

## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report August 2008

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## WSDOT Travels the State to Inspect Airport Grant Projects

Construction Project Manager, Jeff Kvamme, met with the managers of Concrete, Port Angeles, Sekiu, Yakima, Walla Walla Regional and Sand Canyon Airports. Sekiu Airport is currently undergoing a crack sealing process with a type 1/ mix slurry seal scheduled for the latter part of August. Walla Walla Regional has just installed a security camera system, using a grant from WSDOT Aviation.



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Images from this camera will be part of the WSDOT Aviation web camera site: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/webcam/>. Sand Canyon Airport has just completed a fog seal of its runway. Painting is scheduled to occur in the next few weeks.

## Public Comments Welcome on Draft Aviation Stormwater Manual

WSDOT Aviation invited the public to comment on the draft Aviation Stormwater Facility Design Manual during a 30-day public comment period. Written comments on

the draft manual must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 12, 2008. Comments can be submitted by standard mail, fax or email to:

John Shambaugh  
WSDOT Aviation  
P.O. Box 3367  
Arlington, WA 98223  
360-651.6319 (fax) / [Shambaj@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:Shambaj@wsdot.wa.gov) (email)

The draft manual is available on the project's Web site at:  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/AirportStormwaterGuidanceManual.htm> .

WSDOT also hosted a public meeting on August 14, 2008 to provide an overview of the draft Aviation Stormwater Facility Design Manual and to receive input. About 20 people attended.

The draft manual provides guidance to permitting authorities and airport sponsors on best management practices to address hazardous wildlife attractants associated with new or expanded stormwater facilities. The design manual would be used in conjunction with the Department of Ecology's stormwater guidance, WSDOT Highway Runoff Manual, or an equivalent stormwater guidance manual approved by the Department of Ecology.

### **General Aviation Accidents Keeping Emergency Services Workers Busy**

This summer has seen a larger than normal amount of aircraft incidents, accidents and crashes. Since June 1 there has been an aircraft crash nearly every other day in the Pacific Northwest. In Washington there have been 23 accidents with 8 fatalities. Oregon has had 11 with 6 fatalities. Idaho has experienced 17 with 1 fatality. The causes have ranged from controlled flight into terrain, weather related problems, engine failure, and even an in flight breakup of one aircraft. Some have speculated that the high cost of fuel has pilots flying less, thus reducing their proficiency. Others are calling it a rash of bad decision making. Two of the cases in Washington required WSDOT Aviation Emergency Services response to locate missing planes but, unfortunately, there were no survivors.

### **WSDOT's Grant Program Travels the State to Assist Airports**

Aviation Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, traveled the state to attend weekly construction meetings, check on progress of various construction projects, and meet with airport sponsors.

**Rosalia Municipal Airport** - Eric met with J-U-B Engineers Construction Observer, Don Dunn, to tour the airport's runway reconstruction, taxiway overlay and runway lighting upgrades projects. The taxiway was prepped with a tack coat and geo fabric and the runway has been pulverized and rolled. Additional base aggregate was also about to arrive. Paving had been scheduled for Thursday and Friday of this week; however, soft spots under the runway are creating a delay. The spots are caused by clay under the sub

base holding a high moisture content. Paving will be postponed until the engineers can develop a solution to either dry out or remove the clay. In the meantime new wiring was being placed for the runway lighting system.

**Port of Whitman Business Air Center** - Eric met with Port of Whitman County Property and Development Manager, Debbie Snell, to discuss closing out an old security grant where the work had been completed, but the Port had yet to submit for reimbursement. Additionally Eric discussed the new Airport Information System and got Debbie set up with a user ID and password.

**Pullman Moscow Regional Airport** - Eric attended the airport's weekly construction meeting with Airport Manager, Robb Parish, and J-U-B Engineer, Alan Debo. The project, in its fourth phase, will update the general aviation ramp area and correct obstruction and separation issues. Included in this phase of work is the removal of four underground fuel tanks to be replaced with above ground tanks with the ability of self serve fueling, drainage work, access road to the general aviation area and access/entry improvements to comply with TSA requirements. The project will be completed in three to four months.

**Lind Municipal Airport** - Eric met with Mayor, Larry Koch, and consultant, Joe Pesutti, to discuss the need for an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the Lind Municipal Airport. Last spring it was discovered that the town did not have an ALP approved by WSDOT Aviation when they submitted a grant application to reconstruct the remaining failed apron pavement and to upgrade the out of commission runway lighting system. WSDOT committed to meet with Lind before the next grant cycle to discuss what an ALP is, why WSDOT now requires them, and what steps to take to get an ALP. The town will submit a grant application in the next cycle and go through a consultant selection process in order to proceed with developing an ALP in the next biennium.

**Cle Elum Municipal Airport** - Thursday morning Eric will travel to the Cle Elum Municipal Airport to inspect the progress on the runway shift and reconstruction project currently underway.

### **Ephrata Municipal Airport begins Runway 02/20 Rehabilitation Project**

A pre-construction meeting was held at Ephrata Municipal Airport on Tuesday, August 19. Reid Middleton has been selected by Grant County Port District No. 9 as the consulting engineering firm to oversee the rehabilitation of runway 02/20. Granite Northwest Inc. was awarded the contract and will begin work on September 2, 2008. Completion date is slated for mid November 2008. The total project cost is \$3.3 million: the FAA provided \$3.1 million, and WSDOT Aviation and the port matched \$83,000 each. The glider runway 03/21 will be used as the temporary north/south runway during this construction period. Runway 02/20 will be shortened to 5,500 feet and narrowed to 75 feet with new taxiway connectors constructed. Lighting will be moved and upgraded, and VASI's will be replaced with PAPI's.