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.
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 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.