

# **A Message to Landowners and Pilots**

## **from Tailwind Aviation Foundation**

### **A Recent Change In Arkansas Law Benefits Landowners**

As you may already be aware, the Arkansas State Legislature recently voted in an amendment to our recreational use statute that names “aviation activities” as protected along with other recreational activities such as hunting, swimming, and camping. This bill was presented and passed via the joint efforts of the AOPA and the Recreational Aviation Foundation working in the state.

To be clear, this does not change the use of an airfield from private to public, and in no way restricts the landowner’s ability to determine who can utilize the airfield. It does, however, grant explicit protection to the landowner in the event that anyone (invited or not) has an accident while utilizing the property. Oklahoma has also amended their recreational use statute to include aviation and Missouri may soon follow.

### **The Possible Impact to Recreational Flying**

With these changes in the laws comes an opportunity to grow recreational flying in the region. A low density altitude and a multitude of rivers and streams among millions of acres of public land make Arkansas, and particularly the Ozarks, a great place to fly and recreate.

Having the knowledge of where we are allowed to land “off airport” is an issue that keeps many of us from taking full advantage of these natural resources. Other states like Montana, Idaho, and Utah have networks of airfields open to the public supported by pilot organizations and resources that share where they are allowed to land.

The Tailwind Aviation Foundation is a small, project based, not-for-profit located in Northwest Arkansas. Currently we are working in conjunction with the Recreational Aviation Foundation to grow recreational flying in the region by creating a database of interesting flying destinations. Our plan is to continue to build a shared database and a corresponding smartphone app as a one-stop resource to inform pilots where they are (or are not) allowed to land, details to help them fly each strip safely, and what recreational opportunities exist at each airfield.

### **How You Can Help**

We feel a unique opportunity exists for pilots and outdoor enthusiasts and would like to ask you to consider being a part of a network of airfields. If you would like to learn more about including your airfield on some level of public use, reach out to us via the website created for the project at [www.airfield.guide](http://www.airfield.guide), email [chad@airfield.guide](mailto:chad@airfield.guide). Or, feel free to call Chad at (501) 732-0658 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about what we are doing and how you can help to grow recreational aviation in the region.

Sincerely,

The Team at Tailwind Aviation Foundation