



The journey

By Amy Surdam, Aeronautics Administrator

Cody, Wyoming. Why have I never visited you before now? I've lived in Wyoming since 1985 when my dad was stationed to Warren AFB and have done my fair share of traveling the state... or so I thought. Leadership Wyoming opened my eyes to many areas of the state that I had never traveled before, and I literally fell in love with Wyoming during that experience. I thought I'd seen it all, but was I wrong. I had never seen Cody.

Cody welcomed me in a very calm and non-pretentious manner. Every building, every sidewalk, every restaurant I observed in my short visit was perfectly kept up and loved. The scenery was as beautiful as the people.

It was no surprise to me this gentle, yet fiercely protective love spilled over to the Yellowstone Regional Airport (YRA). The big dogs showed up to our casual breakfast at The Irma. Every male at the table had a first name that started with B, but don't think for a second that makes them the "B" team. Their passion for aviation in Wyoming and decades of experience in the industry is to be commended. Despite the terrible Irish joke and awkward moment with Bucky, we had a lovely conversation about



WYDOT Aeronautics Administrator Amy Surdam has breakfast with aeronautics experts from the Cody area at the historic Irma April 27 as part of her tour of the state's aeronautics facilities. The famed Irma was built by William "Buffalo Bill" F. Cody in 1902, which he named for his daughter.

Read more on back



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What's next:

WACIP workshop

519 Emerald St., Kemmerer, WY

June 8

9:30-11:30 a.m., airport manager 101

1-4:30 p.m., workshop and audit

WACIP workshop

1558 N 23rd St., Laramie, WY
June 14

9:30-11:30 a.m., airport manager 101

1-4:30 p.m., workshop and audit

Fly In & Pancake Breakfast

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., June 14
Afton Municipal Airport

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

Aeronautics commission meeting & WAOA Annual Conference

Afton, WY

Details to come

Sept. 20-22

Time to be announced

What's up?

Fly WY hosts #flylegend contest

Check out the Fly WY contest the Cheyenne fixed base operator Legend AeroServe is up to.

The company is giving away prizes to pilots who fly to the most Wyoming airports from May-July.

The first place winner will get a Lightspeed Sierra Aviation Headset. A GoPro HERO5, a \$100 Sporty's Pilot Shop giftcard, an official Wyoming Traveler's Journal and map of all Wyoming airports are also prizes available.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/FlyWYandWin> for more information.

Yaffa selected for advisory committee

Booz Allen Hamilton along with Metron Aviation, R. F. Marchi Aviation Consulting, Jviation and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University are conducting an Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) project to develop a reference guide titled "Common Performance Metrics for Airport Infrastructure and Operational Planning".

The project will use an advisory committee of eight to 10 members with extensive experience in the use of performance metrics for decision-making in these focus areas. Wyoming Aeronautics Planning and Programming Manager, Christy Yaffa, was selected to be on the advisory board.

The objective of the reference guide is to support improved efficiency and decision-making at a variety of airports/airport systems.

The reference guide will include metrics for the following focus areas where airports, the FAA and airlines have shared interests in:

- Relevant aspects of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen)
- Overall system issues and their variability (weather events and proposed changes in aircraft operations/schedules)
- Safety issues in surface movement
- Other airfield safety issues
- Airport geometry impact on operations
- Gate management and ramp tower operations

Powell art teacher brings aviation to classroom

Powell High School art instructor Jim Gilman and about 80 Powell High School students recently completed a project they started in August 2016 to construct a one-twelfth scale model of the space shuttle.

The project involved students from a variety of disciplines including Computer-aided Design (CAD), wood working, welding, textiles, graphics and robotics. There are more than 16,500 individual tiles glued onto the shuttle for an authentic look. The robotics part is just amazing to watch and was extremely complicated for the students to engineer, both in mechanics and programming. The cargo bay doors open and close every 87 minutes throughout the day. Visit YouTube for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXGezz9QVNU>.

Aeronautics provides additional routes during road closures

After road closures were required in the Wind River Canyon, Rick Patton, aviation planner with GDA Engineers out of Cody, reached out to WYDOT



Skydivers from Mile-Hi Skydiving Center based in Longmont, Colorado, kicked off the groundbreaking for the new passenger terminal on the morning of April 25 over Jerry Olsen Field.

personnel to offer an alternative option for travelers.

Patton said that it can take about 5.5 hours to circumvent the canyon as alternate routes through Casper and Buffalo are more than 330 miles.

Patton said the new airport in Thermopolis is strategically placed to provide an additional transportation link to the area. It is also the closest airport to the canyon and is pretty much ready for any emergency.

Aviation provides an alternative to those impacted who live in Thermopolis, Shoshoni, Cody or the Big Horn Basin particularly in winter, he said.

Ground broken on new Cheyenne passenger terminal

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead spoke at the groundbreaking for the new passenger terminal in Cheyenne on April 25. Mead said the airport in Cheyenne contributes to 2,000 jobs and \$200 million economically in the

region.

“This new terminal is not just 26,000 square feet,” he said. “It is curb appeal. It is a loud statement for the city and for the state that we are moving forward, and we believe in ourselves and invest in ourselves.”

Airport awarded funds for solar project

The Rock Springs-Sweetwater County Airport received \$94,216 from Rocky Mountain Power’s Blue Sky to fund a new 30-kilowatt solar array at the airport.

The project will be part of the new general aviation terminal and hangar facility that is scheduled to open for operations in April 2018. The airport serves nearly 17,000 aircraft operations each year, according to a media release from Rocky Mountain Power.

“This solar array will provide our leadership and staff with a sense of pride for years to come,” said Devon Brubaker,

Rock Springs-Sweetwater County Airport manager, as part of the media release. “This pride will be demonstrated not only to visitors to the airport but also at all community events held at the airport.”

The project was one of three funded from a total of \$382,000 awarded.

Gillette transitions from ASEP to fully commercially supported

Gillette has participated in the Air Service Enhancement Program (ASEP) for SkyWest service to Denver and/or Salt Lake City since 2008. Recently, the community opted to discontinue their one round trip to Salt Lake City supported by the ASEP and local funding. In return, SkyWest will add a third round trip to Denver on a 50 seat jet starting July 1, 2017. All Denver service will now operate “At-Risk” to the airline and will require no funding support from the local community or the State going forward. This is a huge win for air service in the state, and the ASEP.

WYDOT pilot position open

The Aeronautics Division is looking for a new pilot.

If you or someone you know may be interested in this position, all state of Wyoming job openings are available through A&I’s website.





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U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi visited Laramie and Cody in April to meet with local leaders about the Essential Air Service program.

From the front

how amazing Cody is doing with air service and why.

Put simply: Yellowstone Regional Airport is thriving.

Their reasons: a dedicated airport team, a dedicated community and a little help from the government.

Let's look at the numbers.

Since 2011 airline passengers have increased by 44.3 percent. This has helped contribute to more than \$42 million of annual economic impact to the community and 460 local jobs (WYDOT 2013 Economic Impact Study). YRA has more than 40,000 enplanements in 2016

and continues to grow with a record breaking April to Salt Lake City.

In his first budget draft, President Trump has proposed eliminating Essential Air Service (EAS) funding. Cody and Laramie are the only two towns in Wyoming that receive this funding. If EAS funding were cut, SkyWest Airlines could not sustain year round service to Cody. This would result in a loss of winter air service and a reduction in summer air service. Tourists destined for Yellowstone National Park would fly into out-of-state airports with no guarantee of visiting Cody. All of this would affect the local

economy and result in job losses.

U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyoming, visited both Laramie and Cody in April and met with local leadership to examine the implications if this budget cut were to pass. The good news: It's early in the process and the program has a lot of rural support.

Despite this potential change, Bob Hooper and team remain focused and committed to protecting what they have worked so hard to create and grow.

"There was a day that I thought 40,000 enplanements was pie in the sky, and now we are there," he said. "We need air service in Cody. We need it."