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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIRPORT SETS NEW MARKS FOR APPRECIATION DAY

For one day, Pocatello Regional Airport had more air traffic than many larger airports, including San Diego, Oakland, Portland, Reno and Boise. And for one day, the airport and its tenants provided everyone the opportunity to experience flight.

Airport Appreciation Day, held June 25, 2011, was a huge success according to the volunteers, the statistics and the happy faces and positive feedback of the participants. The statistics are pretty impressive. Almost 3,000 people came through the gate, up from 2,000 last year. Almost 700 people took rides provided by AvCenter, Inc., Utah Helicopter, Inc., and through the Young Eagle program of the Experimental Aircraft Association. And there were 681 total aircraft operations for the day, making Pocatello Regional Airport the 38th busiest airport among the 508 airports nationwide.

“We were very pleased with the event,” said General Aviation Committee co-chair Ruth Jackson, adding, “Everything ran very smoothly, the weather was very nice and attendance was up.” Jackson says the military aircraft announcing their arrival to the community a day earlier helped build enthusiasm for the event. “Everyone tells us they made a lot of noise flying over the community before they landed,” she said.

Airport Manager David Allen was also very pleased. “Our goal was to create a positive experience at the airport and in the air. Judging from the thousands of smiles and the hundreds of comments we received, I’d say we easily achieved that goal,” Allen said. Allen especially wanted to recognize the Air Traffic Controllers, the Airport Maintenance staff and the committee volunteers for the success of the event. “The level of professionalism by all those involved was incredibly high. That was instrumental in making everything go smoothly and safely.”

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