



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 1st day of February, 2005

Essential Air Service at

SHERIDAN, WYOMING

DOCKET OST-1998-3506

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd. (Great Lakes), at Sheridan, Wyoming, for an additional 30 days, through March 4, 2005.

Background

On August 2, 2004, Great Lakes filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized service at Sheridan, effective November 1, 2004. By Order 2004-8-29, August 25, 2004, the Department prohibited Great Lakes from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through December 1, 2004, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Great Lakes' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through February 2, 2005, by Order 2004-12-17.

By Order 2005-1-7, January 10, 2005, the Department selected Big Sky Transportation Co., d/b/a Big Sky Airlines, to provide essential air service at Sheridan for two years at an annual subsidy rate of \$336,701, beginning when Big Sky actually begins service. On January 26, 2005, the Sheridan County Commission filed a Petition for Reconsideration asking that Department change the carrier selection decision.

This case will not be completed by the end of the current hold-in period. Therefore, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation at Sheridan for an additional 30 days, or until the carrier transition process is complete, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Great Lakes Aviation. Ltd., to maintain essential air service consisting of three daily nonstop or one-stop round trips between Sheridan, Wyoming, and Denver International Airport, for an additional 30-day period through March 4, 2005, or until the carrier transition process is complete, whichever occurs first;¹
2. We direct Great Lakes to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed, whichever comes first. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
3. Docket OST-1998-3506, will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and Airport Manager of Sheridan and Great Lakes Aviation.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten (10) days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

RANDALL D. BENNETT
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

¹ In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Great Lakes' service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until its proposed service actually begins.