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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer travel counts up at Yellowstone Airport

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT — Yellowstone Airport at West Yellowstone, Montana experienced a 5 percent increase in travelers during the overall summer season. During the period from June to August, 2010, 6,613 people boarded or deplaned flights at Yellowstone Airport, compared with 6,299 during the same period in 2009.

Airport manager, Tony Bean, says that the increase is not only good for the airport but also a real boon to the region. "Everyone that lands here has to stay somewhere nearby. Whether their destination is Yellowstone Park, Big Sky, Ennis or West Yellowstone itself, a filled seat coming in represents income to the regional economy," says Bean.

SkyWest Airlines will continue to offer three daily commercial flights via Salt Lake City through September. The airport will be open to private aircraft through mid-November but is closed then due to weather conditions. "We typically reopen to general aviation in May and then SkyWest resumes commercial travel sometime around June 1," says Bean.

Community outreach and a marketing campaign will continue through the coming winter and spring to encourage regional businesses to remind customers who are booking travel for the 2011 summer season that Yellowstone Airport offers the closest access to Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky, the Gallatin River Corridor, Ennis and Virginia City, and Island Park. Information about the airport will also be included in travel guides that are sent to potential visitors.

Services at the airport include rental cars and ground transportation, a Fixed Base of Operation (FBO) with both general aviation and jet fueling services, and a restaurant. The facility is owned and operated by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) code for the airport is WYS.

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