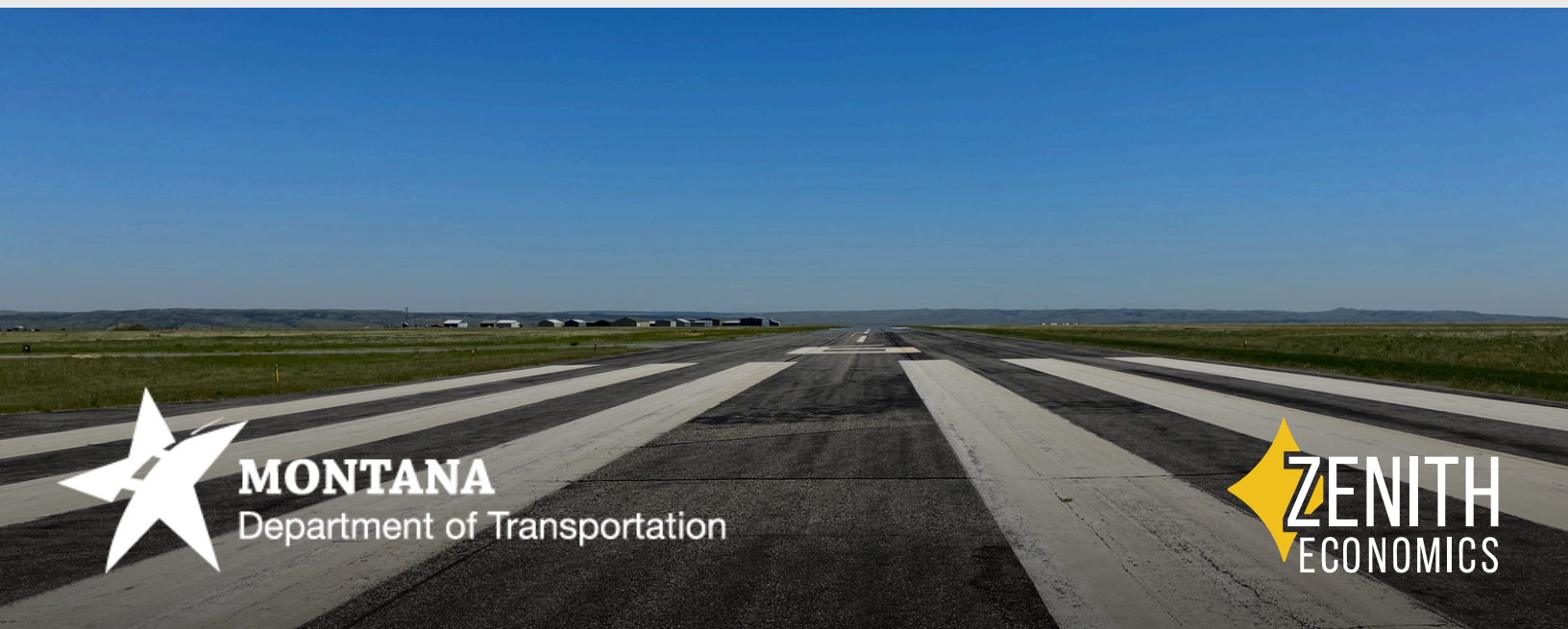




Economic Impact Study  
**Big Timber at Howard Field  
Airport**  
2026



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Big Timber at Howard Field Airport Impact

Big Timber Airport at Howard Field is a public-use general aviation airport located southwest of Big Timber, in Sweet Grass County in south-central Montana. The airfield features a primary paved runway of 5,285 feet with a secondary turf runway, GPS instrument approaches, and both 100LL and Jet A fuel. The facility supports seasonal jet traffic from residents and visitors, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation uses it as a base for wildfire support operations. Airport activities include recreational flying, search and rescue, flight training, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, law enforcement, aerial photography and surveying, environmental patrol, wildland firefighting, and military exercises. The airport hosts an annual air and car show each June.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
49



**Economic Impact**  
\$8.2 Million



**Payroll**  
\$3.0 Million

## Qualitative Impacts

In addition to generating substantial economic impacts, this airport supports a variety of harder to quantify “Qualitative Impacts” that support critical statewide safety and enterprise. The 2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports Study documents the following non-inclusive list of qualitative impacts associated with the airport:



**Aerial Firefighting**  
Supports Wildland Firefighting Operations



**VIP/Visitor Gateway**  
Serves as Gateway for High-Profile Visitors and Tourism



**Emergency Medical Aviation**  
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



**Military Exercise/Training**  
Used for Military Training and/or Transit Flights



**Corporate/Business Activity**  
Supports Corporate and Business Activity



**Recreation and Education**  
Provides Pilot Training, Aviation Education, and access to recreational flying

Source: Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports.

# Montana Airports Support Our State



**Jobs**  
39,400



**Economic Impact**  
\$6.4 Billion



**Payroll**  
\$2.4 Billion

Montana's airport system functions as a critical component of the state's transportation and economic infrastructure, enabling connectivity across a large and geographically dispersed landscape. Through scheduled commercial service and general aviation activity, airports provide access between Montana communities and regional, national, and international markets, supporting passenger travel, freight movement, and time-sensitive operations that cannot be efficiently served by surface transportation alone.

Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment in airport facilities collectively generate economic activity at the local, regional, and statewide levels. These effects extend across multiple sectors, including tourism, healthcare, construction, professional services, and natural resource industries.

To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full scope of airport-related activity, including aviation and non-aviation businesses, visitor spending, capital investment, and secondary economic effects, while also identifying the specific roles individual airports play in supporting residents, businesses, and critical services across Montana.

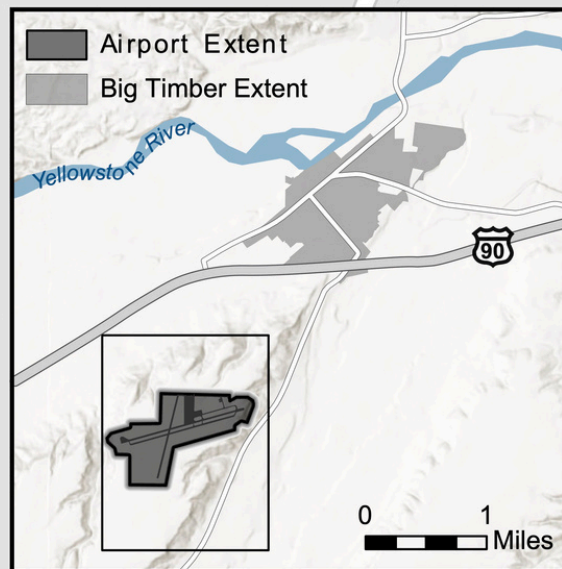
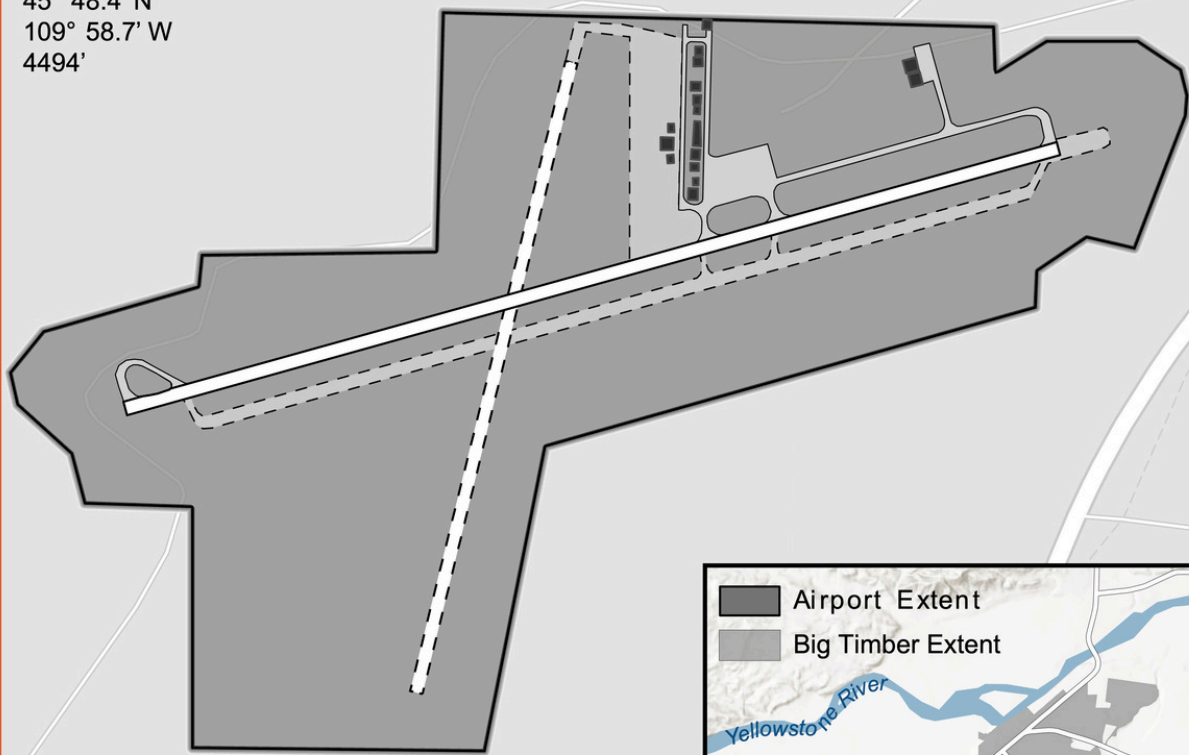


# Big Timber at Howard Field (6S0)

Big Timber, MT



45° 48.4' N  
109° 58.7' W  
4494'



Airport Extent	Airport Structure
Paved Runway	Paved Area
Turf Runway	Turf Area



AERONAUTICS DIVISION  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507



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