QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the economic benefits described above, Wheatland County Airport at Harlowton provides access and services that promote the well being of the local community. Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis include recreational flying, corporate aviation, aerial inspections of powerlines, emergency medical evacuation, medical shipments and patient transfer, and aerial management of wildlife, particularly coyotes. The airport is also used for agricultural spraying, military exercises and training, forest and rangeland firefighting, and aerial photography. Other activities that occur on an occasional basis include community event staging, search and rescue operations, and environmental patrol.

FAA data indicates Diamond 1A Inc., Montana Livestock Ag Credit Inc., and Spencer Adventures utilized the airport during the past year.

WHEATLAND COUNTY AIRPORT
HARLOWTON

MONTANA
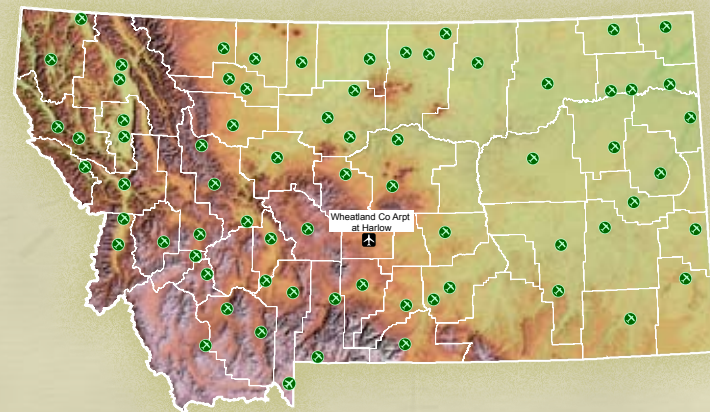## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

AIRPORT LOCATION

Wheatland County Airport at Harlowton is located two miles northwest of Harlowton, Montana, in Wheatland County. Harlowton is tucked between the snow-capped peaks and forests of four mountain ranges and is located near the geographic center of Montana on US Highway 12 and US Highway 191. The town is located a short drive south of Judith Gap, the home of the largest Wind Farm in Montana, which serves as a major tourist attraction. Several National Forest Trails in the area provide plenty of excellent outdoor recreation opportunities. Other attractions in the Harlowton area include Chief Joseph Park, E-57B Electric Train Park, the Upper Musselshell Museum, and the renowned Bair Family Museum, located a short drive to the west in Martinsdale. Harlowton is the county seat of Wheatland County.

Harlowton has a population of approximately 900. Major employment sectors in the area include construction, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, health care and social assistance, and educational services.

The 160-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 8/26, measures 4,200 feet in length and 60 feet in width. The airport, with eight based aircraft, experiences approximately 2,275 aircraft operations annually.

Wheatland Co Arpt
at Harlow

STATEWIDE RESULTS

Economic benefits in the Montana Economic Impact of Airports Study are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll, and annual economic activity or output.

Jobs/Employment

An estimated 18,800 jobs in Montana are in some way supported by the commercial and general aviation airports. These are jobs that are associated with on-airport businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial or general aviation airports in the State. In addition, spending by visitors arriving in Montana by air helps to support other jobs. When airport improvements are made, additional jobs are supported by the airports over the duration of these projects.

Payroll/Earnings

The 18,800 jobs in Montana that are linked to the commercial and general aviation airports account for over $600 million in annual payroll. Airport related payroll is a key component of the economic benefit cycle that starts at the airport. It was this economic cycle that was measured by this study's induced benefits. When those employed by on-airport businesses use their paycheck to

purchase groceries, new clothes, or household items, their spending helps to support other jobs in the community and the payroll associated with these jobs. The initial benefits that start at the airports continue to multiply once they enter the State's economy.

Annual Economic Activity/Output

To operate Montana's airports, businesses located on the airports and businesses that support visitors who arrive in Montana via the airports all require the purchase of goods and services. These expenditures are most often in addition to those benefits identified in the payroll and earnings category. Benefits in this category are expressed in this study as total annual economic activity or output. Annual economic output related to the airports is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

| JOBS............18,800 |
| PAYROLL.......$600 MILLION |
| OUTPUT.........$1.56 BILLION |

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output (spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first-round economic benefits. Additional first-round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first-round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. These second-round or induced benefits were measured with Montana-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first-round and second-round benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

First-Round Impact

In 2008, there were no aviation-related tenants located on the airport. All economic impacts generated by the airport are the result of sponsor operation of the airport and visitor related impacts. For 2008, the total combined first round output stemming from all sponsor activity and general aviation visitors to Wheatland County Airport was approximately $15,600. Total first round employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors is estimated at one part time position with a total first round payroll of approximately $3,600 annually. Survey data indicated that approximately 100 visitors used the airport in 2008.
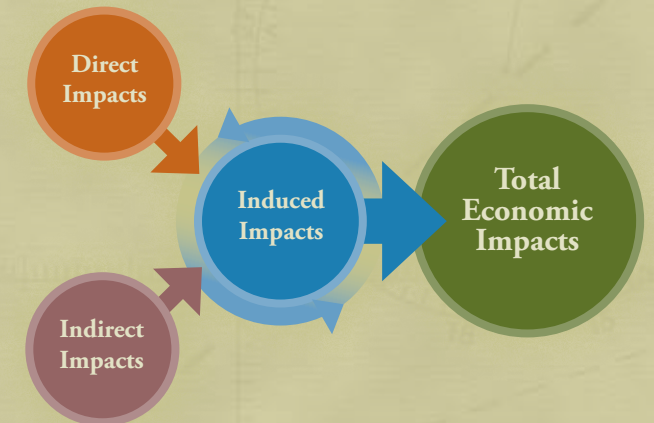
Second-Round Impact

The first-round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create second-round impacts throughout the State. Second-round impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Montana specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2008 first-round, second-round, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

Total Impact

For 2008, the total output (including first-round and second-round impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Wheatland County Airport was approximately $27,800. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors, including all second-round impacts, is estimated at the equivalent of one position, with a total annual payroll (first-round and second-round) of approximately $5,900.

METHODOLOGY

Direct Impacts

Indirect Impacts

Induced Impacts

Total Economic Impacts

AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
• FAA, Other Government • Airport Management • Aircraft maintenance • Vendors • Retail & Restaurant • Car Rental • Parking • Other Ground Transportation • Fixed Based Operators	• Hotels • Retail & Restaurants • Travel Agents • Convention Centers • Tourist Destinations
0.5 Jobs **$3,600 in Payroll** **$15,600 in Economic Output**	**0 Jobs** **$0 in Payroll** **$1,000 in Economic Output**

SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

• Suppliers of Materials & Services to Airports
• Air Dependent Businesses
• Visitor Dependent Businesses
• Consumer Product and Service Sales

0.5 Jobs
$2,300 in Payroll
$11,200 in Economic Output

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

1.0 Jobs
$5,900 in Wages
$27,800 in Economic Activity