

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Montana

Location	Type	Years	Details
<u>Billings</u>	WBO DFO WSO WFO	1934-present	A Weather Bureau office was established at the Billings airport in 1934. Operations included daily forecasts, fire weather forecasts, Yellowstone Basin forecasts, and observations of surface weather and via balloon and airplane. The state forecast office was relocated to Great Falls in 1953. Its first weather radar was installed in the 1980's and replaced in the mid 1990's with the WSR-88D radar. A new facility was also constructed at this time south of the airport.
Butte	WBAS	1939-1953	A Weather Bureau Airport Station opened in January 1939, to assume operations from the CAA, then was transferred back to the CAA in June 1953.
<u>Glasgow</u>	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1943-present	The Weather Bureau in Glasgow was established downtown 6/6/1943, taking 6-hourly surface observations as well as upper-air observations. The office was moved to the Glasgow Municipal Airport in October 1955, relocating to the airport terminal in 1969.
Great Falls	WBO FAWS WSFO WFO	1937-present	The Weather Bureau opened its Great Falls office in April 1937, although cooperative weather observations were taken as far back as 1892. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was established in January 1944. Public forecasts were issued by the Great Falls office beginning in 1953, after being transferred from the Billings office. In June 1994, the office relocated off the airport grounds to new facilities. Another new office was constructed in 1995, and staffing expanded, with the Doppler radar commissioned in August 1996.
Havre	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1879-1998	A Signal Service station was established at Fort Assinniboine, 7 miles southeast of Havre, in October 1879. After the Weather Bureau took over operations in May 1892, it was moved to Havre. A specific Weather Bureau building was opened at the beginning of 1904. The office was moved to the airport in January 1961. It operated with an early automatic weather observing station, dating from around 1957, but this was later upgraded. The station closed in the late 1990's as part of the NWS modernization.
Helena	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1880-1994	The Signal Service office opened up in April 1880, with operations transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1892. Various locations in the city were utilized. An airport office was established in April 1940, and the two stations were consolidated there in August 1955. The office was closed as part of the NWS modernization of the 1990's.
Kalispell	WBO WBAS WSO	1899-1995	A Weather Bureau Office was opened 5/3/1899 at the Conrad Bank Building. It was relocated in 1905 and 1917. In May 1949, the office was moved to the Flathead County Airport, with shared observational responsibility with the CAA until 1953. The office closed in 1995.
Miles City	WBO	1891-1943	A Weather Bureau office was established 10/1/1891 at the Stebbins Building. It moved approximately every 5 to 7 years after that, until 1916, when it moved to the Post Office. The office remained there until closing in January 1943.
Missoula	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1944-present	The Weather Bureau took over observational responsibility at the Missoula County Airport from the CAA in December 1944. A WSR-57 radar was commissioned 11/1/1961 at Point Six Mountain, approximately 9 miles north-northeast of the office. The office had been at the airport terminal, then was moved to the USFS Smoke Jumper Center in 1982. A new office was built in 1994, and a WSR-88D replaced the old radar in June 1995.

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