



Economic Impact Study  
**Tillitt Field Airport**  
2026

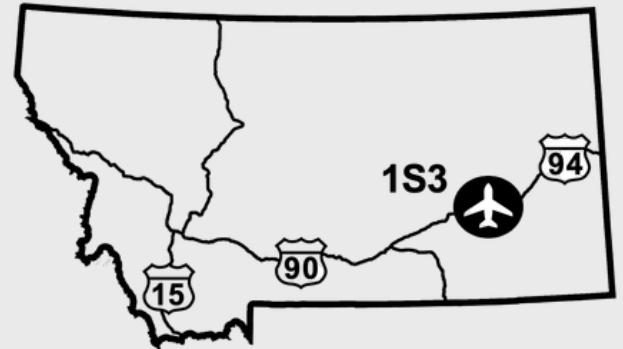


**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Tillitt Field Airport Impact

Tillitt Field is a public-use general aviation airport located three miles east of Forsyth, in Rosebud County in southeastern Montana along the Yellowstone River. The airfield features a primary runway of 4,799 feet and handles approximately 3,000 annual operations. The airport offers major airframe and powerplant maintenance, fuel, flight training, and an instrument approach. Airport activities include recreational flying, agricultural spraying, aerial inspections, search and rescue, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, police and law enforcement support, and flight training. The airport serves the Forsyth community and surrounding ranching and agricultural area, providing aviation access along the Interstate 94 corridor.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
1



**Economic Impact**  
\$188 Thousand



**Payroll**  
\$77 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



**Recreation and Education**  
Provides Pilot Training, Aviation Education, and access to recreational flying



**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.

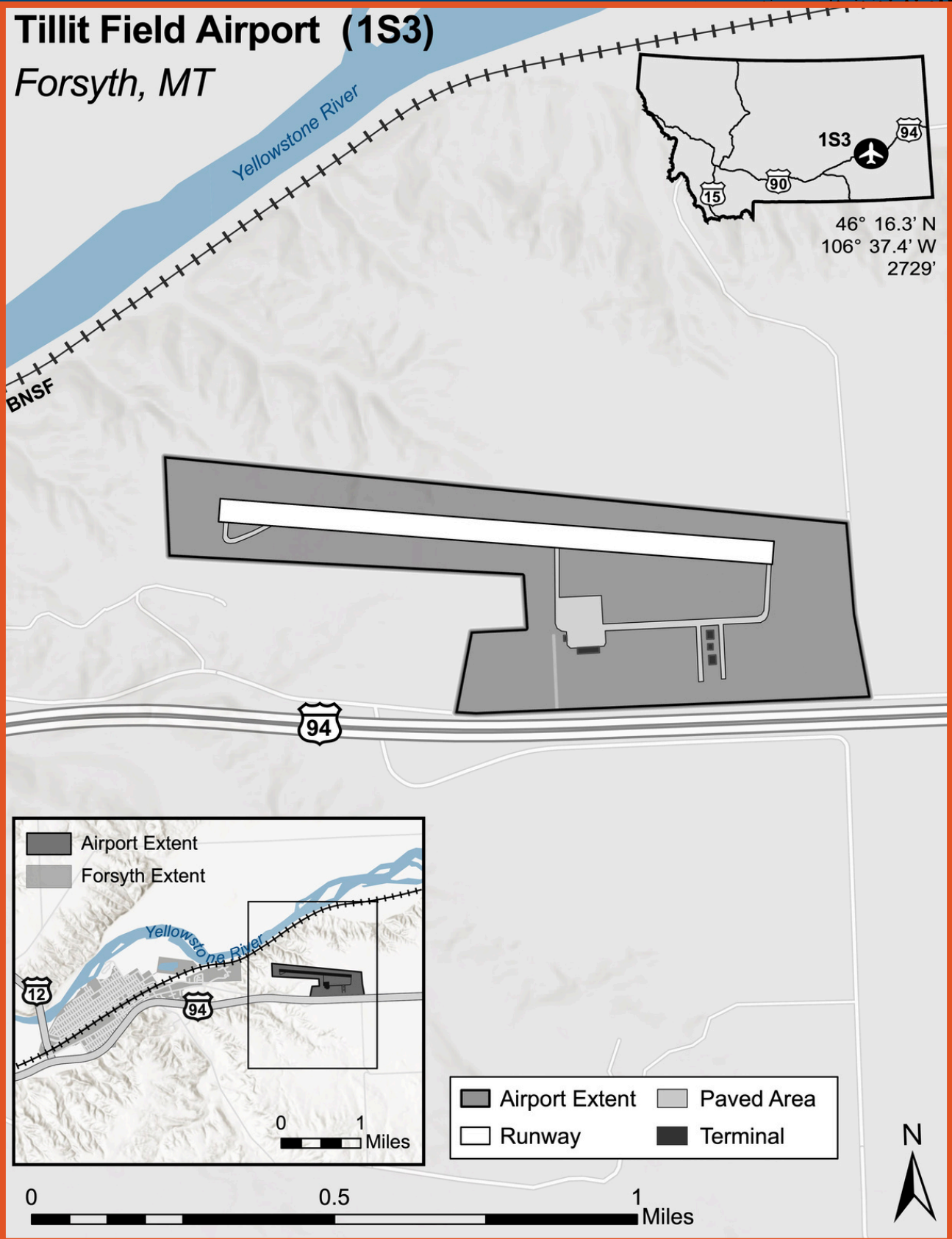
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment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



# Tillit Field Airport (1S3)

Forsyth, MT



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