



Economic Impact Study
Frank Wiley Field Airport
2026

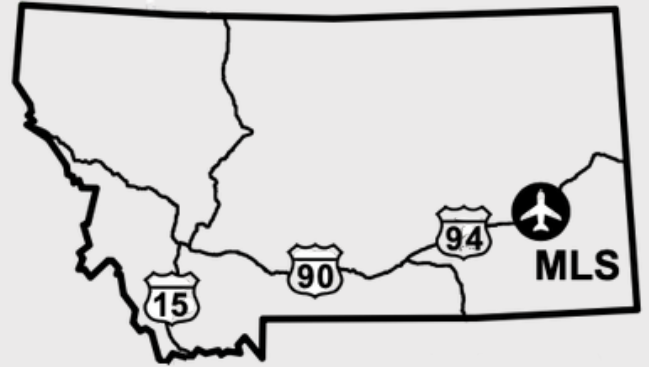


MONTANA
Department of Transportation



Frank Wiley Field Airport Impact

Frank Wiley Field is a public-use general aviation airport located in Miles City, in Custer County in southeastern Montana. The airfield features a primary runway of 5,764 feet, a secondary runway of 5,624 feet, and handles approximately 850 general aviation and 350 commercial operations annually. Airport activities include agricultural spraying, search and rescue, freight, flight training, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, wildland firefighting, and military exercises. Medical evacuations represent a particularly important function for the facility, serving a large geographic area in eastern Montana.



Total Economic Impact on Montana



Jobs
7



Economic Impact
\$1.1 Million



Payroll
\$388 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:



Aerial Firefighting
Supports Wildland
Firefighting Operations



Police/Law Enforcement
Supports Police and Emergency
Response Ops



**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



Agriculture Support
Supports Agriculture through
Aerial Application

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.

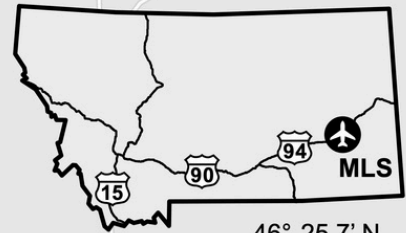
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment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

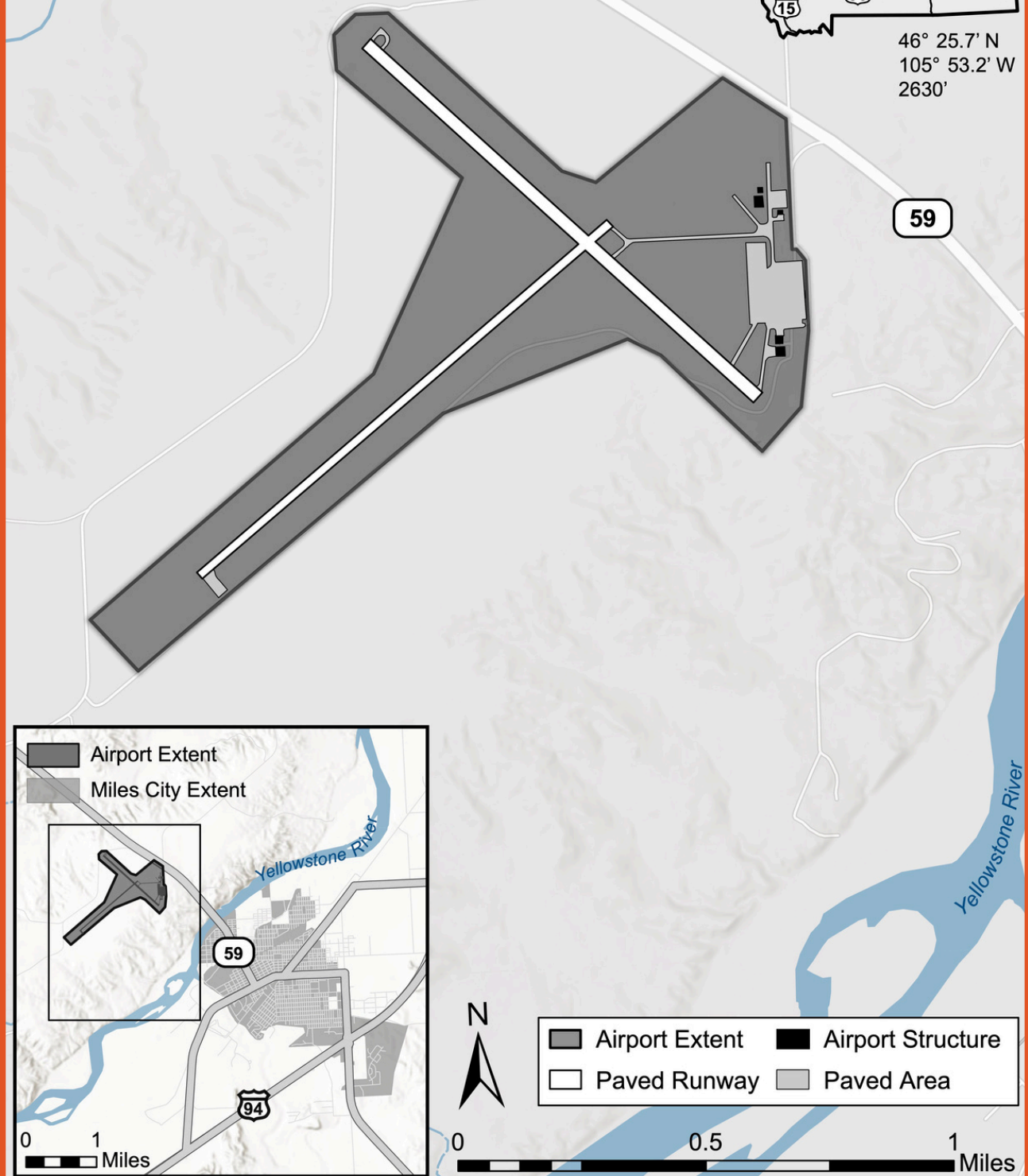


Frank Wiley Field Airport (MLS)

Miles City, MT



46° 25.7' N
105° 53.2' W
2630'



Airport Extent	Airport Structure
Paved Runway	Paved Area

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



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