



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Aviation Safety

Denver Flight Standards District Office
26805 East 68th Avenue
Denver, CO 80249
303-342-1100, 303-342-1276 fax

February 11, 2020

Rick Braun
President, Jackson Hole Airport Board
P.O. Box 159
Jackson Hole, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Braun:

Thank you for your letter dated December 27, 2019 regarding the Jackson Hole Airport Board's concerns in connection with the Wind River Air, LLC letter of authorization (LOA) to conduct air tours, the R-44 aircraft, and Wind River Air, LLC planned tour routes.

Per your letter and the Jackson Hole Airport Board's request, the Denver Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) reviewed Wind River Air, LLC's LOA. The LOA was issued in accordance with Federal procedures when the applicant was able to provide all of the required documentation to prove eligibility and competence. Wind River Air, LLC does hold a valid LOA to conduct Air Tour operations under 14 CFR Part 91.127 and was issued on August 29, 2018.

The R-44 aircraft has completed initial and ongoing engineering and airworthiness evaluation to ensure the safety and operational reliability of the aircraft. While the aircraft continue to operate within its design envelope, the FAA will remain confident in the safety of the aircraft performance.

Discussions with Wind River Air, LLC Manager and Chief Pilot, Anthony Chambers, reveal careful preflight planning, aircraft performance planning, and detailed attention to fuel, weight, and altitude considerations.

Wind River Air, LLC and its staff have met all of the requirements necessary to continue to exercise the privileges afforded by the LOA and has conducted operations without generating any complaints, occurrences, or any other evidence of unsafe operation. So long as operations are continued within the governing safety regulations and operational specifications of the aircraft, Wind River Air, LLC has a continued right to commerce.

We have reviewed and considered the areas of interest brought forward in your letter by the Jackson Hole Airport Board and find no statutory reason to amend or modify Wind River Air, LLC's LOA or Operations Specification and we consider the matter closed.

However, if you have any further questions or concerns, please reach out to the Denver FSDO.

Sincerely,

Dale Ogden
Manager, Denver Flight Standards District Office



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2020

**JH Airport Board Receives Response from Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Concerning
Proposed Helicopter Scenic Tours**

FAA Says Wind River Air, LLC Operations are Safe and Have Been Approved

Jackson, Wyoming – The Jackson Hole Airport Board has received a response from the FAA regarding its December 27, 2019 letter to the Denver Flight Standards District Office. The letter from the Board to FAA stated concerns over the safety of proposed scenic helicopter operations by Wind River Air, LLC in high altitude conditions surrounding Jackson Hole.

In its response, FAA stated that Wind River Air, LLC had already obtained its approval and could begin operating at any time. FAA stated, “Wind River Air, LLC and its staff have met all of the requirements necessary to continue to exercise the privileges afforded by the Letter of Authorization.” The FAA letter also stated the FAA will continue its ongoing oversight to hold operators accountable for compliance in safety and operational standards.

The Airport Board had sought FAA’s safety review because it was a key concern of the Airport and the community. The FAA response clearly stated that it had reviewed the concern and reconfirmed its authorization of the flights.

“This letter from FAA makes it clear that legally, we have no choice but to permit this type of aviation activity in order to comply with Federal Regulations,” stated Jackson Hole Airport Board President, Jerry Blann.

The Jackson Hole Airport Board will continue to pursue all lawful avenues in order to ensure the safety of operations from the Airport and pursue measures to minimize impacts to our community and Grand Teton National Park.

####