

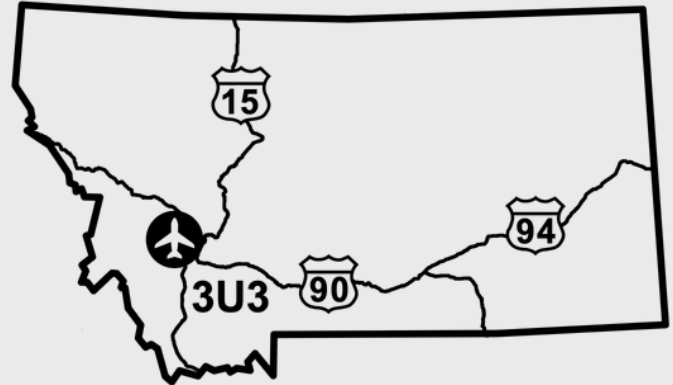


Economic Impact Study
Bowman Field Airport
2026



Bowman Field Airport Impact

Bowman Field is a public-use general aviation airport located in Anaconda, in Deer Lodge County in southwestern Montana. Named after Colonel William 'Doc' Bowman, Montana's first licensed pilot, the airfield features two paved runways, the primary measuring 6,010 feet, and handles approximately 4,900 annual operations. The airport supports recreational flying, agricultural operations, emergency medical transport, and general aviation access for the Anaconda community. The facility is located along the I-90 corridor between Butte and Missoula in the upper Clark Fork Valley.



Total Economic Impact on Montana



Jobs
5



Economic Impact
\$611 Thousand



Payroll
\$197 Thousand

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:



Recreational Flying
Supports recreational flying and access



Agriculture Support
Supports Agriculture through Aerial Application



Emergency Medical Aviation
Supports Air Ambulance Operations

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.

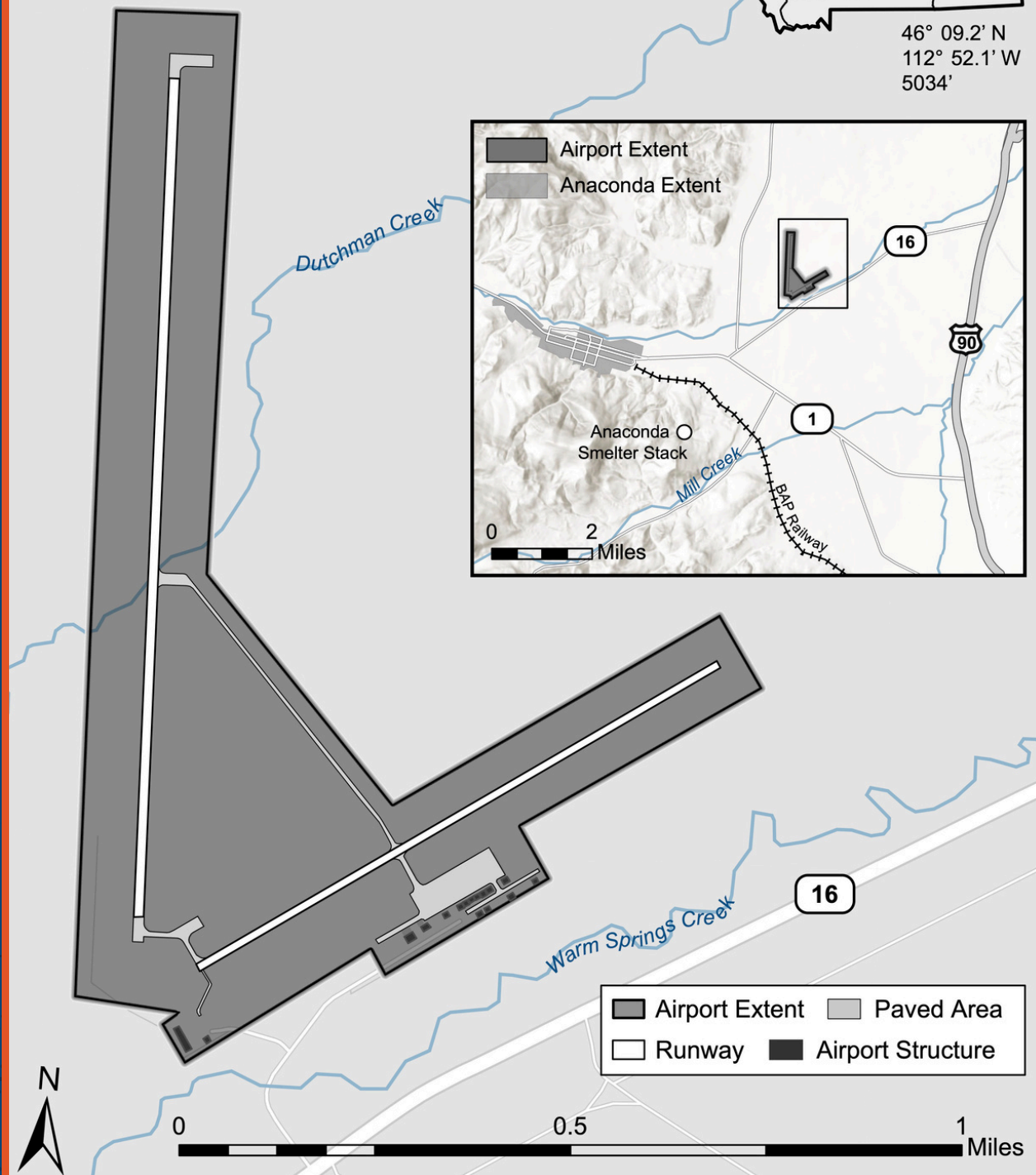


Bowman Airport (3U3)

Anaconda, MT



46° 09.2' N
112° 52.1' W
5034'



AERONAUTICS DIVISION
2630 Airport Road
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