

Airport News

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Wildlife Hazard Assessment



Over the next 12 months we can expect to see representatives of WH Pacific on and around the airfield a couple of times a month. They will be gathering data about any and all forms of “wildlife” under, on or above the airport. Eventually, that data will be used for a report about wildlife and its impact at Caldwell. Depending on those results, we may ask WH Pacific to develop a Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Plan with specific steps that we should take over time to reduce both the type and number of various animals around the field and the severity of the interactions we have with them.

We’ve contracted for the study at the direction of the FAA and the costs are being shared between the FAA, the State of Idaho and the City of Caldwell under the Airport Improvements Program grant system.



Northwest End Construction

Work is scheduled to begin in December on the planned extension of Taxiways A & C toward Linden Street. The extended taxiways will be connected, and from above the new asphalt will look something like a “U”. The taxi lane connector between the CAM Aero hangar and hangars 100 & 101 will also be replaced at the same time to correct some problems with the existing connector and improve the drainage in that area.

CAM is also planning to expand their hangar building and will have additional apron space associated with the northwest end of their hangar. The new apron and tie-down area will be connected to Taxiway C.

Costs for this project will be shared with CAM. The City’s portion will be paid for with City funds and as much of the work as is possible will be completed with crews from the City Street and Water Departments.



Edge Lights

The lights along the edge of the runway and taxiways are a welcome sight when you arrive here at night! They are also expensive since they are designed not only to work in all weather conditions, but to “give way” should an aircraft leave the pavement and hit one or more of them. This has happened here more than once. If it happens to you and you damage or destroy a light fixture, please let me know at the airport office so that we can get it replaced. Of course, we will also let you know how much it costs so you can repay us for that expense.

Departures from the paved surface don't often occur with an audience other than your passengers, if any. One exception recently was a fairly spectacular ground loop maneuver executed by a Champ landing 12 back in early April at dusk. When the cloud of dust had settled all was actually in pretty good shape [ignoring wingtip damage and frayed nerves] until the crew pushed the aircraft back onto the runway and destroyed an edge light in the process. Hopefully that aircraft's owner will check in and we can get that repair repaid. The more we have to pick up resolving problems caused by specific individuals, the less we have for other airport maintenance projects. Please step up and do the right thing when you damage or destroy something here at the airport.

Hardier Grass

At the Street Department's suggestion, we are going to plant “hardier” grass in two areas to test for possible deployment in other areas of the airfield. The planned grass is supposed to be slow growing, able to survive well with limited moisture and be very resistant to weed growth.

The initial two rectangles will be the areas between Taxiways A & C in front of Shore & Shore Aviation and in front of the 800 block of hangars.

Those areas have been disc-ed as a part of the preparation for planting. Once planted, we will try to avoid going into those areas for the next several months to allow the new

grass to gain a strong foothold. More info to follow as the project progresses.



Final Markings

The paving company returned and completed application of the final coat of marking paint and glass beads. Thanks to everyone concerned who was able to arrange their flight schedules around the maintenance work.

Tracking on Taxi Lanes

As we move into a wetter time of year, please help minimize possible aircraft damage opportunities by keeping mud and gravel off the taxi lanes as much as possible. We will have the sweepers here as much as we can, but they have a large community to sweep as well as the airport and we need to do as much as we can to reduce the demand. Thank you!

