

**Report Regarding Forest Service Spending on Rural Airstrips  
November 2017**

The Forest Service agrees that recreational aviation is a valued use of Forest Service land. When properly managed, rural airstrips are a low-impact way to provide for recreational activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. Rural airstrips provide critical access to the backcountry for law enforcement and emergency personnel. In recognition of the importance of rural airstrips, we worked closely with the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) to update our rural airstrip inventory in 2016. The inventory is a critical tool that helps us identify the unique characteristics and maintenance needs of each of the airstrips under our stewardship. RAF is a valuable partner and we welcome the skill, capacity, and the continuing engagement of their volunteers and resources to complete the inventory.

Although funding was identified in our fiscal year (FY) 2015 and FY 2016 appropriations bills for rural airstrip maintenance, the Forest Service did not have a mechanism to track expenditures towards this project-level purpose. For FY 2017, we provided direction to the field to ensure that the intention of the Congressional directive is met, and identified a mechanism through which we can allocate, track, and report expenditures in support of rural airstrip maintenance.

Based on the maintenance needs identified in the inventory of rural airstrips the FY 2017 regional allocations are as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Rural Airstrip Allocation</b>
1	\$165,000
3	\$120,000
4	\$180,000
5	\$7,500
6	\$165,000
9	\$37,500
10	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>