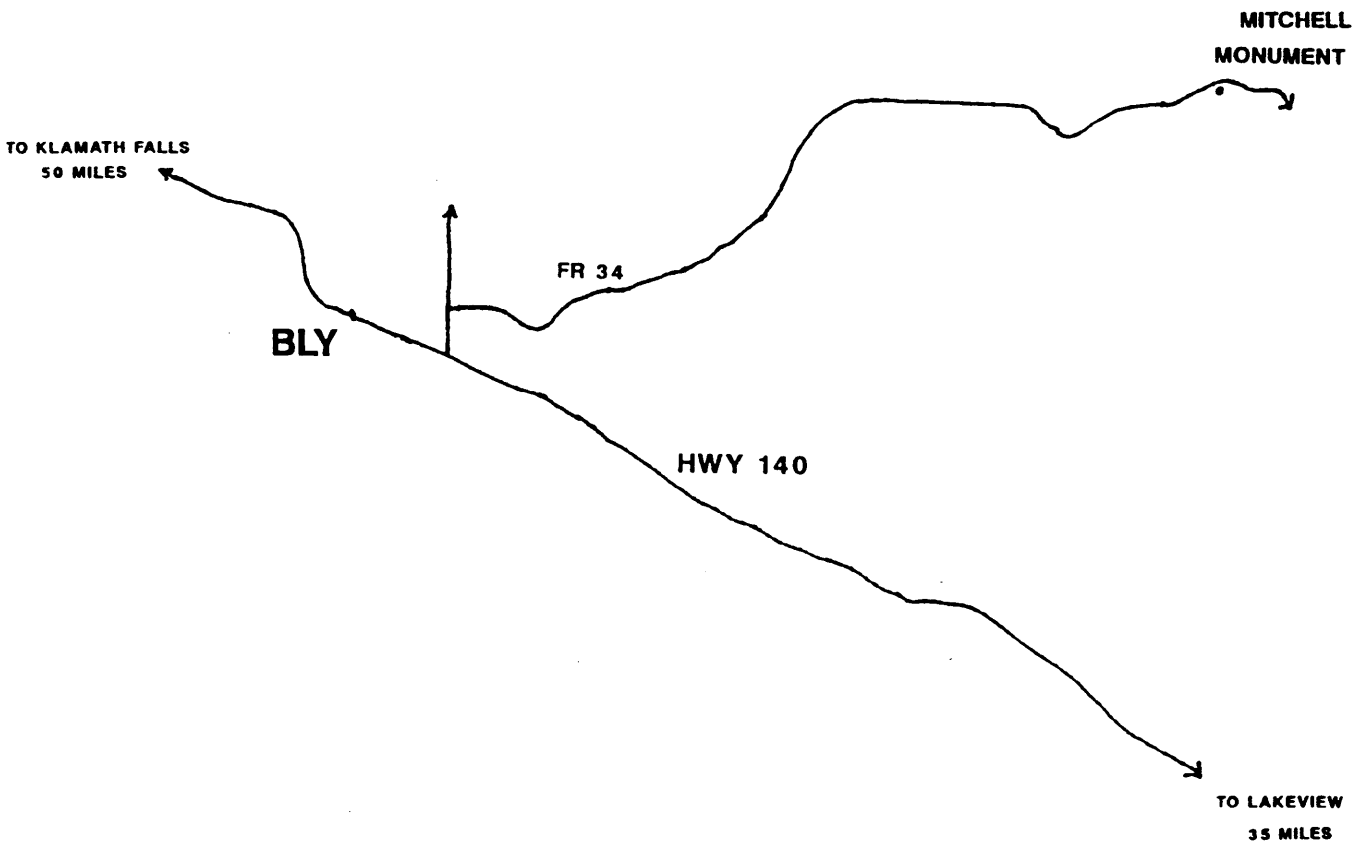
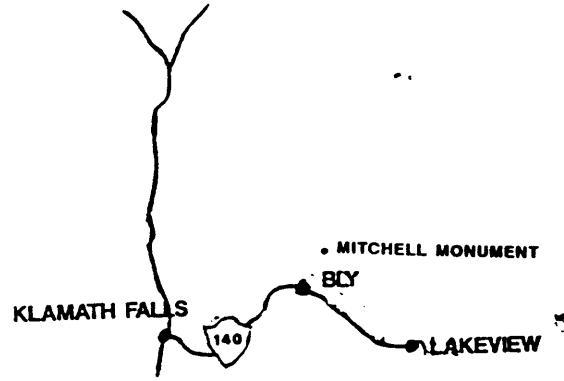
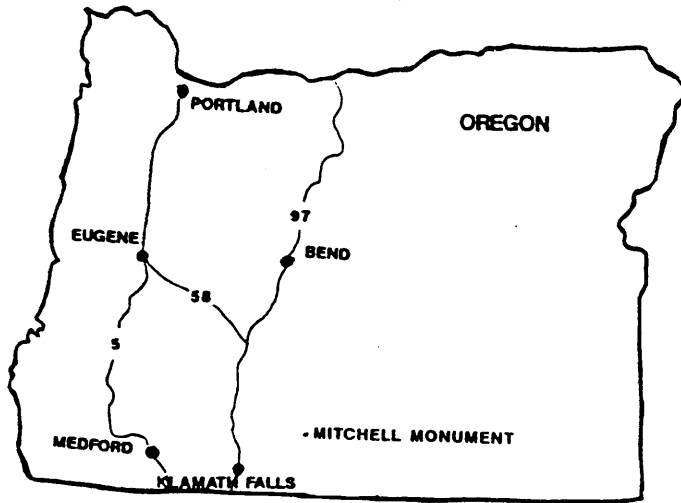
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

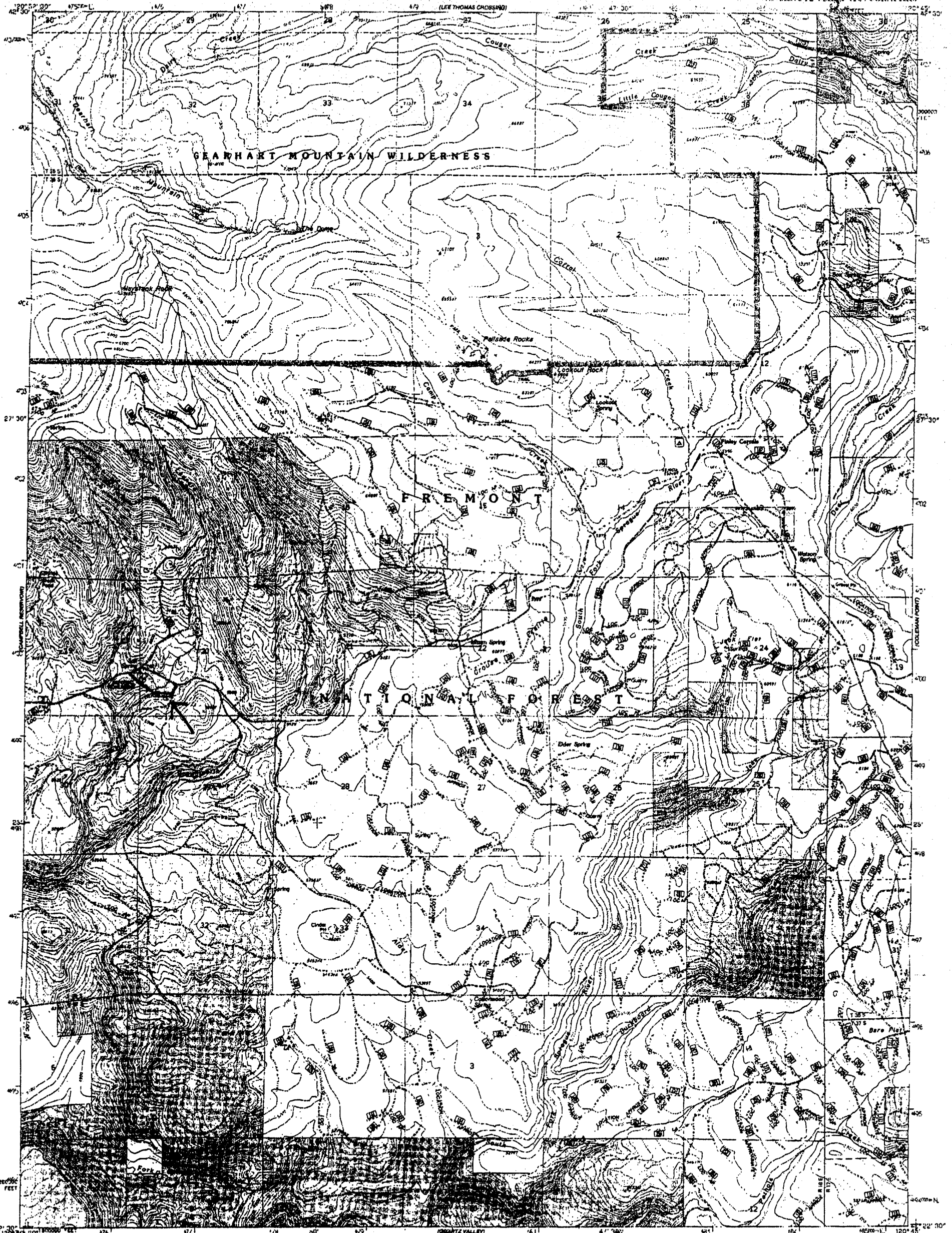
Section Number: Additional Documentation Page: 9 Mitchell Recreation Area, Lake County, Oregon

-
14. Webber, Panic 60-63.
 15. Hemmen.
 16. Lindstrom 13.
 17. Hemmen.
 18. Schroeder.
 19. Associated Press, The Register Guard.
 20. Webber, Silent Siege III 225.
 21. Porter.

1. MITCHELL MONUMENT

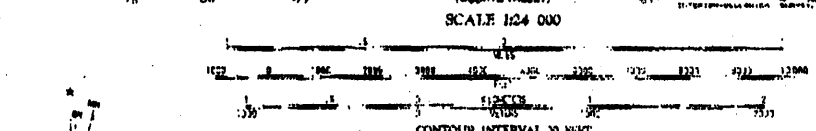
VICINITY MAP



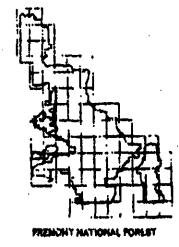


PROVISIONAL BASE MAP PREPARED BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY: U.S.G.S. AND M.S.M.A.
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN 1958 AND 1959
FIELD CHECKING BY: U.S.G.S. MAP DIVISION
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: U.S. STATE UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR 20N 9
HORIZONTAL SCALE: STATE GRID TICS 63000 INCHES
UTM GRID DIMENSION: 17° 50' NORTH
1984 MAGNETIC: NORTH DECLINATION 17'W EAST

To place on the projected North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed curves (to
the north and 90 meters east).
Modification to USGS provisional base map by the USFS, Geomatics
Service Center from 1988 aerial photography and 1989 correction plans
provided by the Pacific Northwest Region
Landmark revised according to additional Forest Service evidence.

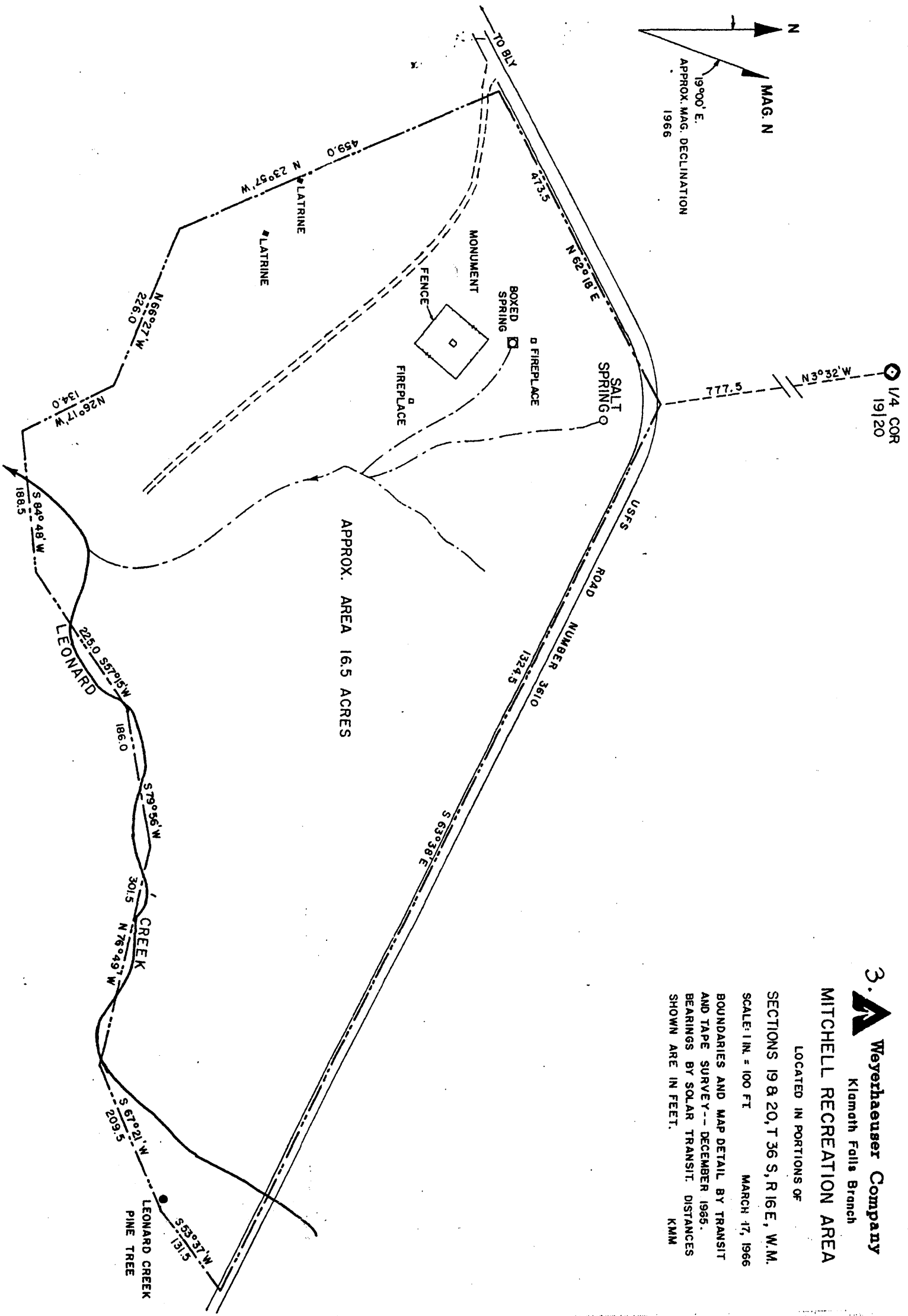


TOWNSHIP AND SECTION CLASSIFICATION		LEGEND	
—	National Forest Boundary	—	Primary Highway
—	Allotment Lands within the National Forest Boundary as of 1989	—	Secondary Highway
—	Surveyed, Location Applicable	—	Improved Road, Paved
—	Unsurveyed, Protected	—	Improved Road, Gravel
—		—	Improved Road, Dirt
—		—	Unimproved Road, Dirt
—		—	Trail
—		—	Locked Gate
—		—	Interstate Highway
—		—	U.S. Highway
—		—	State Highway
—		—	County Road
—		—	Forest Road
—		—	Forest Trail



GEARHART MOUNTAIN, OREGON
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1988
N4222.5-W12045.7.5

610



3. A Weyerhaeuser Company
Klamath Falls Branch

MITCHELL RECREATION AREA

LOCATED IN PORTIONS OF

SECTIONS 19 & 20, T 36 S, R 16 E, W.M.

SCALE: 1 IN. = 100 FT. MARCH 17, 1966

BOUNDARIES AND MAP DETAIL BY TRANSIT AND TAPE SURVEY-- DECEMBER 1965. BEARINGS BY SOLAR TRANSIT. DISTANCES SHOWN ARE IN FEET. KMM

W. LAND PARTITION
 SITUATED IN SECTION 15, SECTIONS 17 THRU 22 AND SECTIONS 29 THRU 32, T36S, R16E, W1M, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
 DENNIS A. ENSOR
 JULY 29, 1980
 DENNIS A. ENSOR
 REG. 2011

SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE:
 I, DENNIS A. ENSOR, A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR IN THE STATE OF OREGON, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE PARTITIONED AND PLATTED THIS LAND PARTITION AND CORRECTLY SURVEYED PARCEL 1 OF SAID LAND PARTITION, SITUATED IN SECTION 15, SECTIONS 17 THRU 22 AND SECTIONS 29 THRU 32, T36S, R16E, W1M, LAKE COUNTY, OREGON, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
 SW 1/4 SW 1/4, OF SAID SECTION 18, ALL OF SAID SECTIONS 17 THRU 20, W 1/2 NE 1/4, OF SAID SECTION 22, NW 1/4, NW 1/4 NE 1/4, OF SAID SECTION 22, ALL OF SAID SECTIONS 29 AND 30, LOTS 1, 2, 5, 6 AND 7, NE 1/4, E 1/2 NW 1/4, NE 1/4 SW 1/4, N 1/2 SE 1/4, OF SAID SECTION 31 AND ALL OF SAID SECTION 32, CONTAINING 604.4 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

APPROVALS
 APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF JULY 1986
 Robert F. Callaghan
 LAKE COUNTY SURVEYOR

APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF JULY 1986
 Dennis A. Ensor
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

EXPIRES 12/31/97

DECLARATION
 STATE OF OREGON
 COUNTY OF CLATSOP

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT WETTERMEUSER TIMBER COMPANY, A WASHINGTON CORPORATION, IS THE OWNER OF THIS LAND PARTITION, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THE ANNEXED SURVEYORS CERTIFICATE, AND HAS CAUSED THE SAME TO BE PARTITIONED AND PLATTED AS SHOWN ON THE ANNEXED MAP.
 I, WITNESS WHEREOF, WETTERMEUSER TIMBER COMPANY, PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAS CAUSED THESE PRESENTS TO BE SIGNED BY JOHN D. MONTGOMERY, ITS ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AND ITS CORPORATE SEAL AFFIXED HERETO.

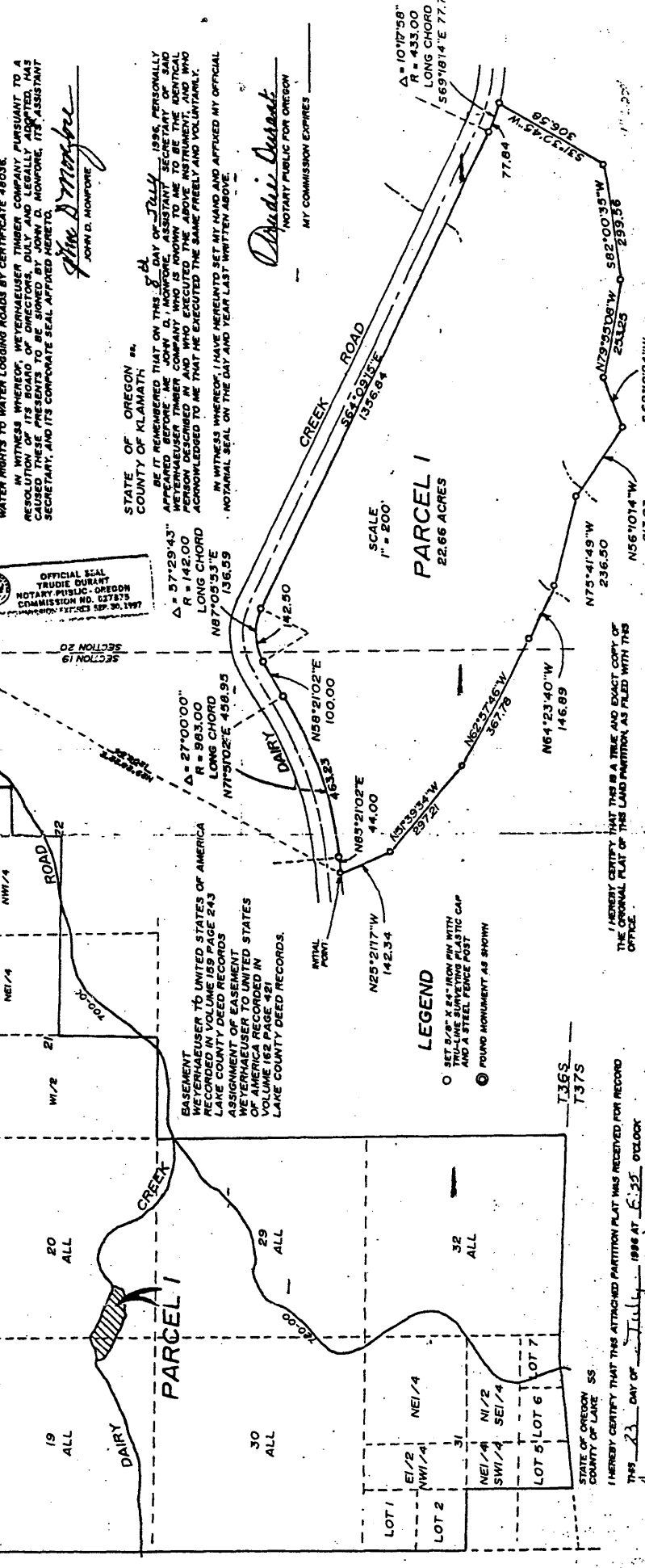
John D. Montgomery
 JOHN D. MONTGOMERY

FILED
 IN THE OFFICE OF THE
 LAKE COUNTY SURVEYOR
 THIS DAY OF JULY 1986
 COUNTY CLERK

OFFICIAL SEAL
 TRUDIE DURANT
 NOTARY PUBLIC - OREGON
 COMMISSION NO. C27873
 EXPIRES SEP. 30, 1997

LEGEND
 O SET 8" X 8" X 24" IRON PIN WITH TYPED SURVEYING PLASTIC CAP AND A STEEL PRICK POST
 ● FOUND MONUMENT AS SHOWN

LEGEND
 O SET 8" X 8" X 24" IRON PIN WITH TYPED SURVEYING PLASTIC CAP AND A STEEL PRICK POST
 ● FOUND MONUMENT AS SHOWN



STATE OF OREGON
 COUNTY OF CLATSOP

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT ON THIS 8th DAY OF JULY 1986, PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME JOHN D. MONTGOMERY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF SAID WETTERMEUSER TIMBER COMPANY WHO IS KNOWN TO ME TO BE THE IDENTICAL PERSON DESCRIBED IN AND WHO EXECUTED THE ABOVE INSTRUMENT, AND WHO ACKNOWLEDGED TO ME THAT HE EXECUTED THE SAME FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED MY OFFICIAL NOTARIAL SEAL ON THE DAY AND YEAR LAST WRITTEN ABOVE.

Trudie Durant
 NOTARY PUBLIC FOR OREGON
 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES _____

NARRATIVE
 JOHN MONTGOMERY OF WETTERMEUSER TIMBER COMPANY REQUESTED TRU-LINE SURVEYING, INC. TO SURVEY PARCEL 1 OF SAID 1986-1083. A CLOSED LOOP TRAVERSE WAS RUN AROUND THE ANNEXED PARCEL AND THRU THE 1/4 CORNER MARKERS TO DETERMINE THE BEARING AND DISTANCE OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THIS LAND PARTITION AS PARTITIONED AND PLATTED.

THEY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THIS LAND PARTITION AS PARTITIONED AND PLATTED.

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 1986 AT 5:35 O'CLOCK
 A.M. AND FILED AS PARTITION PLAT NO. 1886-1083 LAKE COUNTY RECORDS
 Tracy A. Beckler
 LAKE COUNTY CLERK

APPROVALS
 APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 1986
 Tracy A. Beckler
 LAKE COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 1986
 Robert F. Callaghan
 LAKE COUNTY SURVEYOR

APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 1986
 Dennis A. Ensor
 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

STATE OF OREGON
 COUNTY OF CLATSOP

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THIS LAND PARTITION AS FILED WITH THIS OFFICE.

Tracy A. Beckler
 LAKE COUNTY CLERK

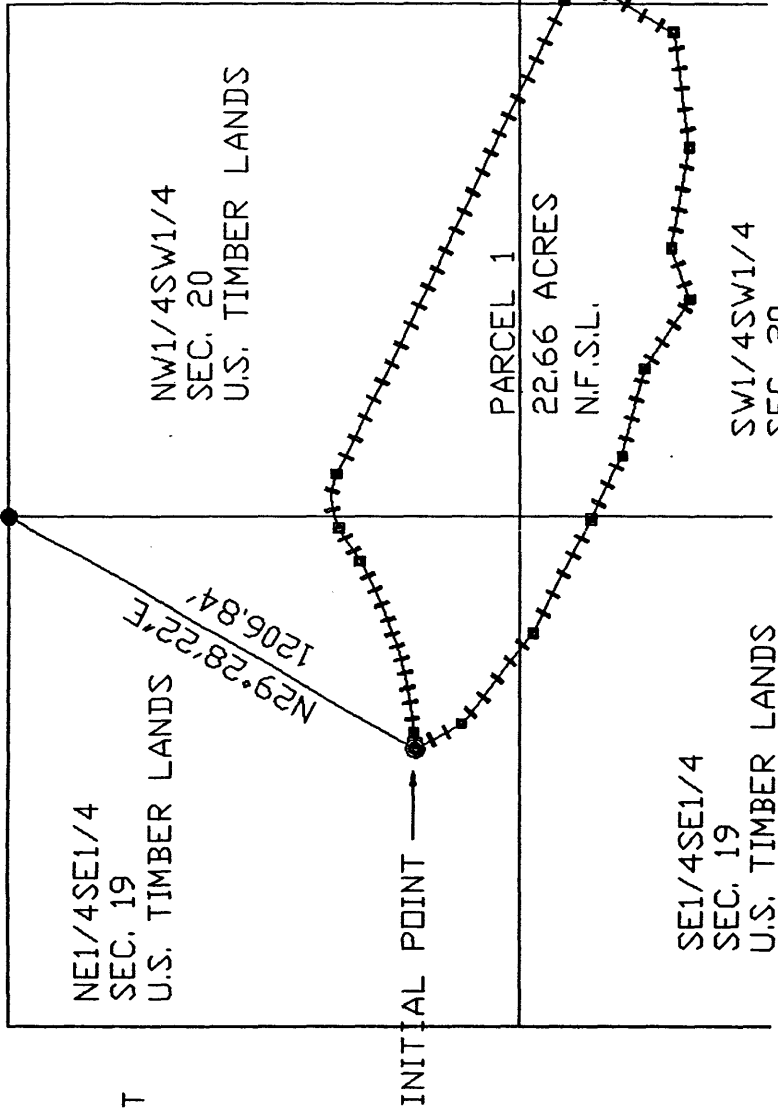
STATE OF OREGON
 COUNTY OF CLATSOP

THIS CERTIFICATE THAT THIS ATTACHED PARTITION PLAT WAS RECEIVED FOR RECORD ON THIS 23rd DAY OF JULY 1986 AT 5:35 O'CLOCK
 A.M. AND FILED AS PARTITION PLAT NO. 1886-1083 LAKE COUNTY RECORDS
 Tracy A. Beckler
 LAKE COUNTY CLERK

5. POSTING DIAGRAM

T. 36 S. R. 16 E. W.M.
SECTION 19 & 20
LAKE COUNTY, OREGON
FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST
MITCHELL MONUMENT
APRIL 1997

R. 16 E.
1/4 S19S20



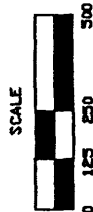
T. 36 S.

LEGEND

- FOUND 5/8" IRON PIN WITH WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY CAP;
- ALSO FOUND TWO WEYERHAEUSER REFERENCES & ADDED TWO NEW REFERENCES
- POSTED LINE 250' OR LESS
- TOTAL POSTED MILES = 0.87 MILES
- INITIAL POINT
- SET 5/8" X 24" IRON PIN WITH SURVEYING PLASTIC CAP

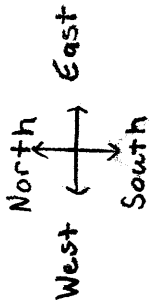
Surveyed by: DENNIS A. ENSOR Date: 07/96
 Filed in Lake County R.S. # 5417

Drawn by: JANET MOULTON Date: 04/97



BASIS OF BEARING

Basis of bearing is a Time Solar Observation, taken at the Initial Point. A closed loop traverse was run around said Parcel 1 and thru the 1/4 corner. The boundary was posted with steel fence posts, not exceeding 250', with boundary signs attached.



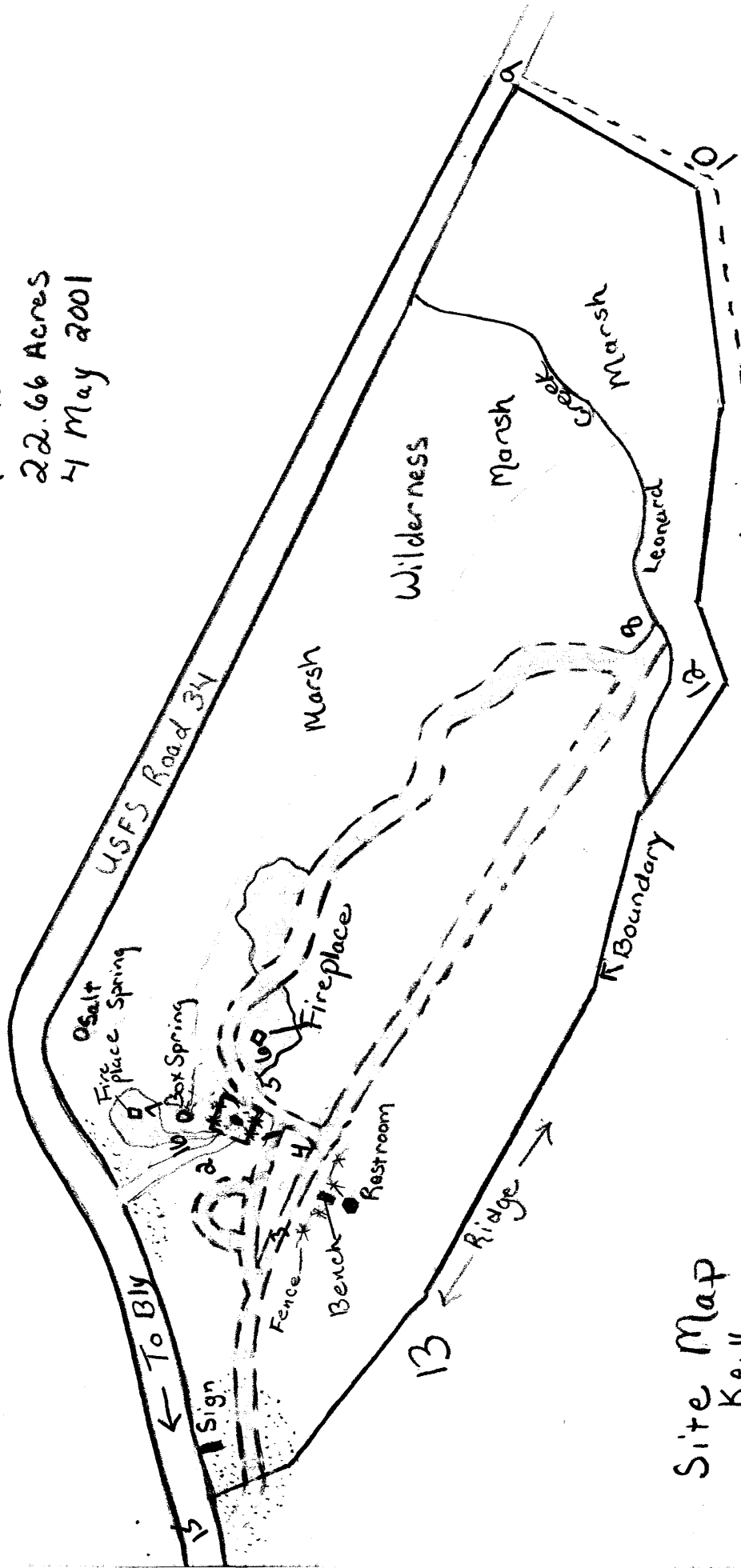
U.S. Timber Lands

6. Mitchell Recreation Area

1" = 200'

22.66 Acres

4 May 2001



Site Map Key

[] Monument - Fenced and Bomsite

[] Parking

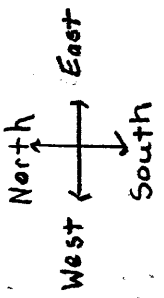
[] Dirt Road

[] Paved Road

[] Picnic Areas

U.S. Timber lands

Numbers key to photos in additional documentation



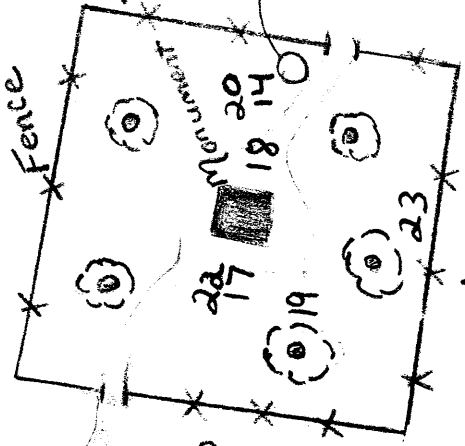
21

Fireplace
Salt Spring

? Mitchell Recreation Area
1" = 25'
4 May 2001
Detail of Bomb Site

Box Spring

Path to USFS Road 34
16



Cherry Trees (6)

5

Fireplace
6

Numbers key to photos in additional documentation.

4