



FACT SHEET

Pearson Airfield

HISTORY

- Oldest active airport in the United States (1905-present) and the home to many aviation firsts.

OWNERSHIP, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- The runway is owned by both the City of Vancouver and the National Park Service. The multi-owner situation creates the need to establish agreements to ensure the airport is functional, that all necessary maintenance is performed and that all activity is acceptable for both agencies.
- Pearson Field is operated as an Enterprise Fund which means it is completely self-supporting and receives no funding from the City of Vancouver.

PEARSON FIELD AND THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING

- As currently designed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Pearson Field will have little to no impact on the Columbia River Crossing.
- Pearson Field's airspace is bordered on the south by the north bank of the Columbia River. All Pearson flight traffic must stay to the north of that border.
- The Federal Aviation Administration has already approved a bridge structure as tall as the current bridge towers (242 feet). The FAA has had no objections to the bridge proposed in the FEIS. The proposed bridge is lower than the existing bridge towers.

A VALUABLE REGIONAL ASSET

- Pearson Field provides a positive economic impact of \$38 million for the City of Vancouver and Clark County, according to a study contracted by the Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Pearson Field offers the only instrument approach to an airport in Clark County. This ability provides for the safety and welfare of the 450,000 citizens during any natural or technical disaster. Emergency supplies can be flown in and staged at Pearson Field for any emergency situation

Of the 175 aircraft based at Pearson Field, 30% are corporate-owned. Others that are privately owned are used for business travel. 28% of the aircraft based at Pearson are owned in Oregon.

Pearson Air Museum, in concert with Pearson Field provides a positive impact on youth through the Museum's after school educational programs and aviation summer camps. These programs provide practical applications to aviation, science and math education.

TYPES OF OPERATIONS AT PEARSON

- **Business Travel.** About 30% of the aircraft based at Pearson Field are corporate or non-profit owned.
- **Pipeline Patrols.** Pipeline patrols are flown daily from Pearson Field. These flights identify possible leaks which may lead to loss of public utility services or environmental damage.
- **Medical patient transport (non-emergency).** Pearson Field is used because these flights are not compatible with PDX air traffic operations, as well as the proximity of Pearson Field to the city centers and hospitals.
- **Disaster relief.** Pearson Field serves as a staging area for equipment and supplies that may be flown in during a disaster. Additionally, Pearson Field has the only instrument approach in Clark County, and therefore is the ONLY airport in Clark County available during inclement weather.
- **Search and Rescue.** The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has a squadron and one airplane based at Pearson Field. The local squadron provides science, aviation, and leadership training and mentorship to youths from 12 to 21.
- **Environmental Patrols.** There are several aircraft based at Pearson Field and several more that use Pearson Field to perform environmental patrols and provide over-flight surveys. These flights are often done by non-profit organizations and are common along the rivers and even in wilderness areas.
- **Aerial Surveying.** Several aircraft based at Pearson Field do aerial survey work. That information is provided to cities, counties, etc. for their GIS mapping system as well as big companies like Rand McNally for their maps.
- **Aerial Photography.** Aerial photography is important to businesses, large and small. Many large construction projects hire aerial photographers to make high resolution images to verify construction compliance and for quality control.
- **Angel Flight.** This non-profit organization provides free air transportation for patients receiving medical care that is not otherwise available in their local community.
- **Major Aircraft Maintenance.** The Fixed Base Operator (maintenance shop and flight school) located at Pearson Field provides maintenance services for aircraft all over the region.
- **Emergency Medical Transport.** Typically emergency medical flights are accomplished with helicopters and fly directly to local hospitals.
- **Pilot Training.** The Fixed Base Operator located at Pearson Field has a flight school that provides over-flights (including sightseeing), media flights, personal aerial photo flights, etc.
- **Missionary Flights/Training.** There are a couple of missionary aviation organizations at Pearson Field who work closely with seminaries and other outreach organizations to properly train and prepare pilots for flights into third world countries.
- **Personal Transportation.** Many people commute with privately-owned aircraft based at Pearson Field.
- **Recreational Aviation.** There are several aircraft based at Pearson Field that fly for recreation.

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