



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report June 2006

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WSDOT Asks Airports to Help Plan for Future State Aviation Needs

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has asked airports across the state to help shape the future of our aviation system by completing an airport inventory survey. The user-friendly, online survey will collect detailed information about each of Washington's 139 public-use airports. The crucial data that airport managers provide will lay the foundation for long-range statewide aviation system planning and help decision-makers determine how to best meet the future demand for aviation transportation facilities.

It is critical that each airport participate in this effort, and WSDOT is committed to assisting airport partners. WSDOT will provide outreach to airport managers by hosting a series of four technical meetings in late June 2006. These regional meetings will provide airport managers with a forum to ask questions regarding the airport inventory survey. More information about the regional meetings is available at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/news/2006/06/13_RegionalMeetingsLATS.htm.

The survey will help to update Washington's current Aviation System Plan database and is a key component of the Long-term Air Transportation Study (LATS). LATS is a three-year, first-of-its-kind study to examine the state's aviation needs and guide future investments in Washington's public use airports. More information about LATS is available at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm>, and in the [June 2006 LATS Newsletter](#) (pdf 764 kb).

WSDOT will also use the survey data to communicate airport needs to decision-makers as part of its Local Airport Aid Grant Program. More information on WSDOT's grant program is available at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Grants/default.htm.

WSDOT asks that airport managers submit completed surveys by June 30, 2006.

Tieton State Airport Supports Firefighting Crews

The first large wildfire of the year, located south of Highway 12 near Rimrock, is quickly being brought under control by several helicopter crews staging out of Tieton State Airport. By Wednesday evening four helicopters were dropping water on the fire.

Tieton served as the base camp for Forest Service firefighters,

three medium lift helicopters and one heavy lift helicopter. Many of the state's airports are strategically located throughout the Cascade Mountains and support the Forest Service and other agencies fighting forest fires each summer.



All State-operated Airports Now Open for the Season

Over the past two months WSDOT Aviation has been busily preparing for the opening of all 16 state operated airports. The flurry of activity has included inspecting, mowing, and cleaning the airports to make them safe and usable for pilots and emergency personnel during the summer flying season. WSDOT Aviation is pleased to report that all 16 state-operated airports are now open and ready for use. Volunteer work parties were held at eight airports with two scheduled later this month.

Recently at Lake Wenatchee, WSDOT and the Wenatchee Forest Service Firefighting Rapellers trimmed several trees that were obstructing the runway's approach path. The rapellers use the airport for training and certification on chainsaw use. The Forest Service has used this airport over the last few years as it serves as a strategic location for a firefighting base.

More information about state-operated airports is available at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Airports/Amenities.htm>

Funding Secured for Boeing Field Runway Rehabilitation this Summer

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has agreed to find an additional \$3.7 million in discretionary funds to cover a shortfall between the estimate and final bid for Boeing Field's runway project this summer. King County and its airport tenants voiced concerns to the FAA Administrator that a two-year construction project would disrupt use of the runway and negatively affect airport revenues. The contractor argued that the project costs escalated in part due to the increase in asphalt prices related to oil price increases.

The main runway at Boeing Field was last rehabilitated in 1986 and suffered major damage during the Nisqually earthquake in 2001. The total cost to rehabilitate the 10,000 foot main runway will be \$21 million.