



JOIN AAC Montana Pilots Assoc. & Alberta Flying Farmers for a Work Session

History

In 1982 several representatives from the United States and Canada approached the International Border Commission to request permission to build the Del Bonita Airport. The following organizations were part of the creation of this airport: The Montana Aeronautics board, the Montana Pilots Association and The Montana and Alberta Flying Farmers. Part of the strip would be located within the 20' of the "International Boundary Strip" which is regulated by the International Boundary Commission (IBC) since 1925.

Permission was granted in November 1984 and officially named "Whetstone International" after the Chairman of the IBC at the time. The Aeronautics Division supervised the construction, engineering and maintenance of the strip and it is listed in FAA and Transport Canada documents as the owner and manager.

The creation of the airport was a joint venture by the US and Canada under very friendly terms and conditions. The IBC's role was simply a matter of granting permission with no oversight role in the management of the airport.

The runway lies directly on top of, and parallel to the US and Canadian border. It is 66' wide and 4440' long, with the southern boundary of the strip 10' within the US border and 56' within the Canadian border. Because of these dimensions, 20' of the entire southern portion of the runway lies within the "International boundary". Historical details provided by Debbie Alke, Administrator, Montana Aeronautics division

The Work . . .

The work entails parties from both sides of the border walking the strip, gopher bombing the gopher holes and filling them in to prevent badgers from digging them out and

creating holes big enough to damage aircraft. The fence is checked, poles are replaced if necessary, and grass is mowed. Aircraft from both Montana and Alberta fly in without having to clear customs either way; we are in no man's land and both the Canada Customs Agency and the US Customs and Border Patrol are notified and participate.

Pilot information:

When landing at **Del Bonita** you have not entered or departed either country, therefore you can also depart to your country of origin without having to deal with customs.

BACKUP DATE:

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

(bring your tools to fill in the gopher holes)

Contact info - Karen Hallenbeck at
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**Annual
Hands Across
the Border
Work Session**

**Thursday
June 12, 2025
1000-1400 h**

**Del Bonita
Airstrip**

CEQ4/H28

**ALBERTA AVIATION &
AEROSPACE COUNCIL**

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