



Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead helped break ground on the new terminal and hangar in Rock Springs on June 13.

Work starts on Sweetwater airport

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and WYDOT Director Bill Panos were on hand June 13 for the groundbreaking for a new general aviation terminal and hangar for the Rock Springs-Sweetwater County Airport.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation will contribute \$480,000 to the \$5.48 million project. The Wyoming Business Council is contributing \$3 million, and the Federal Aviation Administration has dedicated \$2 million to the project.

“WYDOT’s aviation division isn’t just about airplanes and runways,” Panos said. “It’s about partnering with our communities to extend our pro-business platform to the next level to enhance the state’s economy.”

The 24,750-square-foot hangar will be the largest single community hangar in Wyoming and will open in December. The 5,000-square-foot terminal will open shortly after.

“Gov. Matt Mead is a strong believer in the benefits of having a multi-modal transportation system in Wyoming,” Panos added. “He knows that state-of-



An artist's rendition of the terminal and hangar.

the-art, leading edge air service is a ‘must have’ for Wyoming’s transportation system, our business community and our citizens.”

These new structures replace a hangar originally built in the 1920s and a terminal originally built in the 1940s.

A 2013 economic impact study estimated the Rock Springs-Sweetwater County Airport contributes more than \$31 million to the state annually, including nearly \$14 million in local economic impact directly from airport administration, airport tenants and capital investments. The airport also generates nearly \$1 million annual in local and state aviation tax revenue.



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What's next:

Fly In & Pancake Breakfast

July 15
Upton

Aeronautics commission meeting

5300 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY, Auditorium
July 18
Time to be announced

Yellowstone Regional Airport Air Fair

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aug. 5
Yellowstone Regional Airport, 2101 Roger Sedam Drive, Cody, WY

Powell Wings & Wheels

Aug. 8-10
Powell

Fly In & Pancake Breakfast

Aug. 12
Hot Springs

Spot Landing Competition

Aug. 19
Cheyenne

Eclipse

Aug. 21

Fly In & Pancake Breakfast

Aug. 26
Pinedale

Jackson Hole Rendevous

Sept 9-7
Jackson

What's up?

Commission accepting applications for work group

The Wyoming Aeronautics Commission is taking applications from Wyoming aviation industry professionals to serve a two-year term on a task force responsible for revising the 2014 Wyoming Priority Rating Model for Project Evaluation. The task force will consist of three representatives from commercial service airports, three representatives from general aviation airports, one private-sector aviation consulting planner or engineer, two Aeronautics commissioners and two Wyoming Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division staff. The initial review is anticipated to take four to six months. In addition, a follow-up review and performance evaluation will be conducted one year after initial publication of the revised model.

The Priority Rating Model is a statutorily mandated tool used by the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission and division to rank airport improvement grant requests. The current model uses a variety of criteria to evaluate projects including project purpose, the component of the airport affected by the project and the size and role of the airport within the state aviation system. Projects with high-priority rankings are considered first for state funding when projects are approved.

Contact the Aeronautics Planning and Programming Program at 307-777-3956 for more information.

Forty attend WACIP workshop

The Aeronautics Division recently held three workshops to train airport staff and sponsors on the creation of the Wyoming



WYDOT Aeronautics Commissioner William DeVore helps out with one of the exercises at the commission training June 7.

Aviation Capital Improvement Program (WACIP). The workshops were held in Buffalo, Kemmerer and Laramie and included staff presentations from the Denver Airports District Office of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Wyoming Department of Transportation's Internal Review Office and WYDOT Aeronautics Division.

Nearly 40 people attended the six-hour workshops, including airport staff, board members and consulting firms. Workshop topics included an Aeronautics 101 session for participants new to the WACIP process, Uniform Grant Guidance for federal grant awards, an overview of the FAA's Airport Improvement Program as well as tips and advice for creating and preparing airport projects that will maintain a safe, efficient and integrated airport system.

Governor marks aviation month

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead signed a proclamation June 1 in support of General Aviation Appreciation Month.

In the proclamation, Mead recognized the impacts of aviation in the state, including job and other economic impacts.

A 2013 study of the economic impacts of aviation in Wyoming by ICF International, Kramer Aerotek and Jviation estimated that aviation supports 12,000 jobs and improves the efficiency of 38,000 jobs as well as generates \$1.4 billion in economic activity annually in the state.

The study also indicated that more than 500,000 people people who visit Wyoming annually arrive through the state's airports, and 90 percent of businesses in the state rely on commercial airline service.

General Aviation Appreciation Month is June each year.

Division starts regional aeronautics consortium

The Wyoming Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division has started a new Multi-State Aeronautics Division Consortium. The group will promote communication with staff of regional aeronautics divisions on common issues and



Boy's State delegates came to WYDOT and visited about WYDOT and our programs. Congratulations to Director of Transportation Sean Dougherty, Laramie; Aeronautics Administrator John Edwards, Laramie; Highway Patrol Colonel Ian Siegismund, Evanston; and Chief Engineer Trevor Knapp, Gillette. Our future is looking bright!

trending topics. Six other states in the region participated in the first teleconference providing a well-rounded experience for all. Topics included unmanned aerial vehicle, memorandums of agreement, outreach efforts and staff training. The next teleconferences will be held this fall. The division intends to further relationships with other states not only to benefit aviation within the state but also the region.

Cody plans 'air fair'

Cody will hold its annual "air fair" on Aug. 5.

The event promotes public awareness of and excitement about aviation. It is a public, non-profit venue that attracts several thousand people each year. It has had participation from the all areas of the industry and will continue to build and grow the success of the event.

Casper records 5.1 percent increase in passengers

Casper/Natrona County International Airport recorded

8,291 enplaned passengers in May, a 5.1 percent increase over May 2016.

"It's great to record and report our third consecutive monthly increase," said Glenn Januska, airport director.

To date, Januska said the airport is showing a 2.5 percent increase in enplaned passengers compared to the same period in May 2016.

Old Thermopolis Airport closes

The old Thermopolis Airport (THP) has been permanently closed and is marked accordingly.

Commissions trained on roles, responsibilities, procedures

The Aeronautics, Transportation and Public Safety commissions gathered in Cheyenne on June 6-7 for training.

Topics included roles and responsibilities of a commissioner, effective meetings, parliamentary procedures, ethics, anti-discrimination and workplace violence.

The first 90 days

By Amy Surdam,
Aeronautics Administrator



Aeronautics has been a new world to me. It's been enjoyable to learn a new field and meet the people who are so passionate about it. In the first 90 days, I've learned acronyms, programs, policies and budgets. I've learned there are many layers to Aeronautics with different thoughts and views about the future. Most importantly, I've learned I have more to learn.

I have met people from all over the state and nation from pilots, educators and government servants to airport managers, elected officials and community members. I have many more to meet and get to know – especially in my own backyard. While I have had the privilege of traveling the state with some colleagues, there are many in WYDOT and the Aeronautics Division I haven't had the opportunity to know in more depth. It's a busy place with crazy schedules and an entire state to cover. The people who work at WYDOT Aeronautics are the best in the nation. These professionals are experts, passionate and second to none. I look forward to cultivating more relationships in the state, WYDOT and in my own division.

Telling our story has been one of my focuses and will continue to take a front seat. We have started a newsletter, Facebook page, Twitter account

and are working on a video and presentation that we will be able to use with upcoming outreach events. This fall we will host an aeronautics update for stakeholders and interested parties. From there we will engage with communities, schools and others to share our message: Aviation is important for Wyoming.

Wyoming is not immune to the 1,500-hour rule and pilot shortage. We have started conversations with Northwest College, Casper College and the University of Wyoming. Questions we ponder include: how we can grow our own pilots, partner more and inspire our youth to become pilots and support staff for aviation?

At the forefront of my mind, and likely many of yours, has been identifying an independent funding source for air service. After many conversations, brain storming sessions and research, I reached out to stakeholders to organize a group to help identify and educate others on potential solutions. Some of the parties involved are the Wyoming Business Council, ENDOW (Economically Needed Diversity Options for Wyoming), the Wyoming Business Alliance, members of the legislature, JHAir and WAOA (Wyoming Airport Operators Association). I look forward to reporting our

discussions and progress.

Finally, I've been touring our commercial and general aviation airports. So far, I've visited 18 of the 40. It's been enlightening to visit each airport and community. Every airport has a different personality, different goals and different uses. For example, Cody's terminal is filled with local goods and wildlife, while Laramie's terminal is full of the bucking bronco and brown and gold. Perhaps the most surprising to date has been the airplane museum in Greybull where there are rows and rows of retired aircrafts on a massive runway. I look forward to my visits to the remaining airports.

There's more: Participating as executive staff, working with the Transportation and Aeronautics Commissions, and in exploring options for efficiencies have been wonderful opportunities I am excited to continue.

I'd like to thank everyone for all of their support and encouragement in these first 90 days. It's truly been an honor to serve the State of Wyoming, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you!