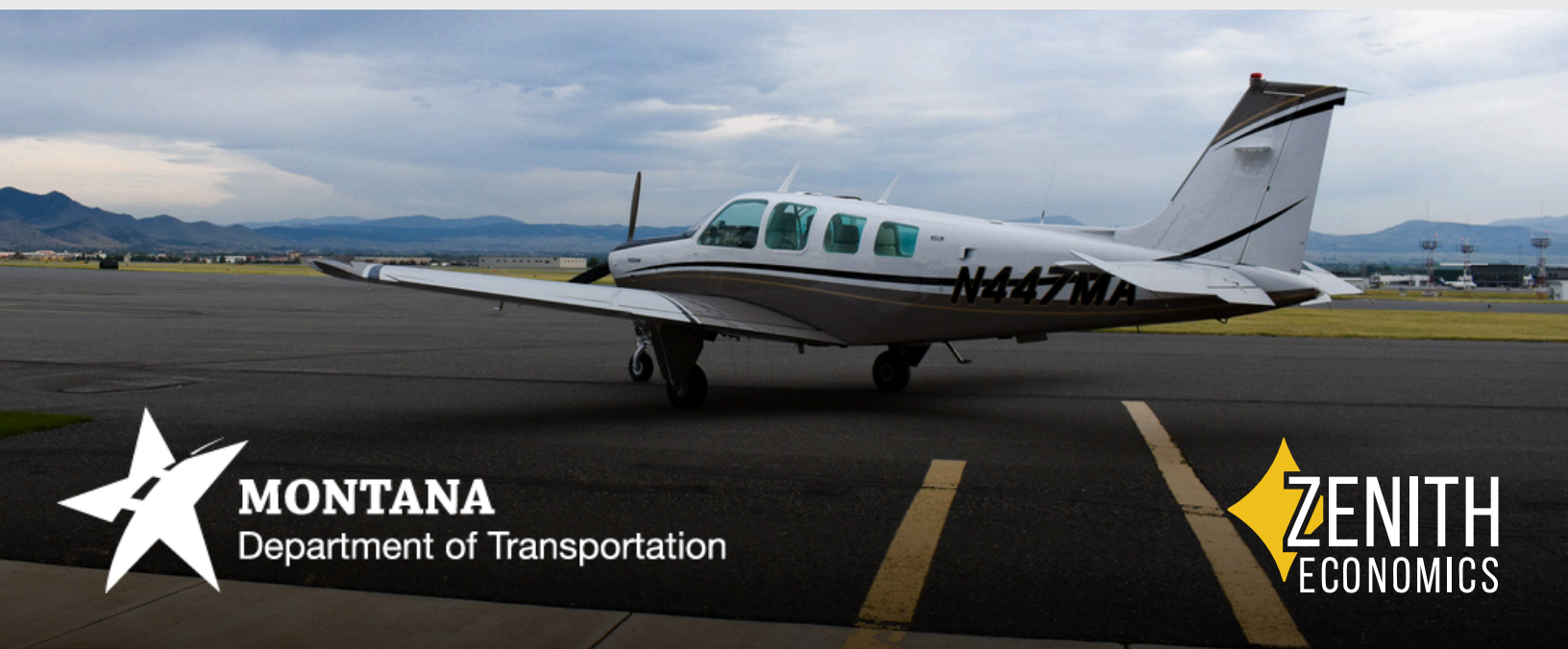




Economic Impact Study  
**Red Lodge Airport**  
2026



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Red Lodge Airport Impact

Red Lodge Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Red Lodge, in Carbon County in south-central Montana. The airfield features a primary runway of 4,000 feet (and two shorter turf runways) at the base of the Beartooth Mountains, near the scenic Beartooth Highway leading to Yellowstone National Park. The airport hosts an annual Labor Day fly-in, hospital benefit fundraisers, Wounded Warrior flights, and school fundraising flights. Charter operations and Fish, Wildlife and Parks aerial surveys also utilize the facility. The airport provides recreational and emergency access to this mountain resort community.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
2



**Economic Impact**  
\$358 Thousand



**Payroll**  
\$183 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:



### Community Events

Hosts Annual Labor Day Fly-In and Fundraising Events



### Airshows & Outreach

Supports Hospital Benefit Flights and School Fundraisers



### 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.

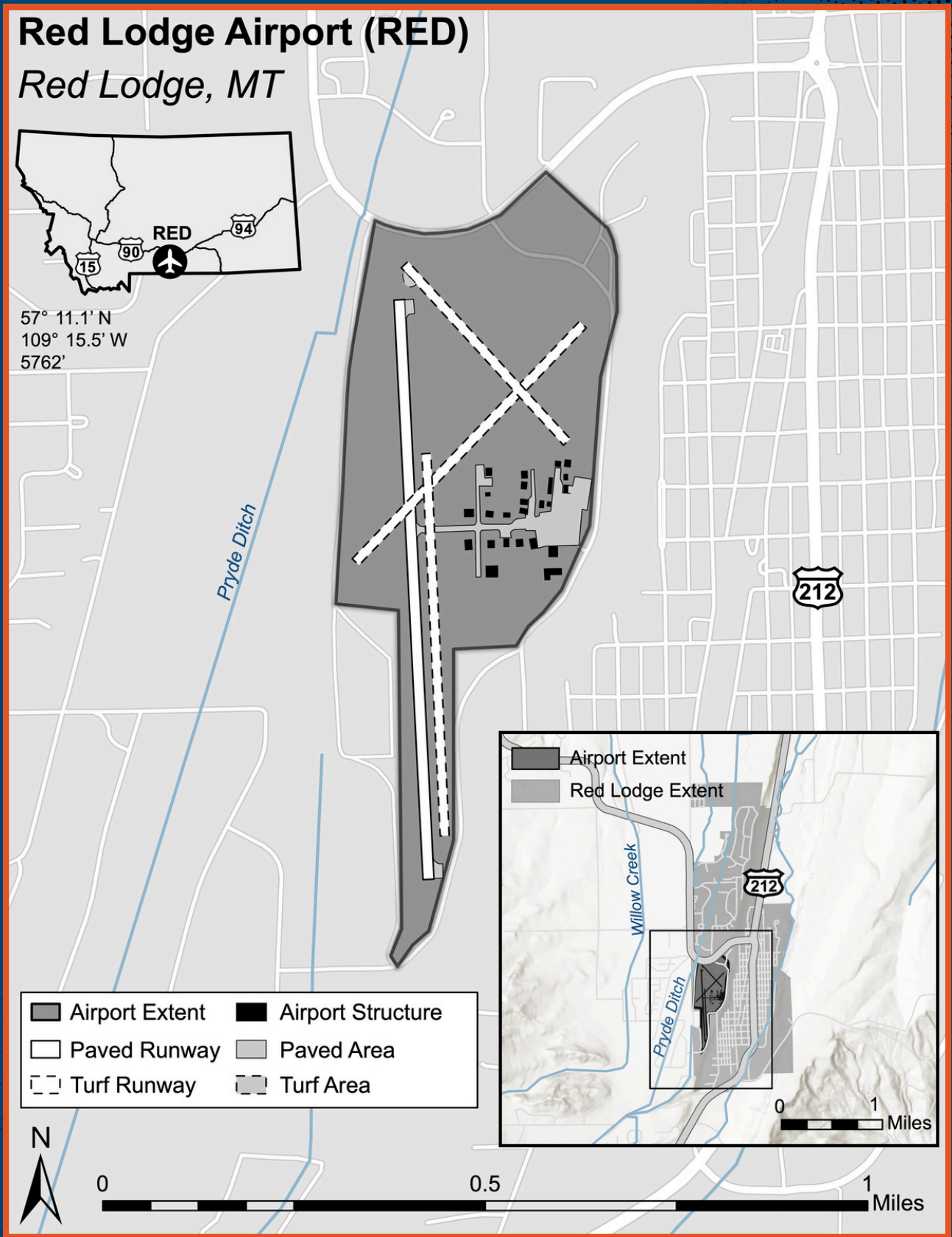


# Red Lodge Airport (RED)

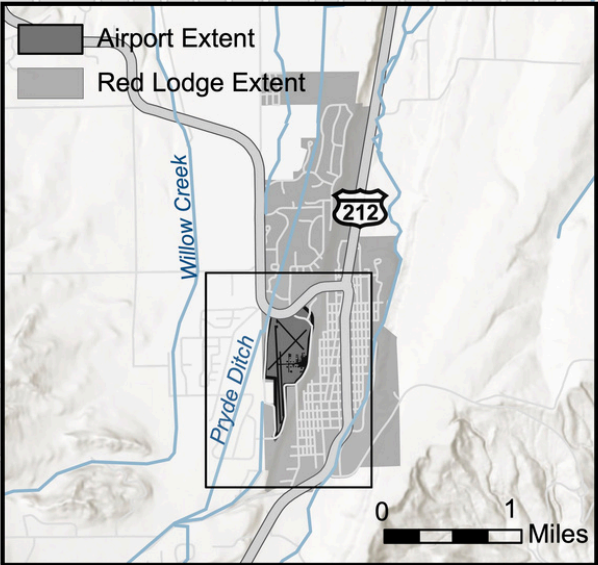
Red Lodge, MT



57° 11.1' N  
109° 15.5' W  
5762'



- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Airport Extent | Airport Structure |
| Paved Runway   | Paved Area        |
| Turf Runway    | Turf Area         |



AERONAUTICS DIVISION  
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