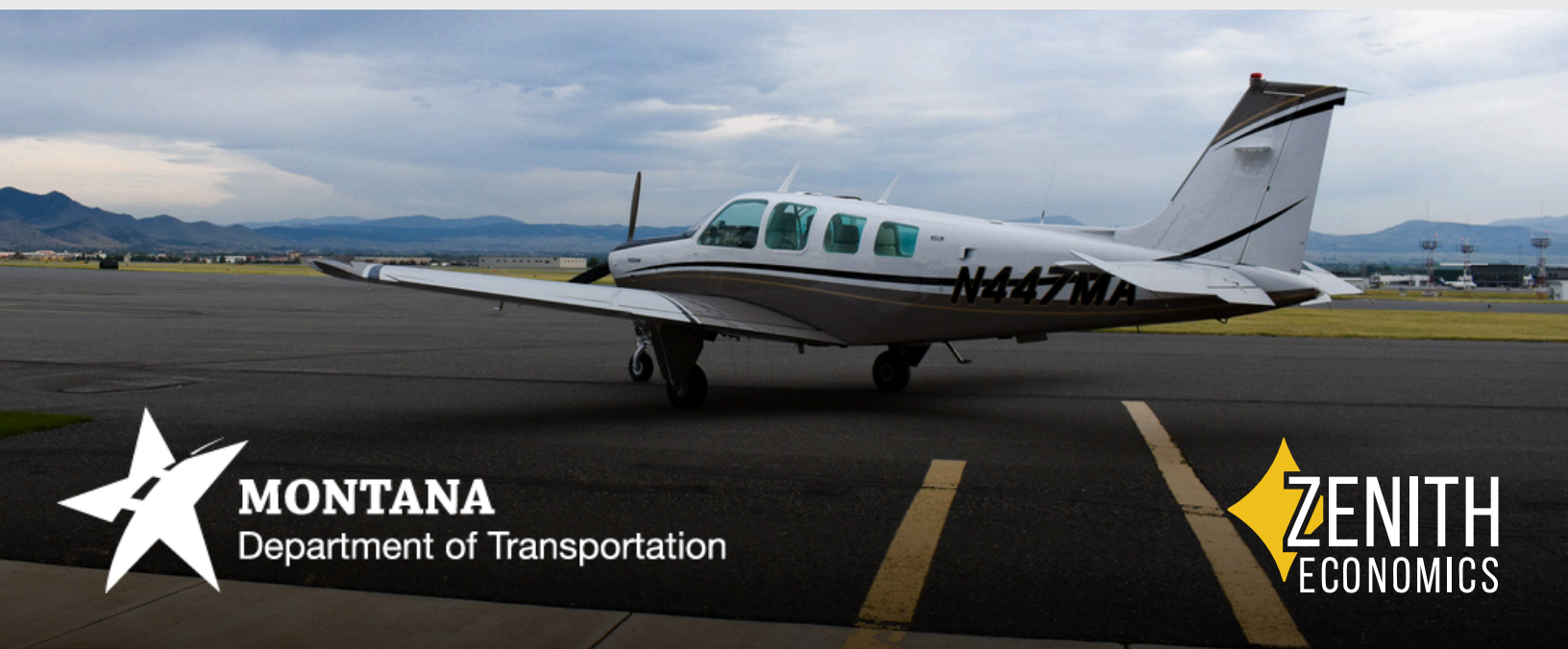




Economic Impact Study  
**Woltermann Memorial Airport**  
2026



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Woltermann Memorial Airport Impact

Woltermann Memorial Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Columbus, in Stillwater County in south-central Montana along the Yellowstone River corridor between Billings and Big Timber. The airfield features a primary runway of 3,800 feet and handles approximately 6,000 annual operations, with 27 based aircraft. The airport is home to Rickman Aircraft, which provides weekday repair services. Formerly known as Columbus Airport, the facility serves the Columbus community and surrounding agricultural and ranching area, providing general aviation access along the Interstate 90 corridor.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
5



**Economic Impact**  
\$666 Thousand



**Payroll**  
\$212 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:



**Emergency Medical Aviation**  
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



**Recreational Flying**  
Supports recreational flying and access



**Corporate/Business Activity**  
Supports Corporate and Business Activity

# 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.

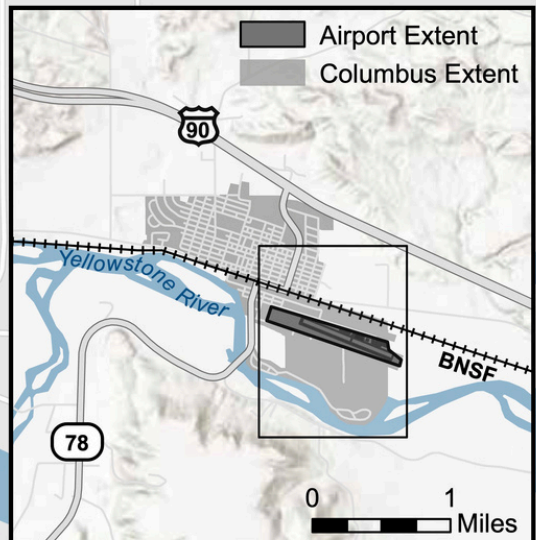
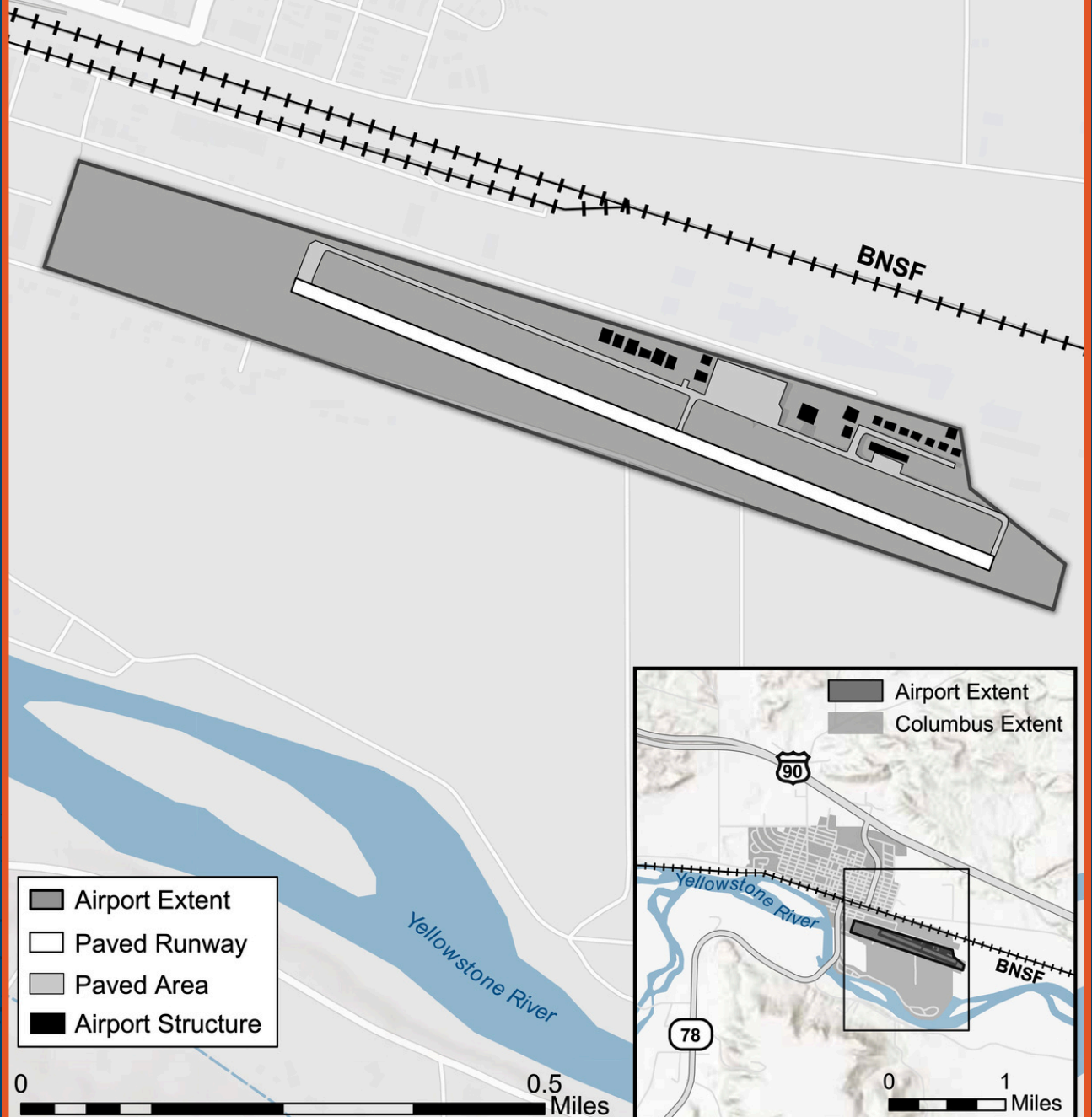


# Woltermann Memorial Airport (6S3)

Columbus, MT



45° 37.8' N  
109° 14.4' W  
3578'



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



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