



Economic Impact Study
Deer Lodge-City-County Airport
2026



MONTANA
Department of Transportation



ZENITH
ECONOMICS

Deer Lodge-City-County Airport Impact

Deer Lodge-City-County Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Deer Lodge, in Powell County in western Montana. The airfield features a 5,800-foot runway on 460 acres and handles approximately 3,500 annual general aviation operations, with 90 percent transient traffic. The airport provides general aviation access for the Deer Lodge Valley community, supporting recreational flying and visitor access to the surrounding area. The facility serves as a transportation link for this historic community along the Clark Fork River corridor between Butte and Missoula.



Total Economic Impact on Montana



Jobs
19



Economic Impact
\$2.4 Million



Payroll
\$745 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:



Visitor Gateway
Serves as Gateway for High-Profile Visitors and Tourism to surrounding area



Recreational Flying
Supports recreational flying and access

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.

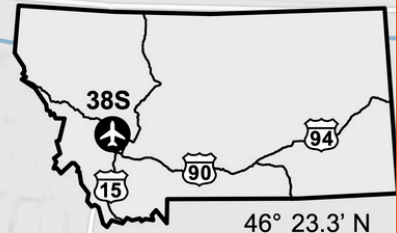
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment 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.

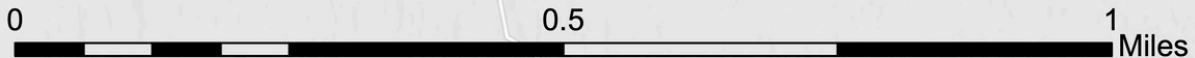
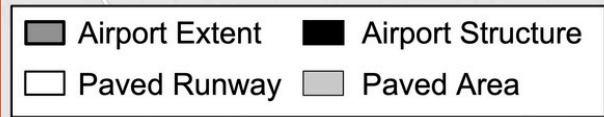
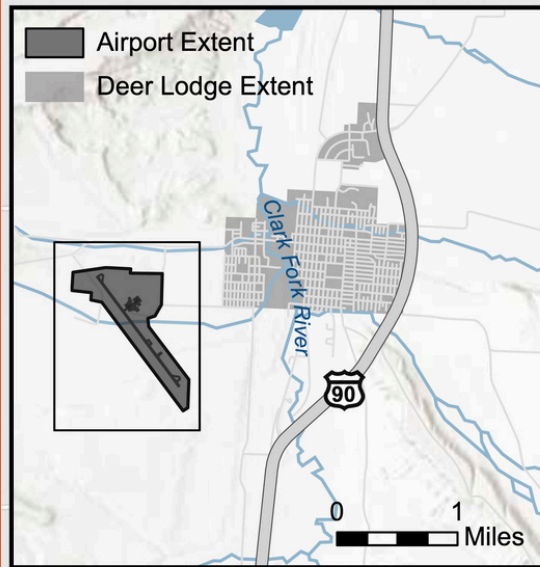
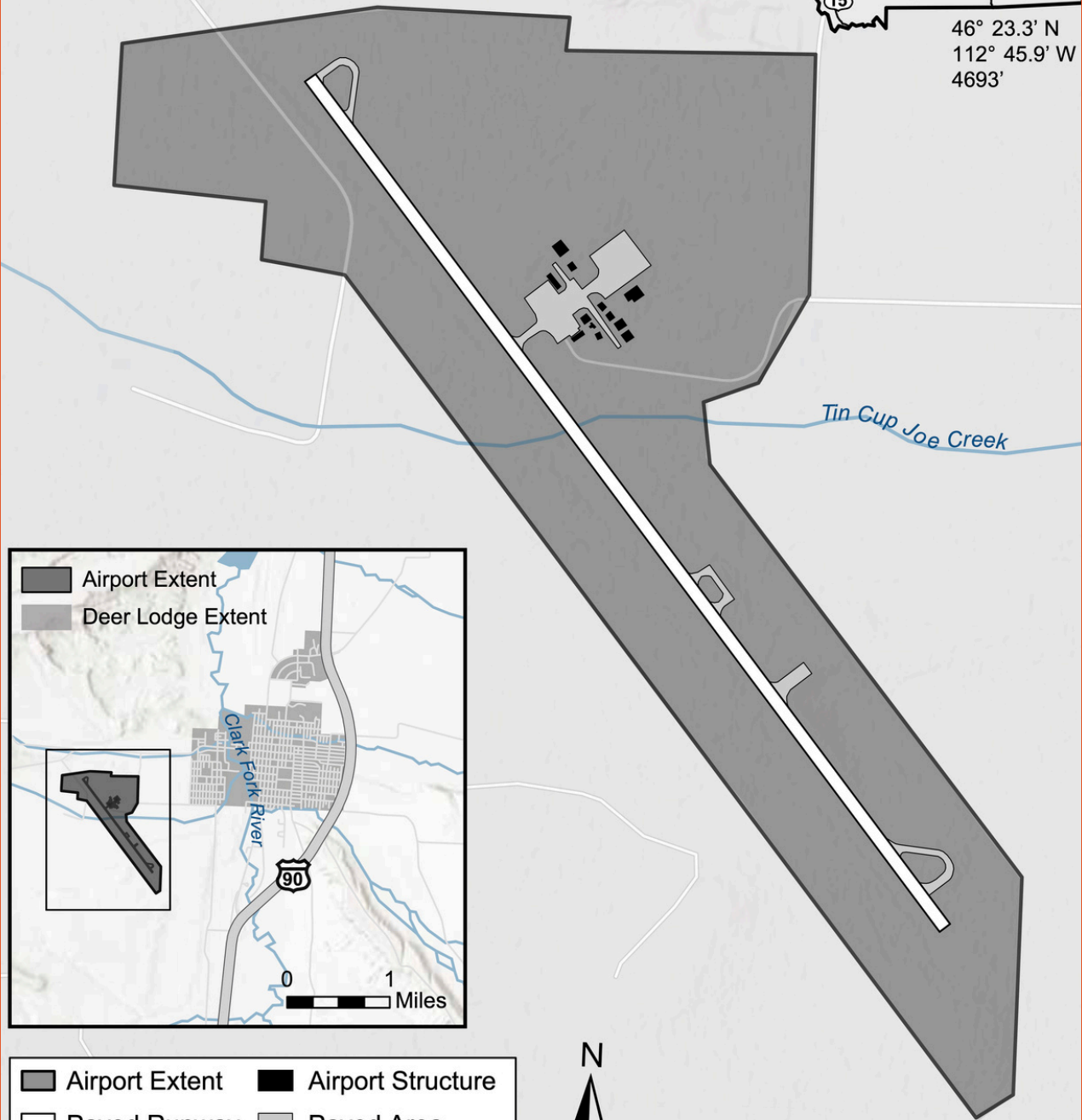


Deer Lodge Airport (38S)

Deer Lodge, MT



46° 23.3' N
112° 45.9' W
4693'



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