

Montana Pilots - I response to your request, (you may have already seen this), but I saw a video by AOPA with footage of a single engine Cessna (I believe a 206) that had minutes before made a forced landing at the Thomas Creek landing strip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon. The video is pretty dramatic as it appears to have been shot real-time as the pilot and passengers were pushing the oil covered airplane off of the strip. I'm sure the video would be available from AOPA.

I regards to the issue of landing strip sabotage, during the middle of March of this year, unknown persons drug approximately 30 logs and other dead fall onto the landing strip at Mexican Mountain in southeast Utah. The logs were removed by local pilots a short time later. A new wind sock and pole was installed at this landing strip in 1999. When inspected less than a week later, it had been completely removed and taken from the strip. A similar new wind sock, frame and pole was installed the Simplot landing strip in Utah, also in 1999. It was also removed without a trace within a short time.

While not falling under the strict definition of sabotage, the BLM bladed a series of ditches across the landing strip at Browns Park in eastern Utah in 1999 after denying an application for a right of way to this strip by Dagget County. This strip was at the time used by many pilots. No public notice was filed with the FAA and the ends of the strip were not marked with an X indicating the strip was closed. In the early 90s, the BLM used heavy equipment to drag logs onto the runway at Dolores Point near the Utah/ Colorado boarder.

Steve Durtschi, Centerville, UT