



## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report February 2008

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#### **WSDOT Aviation to Develop Airport Aid Handbook for Airports**

In order to help airport sponsors achieve performance objectives relating to system-wide goals, WSDOT will be working with Aviation Consultants, Wilbur Smith, to develop an Airport Aid Grant Handbook.

The publication will:

- Update airport aid assurances and program policies
- Offer specific guidance on how to apply and qualify for grants
- Describe grant obligations

The handbook will be a web based document providing templates for schedules, quarterly status reports, and projects estimates. In addition it will provide a checklist for WSDOT staff to use during airport visits to provide technical assistance. Wilbur Smith was selected to develop the handbook based on its quality work in drafting the state managed airport guide.

#### **New Runway Lights will Improve Runway Safety**

The American Association of Airport Executives recently reported that Los Angeles International will test runway status lights early next year under an agreement between FAA and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). The system uses a series of red lights embedded in the pavement to warn pilots if it is unsafe to cross over or enter a runway. These lights give pilots and their passengers another layer of safety against potential runway accidents. Pilots approaching a runway equipped with runway status lights will see red lights illuminated if the airport's ground surveillance radar detects traffic on or approaching that runway. Clearance to cross or enter a runway must be given by air traffic control. Pilots must verify clearance before proceeding even after the warning lights are no longer illuminated. Runway status lights also will be used by ground vehicle operators. Sea-Tac is scheduled to install the system in the near future.

## Late Penalties Land on Unregistered Aircraft

This week WSDOT sent late penalties to the 292 aircraft that remain unregistered with the state for 2008. Aircraft registration is due every January and, according to state law, WSDOT must issue \$100 penalties to owners who are more than 60 days past due. WSDOT Aircraft Registration Manager, Tracy Paul, tried to minimize the number of people who would be receiving penalties this year by sending reminder letters and emails, and making courtesy reminder phone calls. These efforts appeared to pay off, as the number of penalties issued this year has decreased significantly since 2006:

Year	Penalties Issued
2006	635
2007	483
2008	292

Aircraft registration is used to support the maintenance and preservation of Washington's 139 public use airports. Most of the funds are devoted to restoring badly aging runway pavements.

## Maintenance at WSDOT-Managed Airports

In pursuit of preparing the WSDOT-Managed Airports for openings this spring, WSDOT Airport Construction Project Manager, Paul Wolf, traveled to Lower Monumental, Little Goose, Lower Granite and Rogersburg airports. Wolf has been coordinating with Walla Walla and Clarkston Maintenance for their help in preparing the airports for safe operations.

Among his maintenance and review tasks this week, Wolf updated the airport log books and took notes for ordering replacement runway reflective markers, signage and windsocks. Weed spraying is currently scheduled at Lower Granite, Lower Monumental and Little Goose for mid March. Wolf also inspected runway conditions at all airports, and checked for excessive loose gravel and methods to reduce rock movement. Wolf is considering recommendations for compacting and oiling the surfaces at Lower Granite, Lower Monumental and Little Goose. Some unauthorized runway access was reported at Lower Granite.

At Rogersburg, Wolf will schedule site visits and continue discussions with Clarkston Maintenance and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Clarkston Maintenance has conducted airport maintenance on Lower Granite and Rogersburg airports in the past and wishes to continue; however, they are experiencing some issues with BLM in accessing the Rogersburg.