

Dan,

In the interest of MPA documenting emergency use of "our" backcountry airstrips, our own Ranger Creek (21W) came to mind.

On 21 March, 2001, we had located the approximate location of a crashed Cherokee in Lost Creek, Mt. Rainier National Park. I met "Hooker 18", a National Guard CH-47 at Ranger Creek airstrip for staging. I then led the helo to the location, based on a screwy (horizontally polarized) ELT signal in VERY heavy old growth. 14 pairs of eyes in a dead hover could spot wreckage in a 100yard circle, which we could not spot from the air. (Extremely rugged mountains.)

On 30 & 31 May, Ranger Creek was again used to stage emergency workers and another CH47 which eventually rescued 4 climbers stranded due to an avalanche. Media mostly missed the fact on use of Ranger Creek. Some day, the BAF POI will be sending helpful corrections to same media on such issues...

Tom

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Fly safe, folks!

Tom & Nancy Jensen c180tom@eskimo.com

Voice/fax: 360-825-6777 SAR pager: 206-626-1612

WASAR web page: <http://www.eskimo.com/~c180tom/>