



February 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Weber,

The Nehalem Bay State Airport is very critical to the aeromedical services in Oregon. Life Flight Network lands at this airport 4-5 times a year to meet EMS ambulances with critical injured people. This airport provides easy access for both EMS and air transport. There is no other airport North of Nehalem until you get to Seaside and South until you get to Tillamook. When Tillamook is fogged in and Life Flight Network can get to Nehalem we will meet the EMS agency and patient at the Nehalem Bay State Airport. The Nehalem Bay State Airport is used as an alternative airport when others are not available due to weather.

The Coast Guard, Army Helicopter, 1042, Life Flight Network and many private pilots have access to this airport if they should have an emergency situation and need to land. Everytime an airport is closed this decreases the number of safe locations a pilot can land an aircraft in an emergency situation. We are limited to airports on the Oregon Coast. The elimination of Nehalem Bay State Airport would certainly increase the time for critically injured patients to get to a trauma center and time is of essence with a critically injured person. In addition, a lack of an airport in this location would take away the opportunity for a pilot to land in an emergency who could not make it to Tillamook or Seaside.

The Nehalem Bay State Airport could also be used by Life Flight Network to:

- Deliver blood and blood products in emergency situations when roads and other airports not available
- Deliver the Mobile Surgical Transport Team
- Deliver medical supplies and equipment
- Assist with disaster evacuation

In conclusion, Nehalem Bay State Airport provides access to coastal communities and is used for emergency evacuation of critically injured patients. It has saved many injured lives over the years.

Sincerely,

Paula Derr

Paula Derr, RN, CMTE
Operations Manager
Life Flight Network



U.S. Department of
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United States
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FEB 5 2007

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Mr. Ron Campbell
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1271

Dear Sir,

As the Coast Guard Group/Air Station Astoria Commander I am writing to comment on the Nehalem Bay airport at Manzanita, OR. It is my understanding that the airport is being considered for closure.

The airport has an important role in our air operations. Nearby Cape Falcon generates a significant number of rescue cases each year; the close proximity of the Nehalem Bay airport makes it an ideal place to transfer patients we have rescued to local Emergency Medical Services. In addition, the runway provides a potential emergency landing site for our helicopters; while a fully functional helicopter only needs a pad on which to land, a helicopter with a malfunction often needs to make a running landing to a runway.

Please take into account the impact the Nehalem Bay airport has on Coast Guard flight operations when deciding its future.

If you have any questions, please contact my Assistant Operations Officer, LCDR Kevin Lyons at 503-861-6217.

Sincerely

PETER TROEDSSON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Group Astoria

Copy: Mr. Larry Weber, Oregon Dept of Aviation

Nehalem Bay State Airport

Nehalem Bay State Airport provides significant community access and emergency use functions. These important capabilities include use for:

Emergency Landing: A non-planned landing made by an aircraft. There are two general types of emergency landings for powered aircraft:

1.) A forced landing, where an aircraft is gliding and no power is available to attempt a second approach and landing.

2.) A precautionary landing where a pilot elects to land due to an emergency or abnormal situation (ex: partial power, electrical failure, fire/smoke, fuel starvation, etc).

The Oregon coast has a limited selection of landing spots. We know the measured air mile distances between Tillamook Municipal, Nehalem Bay State and Seaside Municipal Airports are approximately 21 nautical miles(nm) apart. In a worst case scenario, a pilot who is faced with an emergency along the Northern Oregon Coast would fly 11 nm to the nearest airfield. Without the emergency landing site at Nehalem Bay State Park, the flight distance doubles to 22 nm. This added distance exceeds the glide capabilities of most general aviation aircraft under most situations.

Every airport in Oregon is available to aircraft during emergency conditions. The strategic geographic location is a primary factor when taking into account an airport's importance to the Oregon aviation system. We identify Nehalem Bay State Airport as a low activity airport with emergency use significance. To note this significance, consider the National Transportation Safety Board 2005 report that showed Oregon had 52 aviation mishaps and 38 aviation related deaths and injuries.

Medical Evacuation: Airports provide air ambulance service capabilities. Through the use of fixed wing or rotor aircraft, communities can readily access emergency services ranging from a rural hospital to facilities offering the highest level of medical care available. A Medevac flight from Nehalem Bay State Airport to a Trauma Level I or II Hospital in Portland, Oregon is 22 flight minutes away. Without the use of this airport, you must transport a State Park visitor with medical needs to either Seaside Municipal Airport or Tillamook Municipal Airport for the Medevac flight to Portland. Time is of the essence in most medical situations and adding a 28 or 41 minute ground transportation time becomes a critical factor in a life or death situation.

Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) Search & Rescue: Two recent high profile news stories highlighted search and rescue efforts in Oregon. Nehalem Bay State Airport is an important resource available for staging during ground and air rescue operations. Statistics reveal Tillamook County reported 52 of the 996 statewide search and rescue missions in 2005. (**Coast Guard training, exercise and real world S&R**)

Disaster Relief: Since 1990, FEMA reports Oregon has had 13 major disaster declarations. Winter storms, flooding, landslides form the majority of these declarations. Recently, OEM conducted an exercise for the Oregon coast with a tsunami and

earthquake scenario. Under any scenario, actual or exercise, Nehalem Bay State Airport could perform an essential role to:

- Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public;
- Ensure delivery of food, water & medical supplies;
- Provide air evacuation, Medevac, and search & rescue operations;
- Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources;
- Conduct law enforcement operations;
- Protect property and mitigate damages and impacts to individuals, communities, and the environment; and
- Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, local governments, and the environment.

Fire Suppression: Oregon Department of Aviation makes readily available all appropriate state sponsored airports for use in fire emergencies. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) could establish Nehalem Bay State Airport as a fire suppression base for use as a command and control center and to operate fixed/rotary wing aircraft.

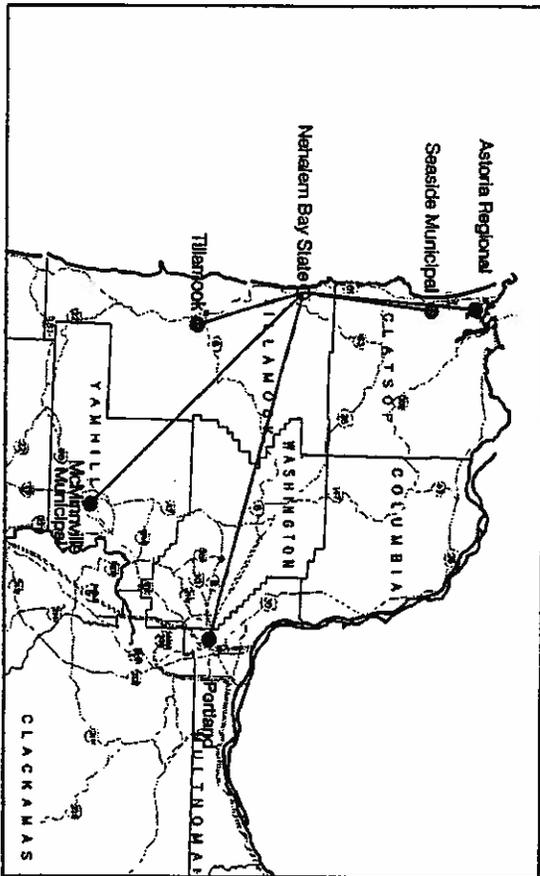
Nehalem Bay State Airport (3S7) was constructed by the Board of Aeronautics in 1958 on land leased by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department as part of the Oregon Coastal Airport System. The airport is located within Nehalem Bay State Park on the Nehalem Bay Inlet, approximately two miles south of Manzanita, Oregon.

OPRD recognizes this airport as the only Oregon State Park with a landing strip and camping area for pilots and passengers.

This is a Category 5 airport (Low Activity GA)

The 2000 Oregon Aviation Plan designates Nehalem Bay as one of Oregon's Core System of Airports. This airport plays a significant role in the State Aviation System for emergency use and community access for the Northern Oregon Coast.

NEHALEM BAY STATE AIRPORT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES



LEGEND

- BUSINESS/HIGH ACTIVITY G.A.
- ◻ COMMUNITY G.A.
- LOW ACTIVITY G.A.

NPIAS

- /✈ PUBLICLY OWNED
- PRIVATELY OWNED
- NON - NPIAS
- PUBLICLY OWNED

Travel Time from Nehalem Bay State Airport

	DRIVING		FLYING	
	MILES	TIME	MILES	TIME
SEASIDE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	22	28 MIN	22	10 MIN
ASTORIA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	39	53 MIN	32	15 MIN
TILLAMOOK	27	41 MIN	20	10 MIN
PORTLAND	105	2 HR	62	22 MIN
MCMINNVILLE MUNICIPAL	103	2 HR, 6 MIN	52	22 MIN