



FACTS

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

First BLM Vets Hotshot Crew!

Vets Crew Makes Fire History

A BLM Guardsman Story

From Forestry Intern to First Sergeant

A Concrete WWII Legacy

Historic Pillboxes Now on Public Land

The Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

A First for Lakeview Crew 7!

The BLM firefighter crew is the first to be comprised of all military veterans

Fact:

Number of veterans in the United States: 18.5 million – 1.6 million are female.

Fact:

The percentage of living US adults who are military veterans: 7%, down from 18% in 1980.

Congratulations to Lakeview Crew 7, the first interagency hotshot firefighter crew in the country comprised almost entirely of U.S. military veterans!

The crew was formed in 2000 and reorganized in 2011 to help military veterans transition to productive civilian careers. Crew 7 has been funded under the BLM Veterans Crew Program since 2012.

“Crew seven is a small step forward in ensuring that our veterans are taken care of and the favor is returned for the federal service that has been given,” said Tim Gibilisco, a module leader for the team who served in Afghanistan.

In March of 2016, the fire leaders requested that Crew 7 begin the process to be certified as a hotshot crew. The crew went through the review process in 2017 and was recommended for certification in 2018.

During the 2018 wildfire season, Lakeview Crew 7 battled fires across the West, including the large Cougar Creek Fire in central Washington.

“Our time spent in the military is a key ingredient to our achievements,” said Levi VanderMolen, another member of Crew 7.

“It’s what separates us from other crews and inspires us to work harder and become the best.”

Growing a BLM Forester

BLM intern program hires from Oregon National Guard

The Pathways internship program paved the way for a dedicated veteran to find permanent employment as a BLM forester.

Josh Sullivan’s BLM journey began in Baton Rouge at the 2015 Society of American Foresters convention.

At the time, Sullivan was in the early years of his forestry degree at Oregon State University.

He had already served 15 years in the Oregon Army National Guard and was looking for a way to get hired by the BLM. When he learned about the Pathways hiring event at the SAF convention, he decided to fly to Louisiana to interview.

The flight paid off.

Three years later, Sullivan is on track to graduate from OSU this winter, upon which

his Pathways internship will convert into a permanent forester position at the BLM Northwest Oregon District. Sullivan also continued to serve in the Oregon Army National Guard, where he was just promoted to first sergeant.

He recently nominated his supervisor, Brian Bickford, for a Patriotic Employer award from the Department of Defense.

The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures including flexible schedules, time off before and after deployment, and granting leaves of absence.

Bickford was recognized for supporting the National Guard’s mission through his support of Sullivan’s schedule needs.

Fact:

Percentage of all American veterans who served during wartime: 80%.

Fact:

Percentage of male US veterans over the age of 75: 49.5%.





Camp White Range a National Treasure

The BLM hopes to build trails
at the Upper Table Rocks site

Fact:

Gulf War Era Veterans make up the majority of American veterans – which includes the BLM public affairs veteran who laid out this publication in your hands.

A quiet oak savanna in southwest Oregon has a World War II story to tell.

It was the summer of 1942 when thousands of young American troops started arriving in Oregon to prepare for battle.

Only months prior, immediately after the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and America's entry into WWII, the U.S. Army broke ground on Camp White, a massively ambitious training ground for troops north of Medford.

At Camp White, in the heart of the Rogue River Valley, things got busy very quick.

The newly reinstated 91st Division went on 91-mile-long hikes.

They fired bazookas, mortars and tanks.

And they attacked concrete pillboxes built to replicate Nazi bunkers.

Despite creating what was then Oregon's second most populous city at 40,000 people, there are now only a few lasting structures proving Camp White ever existed. Sadly, there are even fewer first-hand memories.

The pillboxes are still standing, though. They simultaneously represent a mostly forgotten military legacy and since 2013, an opportunity for historic preservation.

After decades of private cattle farming, Camp White's pillboxes now rest on public land.

Read the full story of the Camp White pillboxes at [facebook.com/BLMOregon](https://www.facebook.com/BLMOregon).



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