



## ANNUAL REPORT 2025

White Mountain Regional Airport (IZG) was developed for use by the public in 1961 and is owned by the Town of Fryeburg. In 2025 the Airport underwent a complete re-branding including a name change (formerly “Eastern Slope”) to more accurately reflect the service area and in homage to the White Mountain Airport in North Conway, NH decades ago. Located near the convergence of Maine State Route 113, State Route 5, and US Route 302, the Airport has a geographical reach that spans a multitude of municipalities across both Maine and New Hampshire. Funding for IZG comes largely from its own operations with support from towns in the region, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), and NH DOT.

The municipality of Fryeburg owns the property and contracts the operation, maintenance and administration of the Airport to the **IZG Airport Authority** (formerly Eastern Slopes). The Authority is a Maine non-profit incorporated in May 1960 for the purpose of promoting economic growth through the development and operation of the Airport. A Board of Directors, comprised of eleven locals who volunteer their time and talents, oversees a full time Operations and Maintenance Manager, David Cullinan, and a part time Airport Manager, Allison Navia. Several seasonal part time employees help with mowing, snow removal, and customer service. The mission of the Authority is to foster financial self-sufficiency while maintaining and improving the airfield to best serve the region.

Significant capital improvements took place in 2025. The Town of Fryeburg **reconstructed Lyman Drive**. The estimate for construction was \$810,000, but the final cost after favorable bids was \$547,893. Bidding the project mid-summer seemed to help on pricing! The Town of Fryeburg will be able to utilize the savings for other road projects in town.

The airport is a year-round economic hub for **businesses, tourists, flight training, emergency services, weather information and education**. Forty-five aircraft call IZG home base, some of the pilots moving to the area and contributing to the tax base because of the availability of a nearby location for their aircraft. Of the pilots based at IZG, 44% are from NH, most residents of Conway/ North Conway, a few from neighboring states, and the remainder are from Maine. IZG serves as the home of the **Eastern Slope Aviation Academy** which hosts **annual Aviation Day** and several **STEM Aviation Camps** for middle school students. The Academy provides ground school and flight training both in the air and in an FAA approved simulator. See the sky in real time at the Airport from **IZG’s weather camera** by visiting <https://weathercams.faa.gov> and searching “IZG”. Local news networks frequently use photos from our weather camera in broadcasts.

The airport is a vital **portal for emergency services in the region. Life Flight, charitable pet relocation, medical patient treatment flights, organ transportation, Civil Air Patrol, law enforcement and military training, aerial fire fighting operations and search and rescue missions** all take place at IZG. It is important to note that even if emergency aircraft are not landing directly at IZG, they are still using the airport for weather reporting, instrument approaches, and alternates. Every helicopter trip – and there are thousands over the years- to Bridgton’s hospital and Memorial in North Conway uses IZG for those purposes. The availability of jet fuel, 24 hour call-in services, and the ability to hangar aircraft in inclement weather and for passive de-icing with the addition of the newly completed large aircraft hangar make IZG even more of a factor for emergency services.



The **Canadian 413 Transport and Rescue Squadron** completed their bi-annual mountain rescue training and treated the public to aircraft tours. Their visit always brings out the community and engenders a lot of enthusiasm for aviation. The Squadron is scheduled to return March 1, 2025.

**Pine Tree Helicopters offered rides again at the 2025 Fryeburg Fair.** Four helicopters operated almost continuously providing over 2,600 rides! The operation is made possible due to the proximity of the Airport which supplies the 1,600+ gallons of fuel needed.

**Aerobatic Camp Voltige** was away for a year due to the construction, but plans to be back again for the in 2026 to practice their routines and get ready for competitions. Previously the multi-day event injected about \$13,000 into the local economy between fuel, hangars and parking, hotels, restaurants, and car rentals. We expect a similar contribution to the region this year.

The **repair to the Fixed Base operator hangar continues to hold** and the conference room is used by airport businesses, tenants, and the Airport Authority for meeting and gatherings. The roof will need to be replaced in the near future.

Construction of an 802' **extension to the runway** to accommodate aircraft safely in all weather conditions year-round is substantially complete, with some painting and grass seed remaining for the springtime. This development brought **taxiways and airfield lighting up to current standards. Demand is up for more hangars** along with continual maintenance and tenant improvements to airport-owned hangars are a focus. The Airport is working with hangar developers through **public-private partnerships to construct 7 new units in 2026**; design is underway for six and one is currently being built. The new hangars will increase based aircraft, fuel sales, tax revenue, and inspire additional development. The **Master Plan Update has kicked off**, slated for completion in 2027. Through meetings, tenant input, and public outreach the project will include a complete inventory, forecasts, environmental analysis, alternatives for development, and a final Ultimate Airport Layout Plan. All federal grants require a local match and the Airport Authority provides that funding, with the support of towns and cities in the region.

The following Board members of the IZG Airport Authority thank the Town and its citizens for continued support:

Don Thibodeau, Chairman – Fryeburg, ME  
Carl Thibodeau, Vice Chairman – Conway, NH  
Gene Bergoffen, Treasurer – Fryeburg, ME  
Ron Briggs, Secretary - Chatham, NH  
Eric Meltzer, Pilot Liaison – Fryeburg, ME  
Barry Kallander - Denmark, ME  
David Sorensen - Eaton NH  
Steve Steiner - Center Conway, NH  
Ryan Shepard - Conway, NH  
Elbridge Russell - Fryeburg, ME

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Navia, Airport Manager