



Order 2007-2-9

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

Served: February 12, 2007

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 7th day of February, 2007

Essential Air Service at

POCATELLO, IDAHO

DOCKET OST-2006-26708

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

ORDER ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

Summary

By this order, the Department is allowing Big Sky Transportation, Co. d/b/a Big Sky Airlines (Big Sky), to suspend its unsubsidized service at Pocatello, Idaho.

Background

On December 21, 2006, Big Sky filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized scheduled service at Pocatello, effective March 20, 2007, but requests that the Department allow it to suspend service as soon as possible. Big Sky currently operates two daily nonstop round trips each week to Boise, with 19-seat Beechcraft 1900D aircraft. In addition to Big Sky's service, Pocatello currently receives five daily nonstop round trips to Salt Lake City with 30-seat Brasilia Embraer aircraft provided by Skywest Airlines, Inc., d/b/a Delta Connection.

Decision

We will allow Big Sky to suspend its service at Pocatello at the end of its 90-day notice period. As we have noted, Pocatello receives service to Salt Lake City with large turboprop aircraft in addition to the service to Boise that Big Sky has been providing with the smaller aircraft. Consequently, the community will continue to have significant access to the national air transportation system.

As stated above, the carrier has requested that the Department allow it to suspend service as soon as possible. However, the community has not agreed to an early termination, and it is entitled by statute to the full 90-day notice period. Therefore, we will deny Big Sky's request and require the carrier to maintain service at Pocatello through the end of its 90-day notice period.

Before Big Sky suspends service, however, we expect it to contact all travelers holding reservations for flights after the suspension date, to notify them of the suspension and the

availability of other service at the community, and to offer assistance in arranging alternate transportation for such travelers or to provide them with a full refund of the ticket price, without penalty, if requested.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We will allow Big Sky Transportation, Co. d/b/a Big Sky Airlines, to suspend its service at Pocatello, Idaho, at the end of its 90-day notice period, on or after March 20, 2006; and
2. We will serve a copy of this order on the mayor and airport manager of Pocatello, Idaho, and Big Sky Airlines.

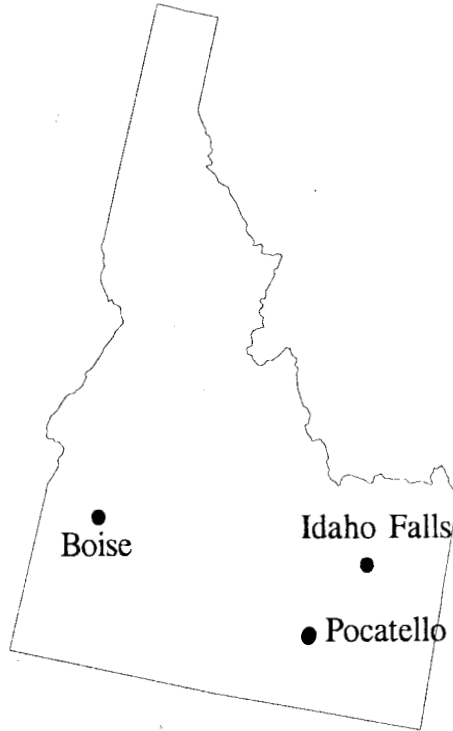
By:

ANDREW B. STEINBERG
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

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POCATELLO, IDAHO



Salt Lake City ●