

Rare Weather Event at Yellowstone Airport (WYS)



Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

The average snowfall in September for West Yellowstone is approximately 1.1". However, there was a heavy snow-fall that occurred across Montana beginning Friday, September 27th and ending on Monday September 30th that far exceeded the monthly average in only four days. Although a rare weather event for this time of year, it did not interrupt Delta Connection dba SkyWest airlines from completing scheduled air service between Yellowstone Airport (WYS) and Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC).

Yellowstone Airport commenced snow removal operations Sunday morning starting with the highest priority areas. Priority one areas consist of the full length of runway 1/19 (100' wide), a direct taxi route to the commercial apron, and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)/mutual aid access areas. Priority two areas consist of the remaining portions of runway 1/19 and secondary taxiways. Priority three areas consist of the remaining portions of the aprons.

All three priority areas were clear of snow prior to the arrival of SkyWest flight 4302. This is the first known snow removal operation event during the seasonal air carrier service at Yellowstone Airport. More snow removal may be required this year, as airline service has been extended nearly two weeks beyond its historic September 30th end date. The last day for air carrier service at Yellowstone Airport for the 2019 season October 13th.

