



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

612 East Reserve Street

Vancouver, WA 98661



February 6, 2013

**Statement of Tracy Fortmann, Superintendent
National Park Service**

We sincerely regret that many months of good faith discussions to develop an agreement to sustain the continued operations of the Pearson Air Museum did not succeed, and that the Fort Vancouver National Trust has removed the contents of the museum and vacated the building.

This is a tremendous loss for the community who enjoyed this popular destination, for those who value the rich history that was preserved in the museum, and for the park and its visitors who have embraced the museum as part of the park of the vast continuum of special places protected in the National Park System.

The National Park Service remains committed to protecting this significant resource and ensuring its continued availability to the public. We look forward to working with the community to determine the next chapter. In the meantime, our interpretation of aviation and other history associated with the national park will go on and we invite our neighbors to continue to enjoy their national park.