



Economic Impact Study  
**Ennis Big Sky Airport**  
2026



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Ennis Big Sky Airport Impact

Ennis Big Sky Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Ennis, Madison County in southwest Montana. The airfield features a recently renovated 7,600-foot runway at an elevation of 5,433 feet and handles approximately 15,000 annual general aviation operations, with 98 percent transient traffic driven by visitors accessing homes and resorts in the area including Big Sky and the Yellowstone Club. Airport activities include corporate and business aviation, gateway services for VIPs and high-profile visitors, flight training, emergency medical transport, and military exercises. The airport's long runway accommodates business jets of all sizes, and the facility provides critical medical flight access during inclement weather when ground transportation options are limited.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
133



**Economic Impact**  
\$19.9 Million



**Payroll**  
\$6.6 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:



**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



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



**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.

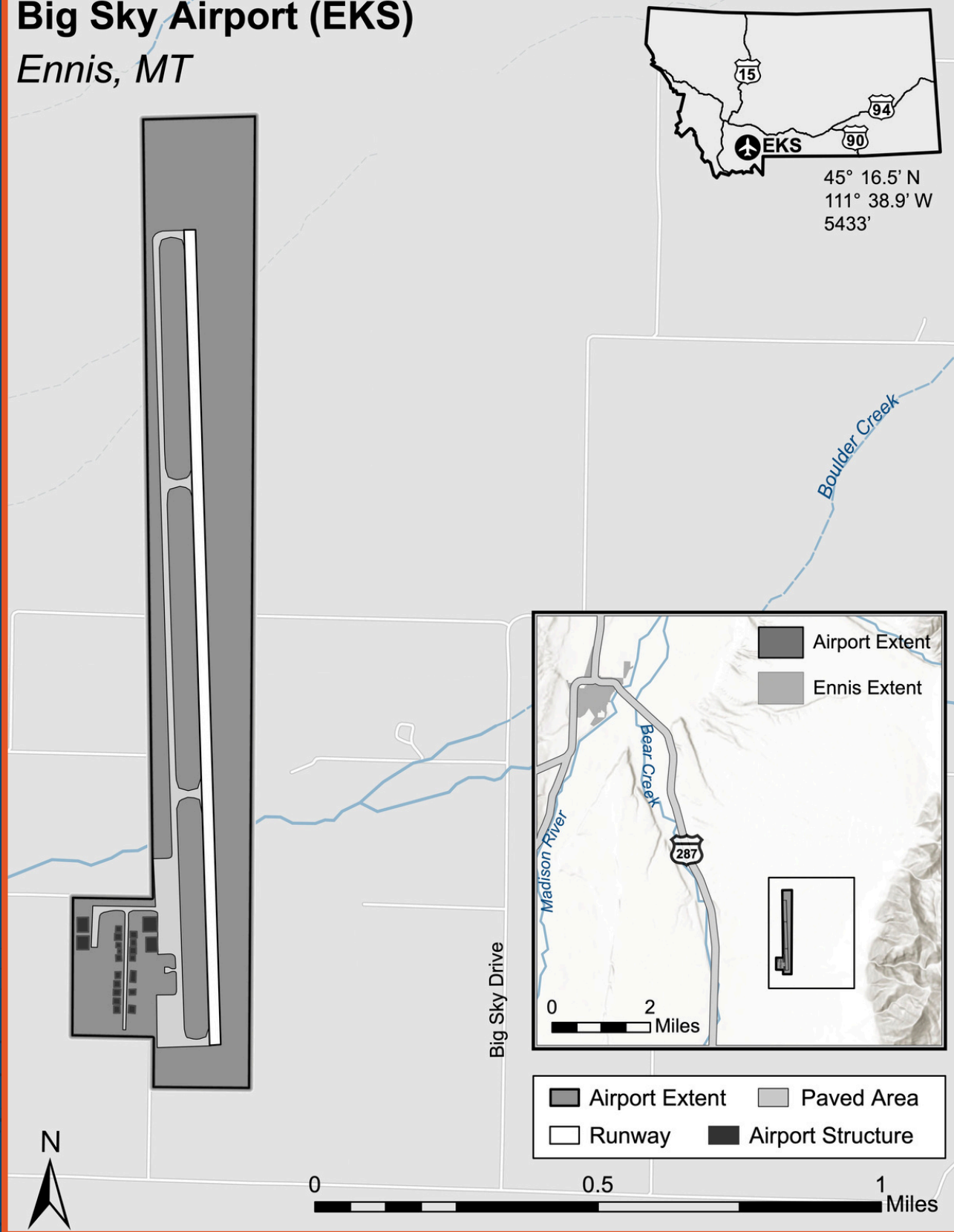
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment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

Ennis, MT



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



To request an alternative accessible format of this document, please contact MDT's ADA Coordinator, Matt Maze, at 406-444-5416, Montana Relay Service at 711, or by email at [mmaze@mt.gov](mailto:mmaze@mt.gov).

This document is printed at state expense. Information on the cost of producing this publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.