



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Bend, Oregon	Accident Number:	LAX08CA262
Date & Time:	August 9, 2008, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N62345
Aircraft:	LET Blanik L-13	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing area undershoot	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the glider reported that he was taking a new glider club member for an introductory flight. He stated that the flight was "normal with good lift," and he was never more than 3 miles from the airport. On final approach about 3/4 miles from the runway threshold, the pilot felt the glider sink and noted that he was becoming too low to reach the runway. The terrain off the end of the runway was covered with juniper trees and sagebrush. He turned left to land off airport in the "only open spot." The left wing struck a tree, and the right wingtip then struck the ground. The right wing and the fuselage sustained structural damage. The pilot stated that from an altitude of 1,000 feet above ground level this glider "should be able to fly 3 miles, I lost 800 feet in less than 1/2 mile."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's misjudged distance/altitude which resulted in an undershoot while on final approach to land. Factors contributing to the accident were the lack of thermal lift (sinking air), and the lack of suitable terrain for the off-airport landing.

Findings

Environmental issues	Thermal lifting - Contributed to outcome
Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Not specified
Environmental issues	(general) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Landing area undershoot (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	48, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	5126 hours (Total, all aircraft), 40 hours (Total, this make and model), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LET	Registration:	N62345
Model/Series:	Blanik L-13	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	027012
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	High Desert Soaring Club Inc.	Rated Power:	
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RDM,3080 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	360°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bend, OR (BDN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(BDN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Bend Municipal BDN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	16	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5200 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	44.094444,-121.200279

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Struhsaker, Georgia
Additional Participating Persons:	Federal Aviation Administration; Portland, OR
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68663

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