

## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report January 2009

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### **Aviation Emergency Services Take to Skies to Support Flood Response**

Last week WSDOT Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator, Tom Peterson, was stationed at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at Camp Murray to help respond to statewide flooding issues. The Washington Rescue Coordination Center was activated inside the EOC and air resources were immediately queried for availability.

After the weather cleared and the flying conditions

improved, WSDOT launched aircraft from Washington Air Search and Rescue and Civil Air Patrol across the western half of the state with digital cameras to help assess the transportation system and other critical areas. In all over 1200 images were captured, processed and distributed to WSDOT Emergency Managers, the SEOC and FEMA.



## **WSDOT Aviation Installs Dedicated Camera at Hyak**

A new camera is mounted on the WSDOT's Hyak Maintenance facilities communication tower. Hyak is located two miles east of the summit of Snoqualmie pass at 2,600 feet. Snoqualmie Pass is a frequently traveled route for general aviation pilots who want to pass over the Cascade Mountain Range. Snoqualmie Pass is normally the one area that has the greatest weather obstruction challenges and poses the greatest danger to pilots. Having a dedicated camera at this point will enable pilots to observe real time weather conditions, which will help them in their overall flight planning and, consequently, improve flight safety. The Hyak camera provides six views— northwest, west-northwest, west, southwest, southeast and east. Images are updated every 15 minutes.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/WebCam/Hyak.htm>

## **Obama Administration Puts Hold on General Aviation Security Proposal (LASP)**

Recently, White House Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, issued a memorandum ordering all U.S. government agencies "to stop implementing any pending rules and regulations issued by the Bush administration until the Obama administration has an opportunity to review and sign off on them. Per the memorandum, any proposed or final regulation cannot be published until it has been approved by an agency head appointed by President Obama. The memorandum also advises extending for 60 days the date of regulations in the Federal Register that have not yet been implemented." Effectively, this memorandum will result in a temporary withdrawal of the LASP until it has been reviewed by representatives of the Obama Administration. General aviation airports will have additional opportunities to determine the financial impacts of LASP resulting from proposed security requirements.

## **Next Aviation Planning Council Meeting: Feb 5 in Richland**

On Thursday, February 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., members of the Governor-appointed Aviation Planning Council will meet to continue work on the final phase of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). The meeting will take place at the Courtyard Marriott in Richland:

Courtyard Marriott  
480 Columbia Point Drive  
Richland, WA

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Aviation Planning Council, as directed by state legislation (ESSB 5121), was appointed by Gov. Chris Gregoire in July 2007. The Council's purpose is to use LATS Phases I and II findings, and include public input, to determine:

- How best to meet commercial and general aviation capacity needs.
- Which regions of the state are in need of improvement regarding the matching of existing, or projected, airport facilities and the long-range capacity needs at airports within the region expected to reach capacity before 2030.
- Recommendations regarding the placement of future commercial or general aviation facilities to meet the need for improved aviation planning in the region.

More information about LATS is available at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS).

## **US Air Force Comes to Camp Murray to Train Search and Rescue Planners**

Recently the Inland Search and Rescue (SAR) Planning Course was conducted at Camp Murray by the National Search and Rescue School. The object of this graduate level training was to prepare search managers to take on the critical task of the planning function for extended SAR operations. The course covered current SAR theory as well as statistical methods for determining where and how long to search in the absence of clues. The class was made up of paid Deputy from Sheriff's departments, military personnel as well as SAR volunteers. Two of the students traveled from Yuma Arizona and Anchorage Alaska. During the week they were exposed to both Air and Ground SAR theory as well as conducted a two day table top SAR exercise putting what they learned to use.

