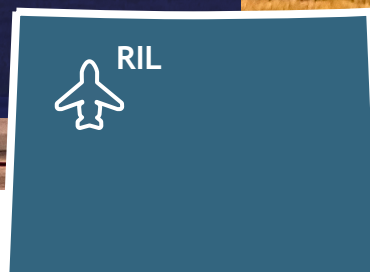


# RIFLE GARFIELD COUNTY

Rifle Garfield County Airport (RIL) is a general aviation airport in western Colorado, located three miles east of Rifle. The airport is owned and operated by Garfield County. RIL has a single asphalt runway (8/26) that is 7,000 feet long by 100 feet wide and has a precision instrument approach. The airport is capable of serving corporate jet aircraft and often acts as an alternate for the Aspen-Pitkin County Airport (ASE) during the peak ski season. RIL supports a variety of activities including recreational flying, environmental patrols, soaring, and air cargo operations. RIL is home to an aerial/wildland firefighting single-engine air tanker (SEAT) base which directly contributes to the safety of many communities in Colorado's mountains.



## Airport Classification

The 2020 Colorado Aviation System Plan (CASP) has identified six functional classifications for Colorado's 65 publicly-owned, public-use airports and one privately-owned, public-use airport. The six classifications were newly developed for the 2020 CASP and replace the roles previously developed in the 2011 study. These classifications follow the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) role categories as defined by the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) and the ASSET study. However, the CASP expands upon these roles to create more specific classifications for airports that are not included in the NPIAS. Airports that are included in the NPIAS are eligible for federal funding. As of the 2019 NPIAS publication, 48 publicly-owned airports and one privately-owned airport in the Colorado airport system are included in the NPIAS, while 17 publicly-owned airports are not.

Rifle Garfield County Airport is one of five airports in Colorado classified as a GA-Regional airport. The airport regularly receives interstate and IFR operations and supports based jets or 100 based piston aircraft. GA-Regional airports can be located in micropolitan or metropolitan areas or can be designated as a Reliever airport by the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). These types of airports consistently serve personal or business piston-powered aircraft and occasional jet operations.



## Frequent Airport Activities



Recreational Visitors

Corporate/Business  
ActivitiesAerial/Wildland  
Firefighting

Environmental Patrol

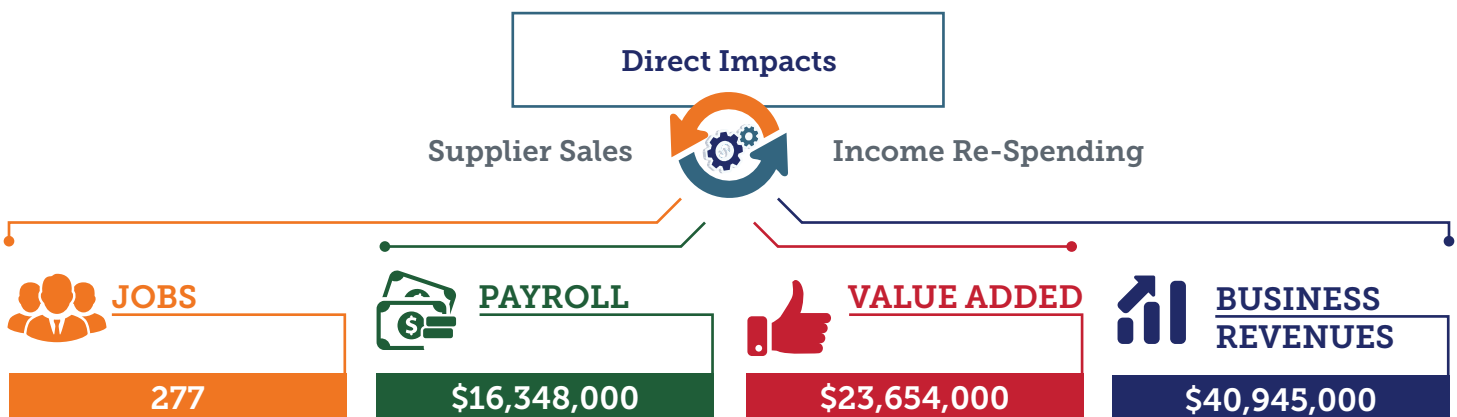
Emergency Medical  
Evacuations

## Rifle Garfield County Features

|  |                                 |                                |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Associated City/County          | Rifle/Garfield                 |
|  | Associated OEDIT Region         | 11 - Northwest Colorado Region |
|  | FAA GA ASSET Classification     | Regional                       |
|  | Annual Operations (2018)        | 14,561                         |
|  | Number of Based Aircraft (2018) | 17                             |
|  | Runway(s)                       | 1                              |
|  | Air Traffic Control Tower       | No                             |

## Economic Impacts of RIL

The 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study (CEIS) measured the economic impacts of all airports in the state. Rifle Garfield County is one of 56 general aviation airports contributing to the state's aviation economic impacts. The components that comprise the total economic impacts for RIL are summarized below. Visit the project website to learn more about the methodology used to determine the economic impacts of RIL and all other Colorado airports.





## Airport Needs and Recommendations

The 2020 CASP identified several performance measures (PMs) and facility and service objectives (FSOs) to provide a baseline for the infrastructure, facilities, and service capabilities required to best support the type and volume of aviation activity typified by each classification. The CASP identified gaps between the airport's existing condition and the needs to satisfy PMs, FSOs, and/or future facility needs driven by aviation demand forecasts. It is important to note that the PMs and FSOs are not requirements or mandates for airports to meet, rather, they serve as guidelines for airports and CDOT Division of Aeronautics to use during the airport planning process. Airports considered to be deficient in meeting the PMs and/or FSOs were reviewed to determine the recommended projects needed to satisfy those components.

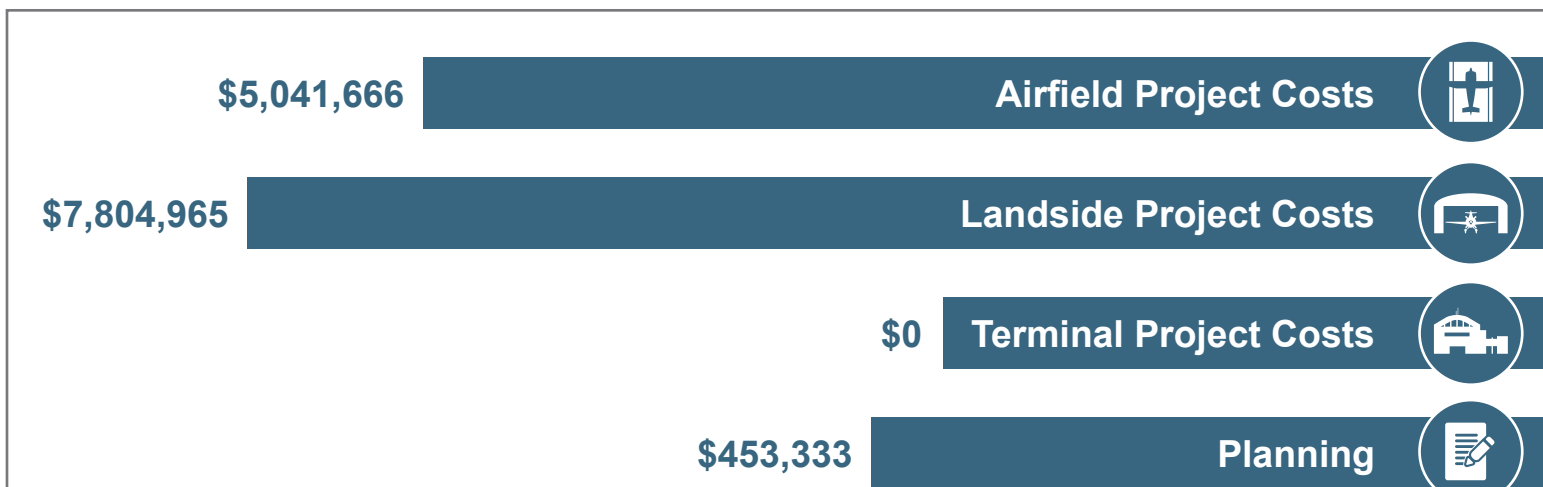
Planning level costs were developed for recommended projects and were associated with the appropriate goal category, PM, or FSO. These costs were developed based on 2019 Colorado material costs and industry knowledge and were adjusted to reflect cost differentials between types, sizes, and locations of airports. Projects and associated costs from available airport master plans and the CDOT 20-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) were also incorporated into the CASP to provide an estimate of the airport's needs based on meeting PMs and FSOs as well as forecasted future demand. The project cost estimates for Rifle Garfield County to meet appropriate goals, PMs, and FSOs, and projects identified by the airport from other planning efforts, are categorized by project type in the following chart.



### Did You Know?

RIL is home to the Center of Excellence for Advanced Technology Aerial Firefighting (CoE), a quasi-independent research center dedicated to the testing of existing and new firefighting technologies. The CoE is supported by RIL, state and federal government agencies, business partners, and higher education institutions and continues to make research contributions to aerial firefighting technologies and tactics that are used around the country.

## Airport Project Costs by Type



## Airport Report Card

Facility and service objectives (FSOs) were developed for each of the six airport classifications in the 2020 CASP. The following table details the FSOs and corresponding performance of Rifle Garfield County. These objectives were analyzed in conjunction with the other performance measures (PMs) to determine the airport's project needs and associated costs.

| Objective Category                         | GA-Regional Objective   | Current Condition  |    |   |    | Meets 2020 Objective? |
|--|---|--|----|---|----|-----------------------|
| Airfield                                   |   |  |    |   |    |                       |
| ARC  | B-II  | D-II   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Runway Length                              | Align with Master Plan  | 7,000 feet (7,000 feet)  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Runway Width                               | 75 feet   | 100 feet   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Runway Strength                            | 30,000 pounds   | 90,000 lbs SW; 200,000 lbs DW; 250,000 lbs 2D                      |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Taxiway                                    | Full parallel   | Full parallel  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Runway Markings                            | Non-precision   | Non-precision  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Lighting/NAVAIDS                           |   |  |    |   |    |                       |
| Approach                                   | Non-precision with vertical guidance  | Precision  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Visual Aids                                | Rotating beacon, lighted wind cone, REILs, VGSIs  | Rotating beacon, lighted wind cone, REILs, VGSIs                   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Runway Lighting                            | MIRL  | HIRL   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Weather Reporting                          | On-site ASOS or AWOS  | ASOS   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Airport Facilities                         |   |  |    |   |    |                       |
| Terminal (CS and/or GA)                    | Facility with restrooms, pilot-lounge, and Wi-Fi  | Facility with restrooms, pilot lounge, and Wi-Fi                   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Apron Tie-Downs                            | Tie-downs for 40% of based aircraft fleet plus 50% of weekly average overnight transient storage during peak season | 40% of based aircraft fleet plus 50% transient aircraft fleet:     | 35 | Total tie-down spaces:                      | 40 | Yes                   |
| Hangars                                    | Hangars for 60% of based aircraft fleet and 50% of weekly average overnight transient storage                       | 60% of based aircraft fleet:                                       | 29 | Number of based aircraft hangar spaces:     | 25 | No                    |
|  |   | 50% of transient aircraft fleet:                                   | 15 | Number of transient aircraft hangar spaces: | 5  |                       |
| Dedicated Maintenance/SRE Storage Building | Yes   | Yes  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Stations         | Yes   | No   |    |   |    | No                    |
| Perimeter Security                         | Full perimeter fencing with security gates and appropriate signage  | Full perimeter fencing with security gates and appropriate signage |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Services/Other                             |   |  |    |   |    |                       |
| Jet A Fuel                                 | Full service  | Full service   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| AvGas Fuel                                 | Full service  | Full service   |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Aircraft De-icing                          | Dedicated de-icing area   | Dedicated de-icing area  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Courtesy Car                               | Yes   | Yes  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Sustainability Plan                        | Yes   | Yes  |    |   |    | Yes                   |
| Minimums for All Airports                  |   |  |    |   |    |                       |
| Restroom (24-hr accessible) ✓              | Cell Phone Service ✓  | Airport Layout Plan (ALP) ✓  |    |   |    | Wi-Fi Service ✓       |