Bill Ables
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Wallowa County Pilots Association
Oct. 28, 2026

Oregon Dept. of Aviation Board of Directors
Tony Beach, Oregon Airports Manager

Board Members & Tony,

I'm writing these comments, concerns and solutions regarding the Joseph State airport (KJSY) located here in NE Oregon. The Wallowa County Pilots Association (WCPA) has been in existence since 2010, and its membership fluctuates between 70-80 members. We are a chapter of the Idaho Aviation Association (IAA), and we assist in maintaining airstrips and airports located throughout NE Oregon and Idaho. We also have a long-lasting agreement with the USFS that allows us to maintain our area airstrips to ensure that they are safe for use by general aviation and commercial pilots alike.

Fuel Availability at KJSY:

> The users of the fueling service were given approximately 2-weeks' notice that no more fuel was going to be purchased by the state and delivered to KJSY. When it's gone, it's gone.
>
> (There was no collaboration with Wallowa County leadership or the users of the fueling service before this decision was made by ODAV)
>
> All aircraft flying into KJSY to refuel (unfortunately not all pilots check NOTAMS) and the local tenants with aircraft at KJSY must now fly to Enterprise (8S4) to refuel.
>
> Approximately 60% of aviation accidents occur in the landing and initial take off phases of flight. Whether you a hangar tenant at KJSY or a transient pilot needing to refuel, hopping from KJSY to 8S4, roughly 6-miles, puts any aircraft entirely in these two phases of flight.

Please, be honest and transparent as to why no more fuel will be available at KJSY (even temporarily). The fuel tank has a clean bill of health until 2045…The DEQ permit requirements may not exist at KJSY…A nearby FBO would like to start a conversation with ODAV about the possibility of ordering fuel for both their operation at 8S4 and Joseph.

Please, there is a solution, and with honest and transparent collaboration, we want to be a part of that solution.

Seasonal Maintenance Position at KJSY:

My understanding of the maintenance position at KJSY is that it will now be termed and funded as a Seasonal Position.

As you know maintenance is crucial at all airports, but here in NE Oregon's snow zone, plowing the runway can be needed for 4 to 6 months of the year.

Volunteers are available here to do much, if not all, the work required at KJSY.

At a recent meeting at KJSY, Tony confirmed that ODAV can use volunteers and provides training and forms for volunteers.

At a recent meeting at KJSY, Tony also told us he would investigate the marking of the powerlines adjacent to the south end of runway 33.

Please furnish us with the required forms and any such training so we can be ready for the upcoming snow season.

Will ODAV be posting the new Seasonal Maintenance Position as required?

Again, there are solutions out there and with honest and transparent collaboration, we can and want to be a part of that solution.

I hope I can expect the above listed concerns and questions be addressed by your staff and your responses forwarded to me so I can share them with the members of our group. I've listed my email at the end of this letter.

As the sponsor of KJSY, ODAV has been making some steady improvements utilizing federal monies (AWOS upgrade and taxiway patch work of late) and as regular users of KJSY, we very much appreciated it! Sincerely,

Bill Ables, President
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