



Sturgis Municipal Airport 49B Weather Cameras

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Airport Conference

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Site: <https://weathercams.faa.gov>

Background

The roots of the weather camera program date back to advocacy by the Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation and other industry groups, who saw a need to compensate for the lack of conventional weather reporting in Alaska.

A graduate student at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks deployed camera constellations in three rural Alaska communities as part of a doctoral engineering management program in April of 1999.

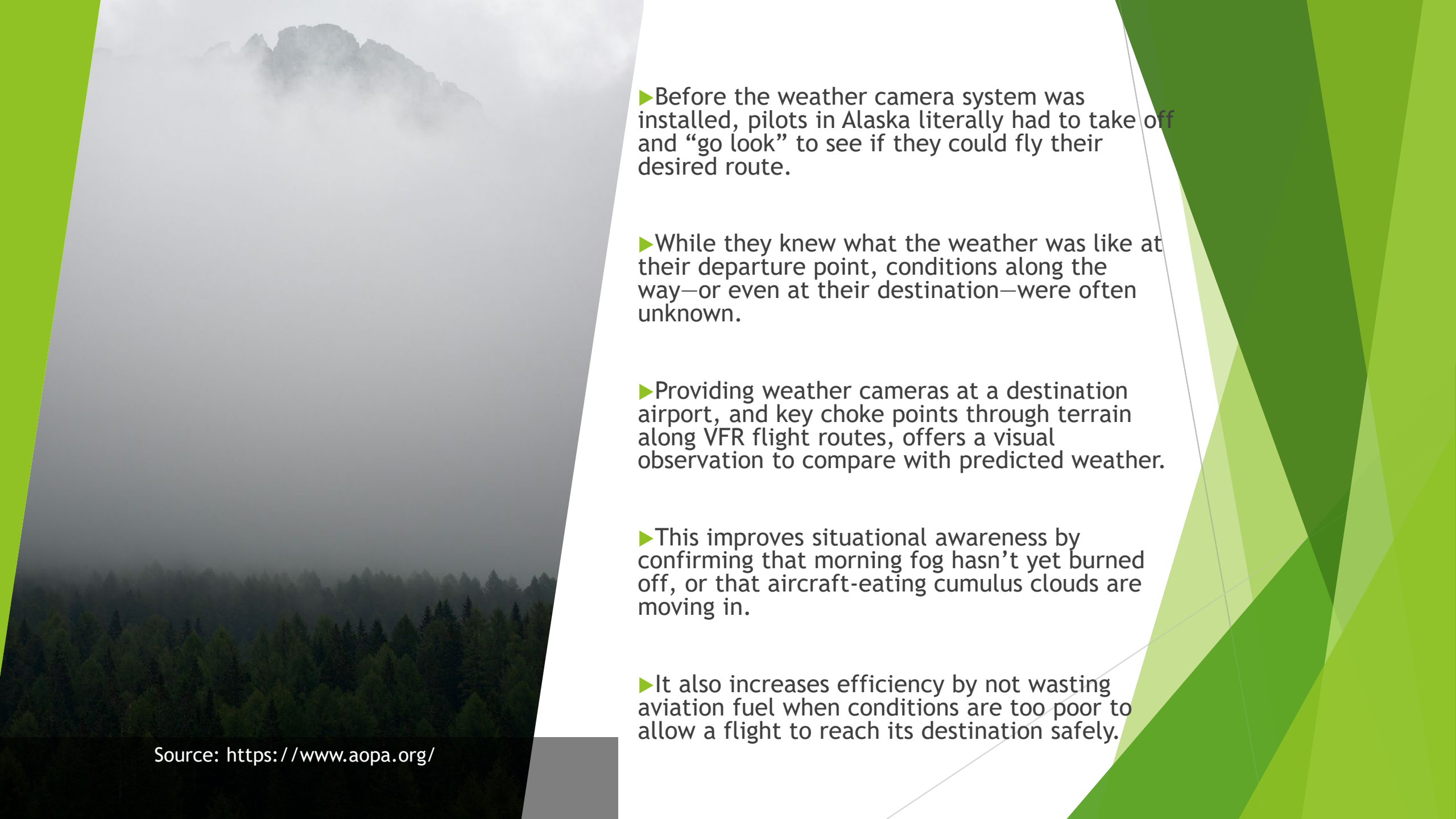




History

- ▶ 1999: Weather camera test and development began in AK
 - ▶ 80 Sites
 - ▶ Installed between 1999 and 2007
- ▶ 2008: Program received funding for expansion
 - ▶ Additional 140 Weather cameras
 - ▶ Completed 2008-2014
- ▶ 2015: Began hosting 219 camera locations for NAV/Canada
- ▶ 2020: FAA decision
 - ▶ Expand services to Hawaii
 - ▶ Increase third-party hosted services
 - ▶ Approved strategy to expand outside of Alaska
- ▶ 2021: Begin expansion of twenty-six sites in Hawaii
- ▶ 2021: Began investment analysis to expand weather camera network.

Source : FAA Weather Camera Program Webinar



▶ Before the weather camera system was installed, pilots in Alaska literally had to take off and “go look” to see if they could fly their desired route.

▶ While they knew what the weather was like at their departure point, conditions along the way—or even at their destination—were often unknown.

▶ Providing weather cameras at a destination airport, and key choke points through terrain along VFR flight routes, offers a visual observation to compare with predicted weather.

▶ This improves situational awareness by confirming that morning fog hasn’t yet burned off, or that aircraft-eating cumulus clouds are moving in.

▶ It also increases efficiency by not wasting aviation fuel when conditions are too poor to allow a flight to reach its destination safely.

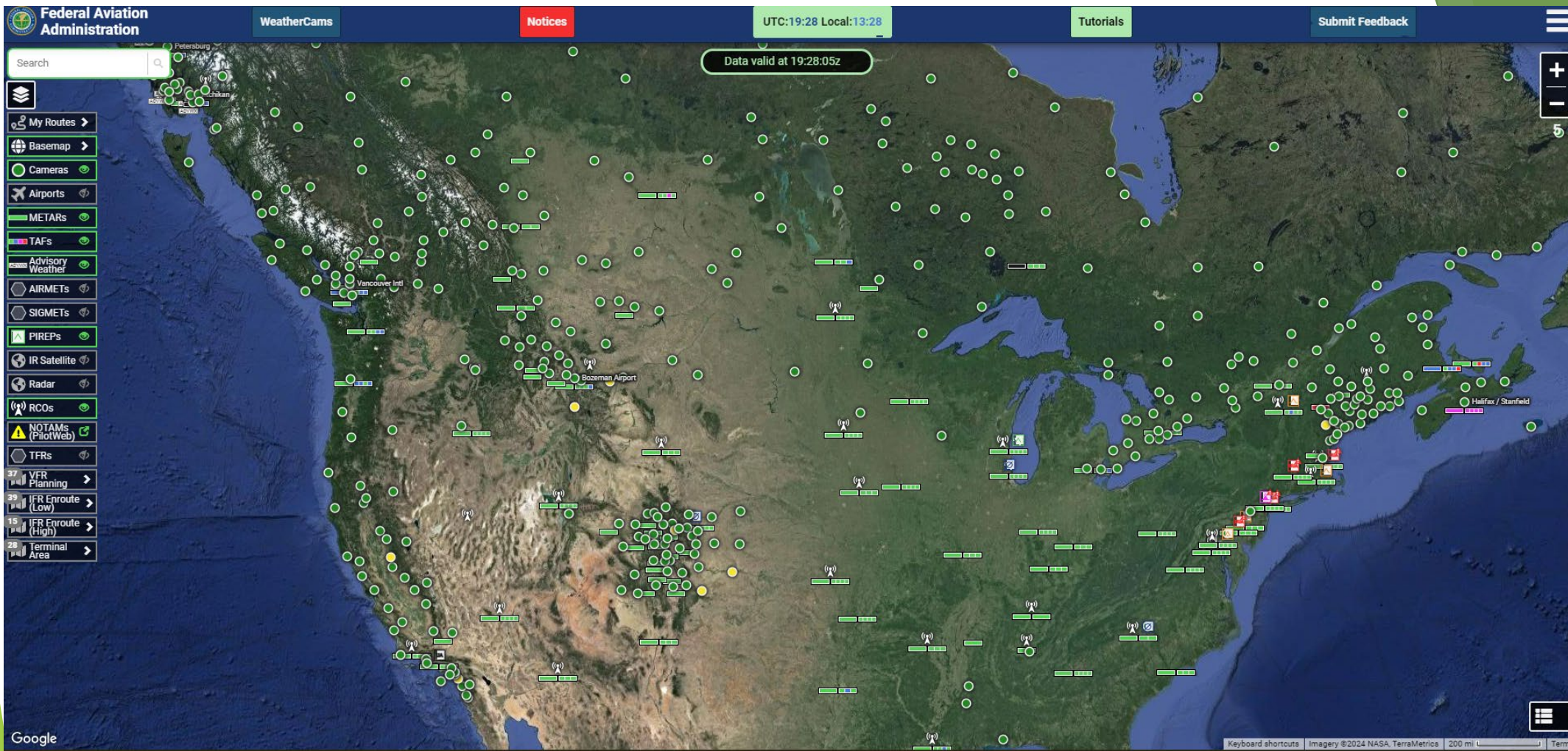
Using the system

- ▶ Adding a scan of the weather cameras along an intended flight route to a preflight routine is very helpful when making an initial go/ no-go decision, even before leaving for the airport. Being able to view weather conditions within minutes prior to departure affords pilots an increased awareness of the weather they may encounter in route.
- ▶ When conditions are questionable, the ability to see what has happened over the previous six hours also adds value—and in some cases signals the need to delay and wait for better weather.
- ▶ The website also provides weather forecasts and pilot reports and can be customized by toggling features on or off. Tutorials are available to bring pilots or other users up to speed quickly.
- ▶ For pilots who have cameras available where they fly, the weather camera program is a great addition to their toolkit. Those without cameras in their area should stay tuned, as there may be a camera coming in the years ahead.



FAA Weather Camera Program Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Nul-Khiog4>

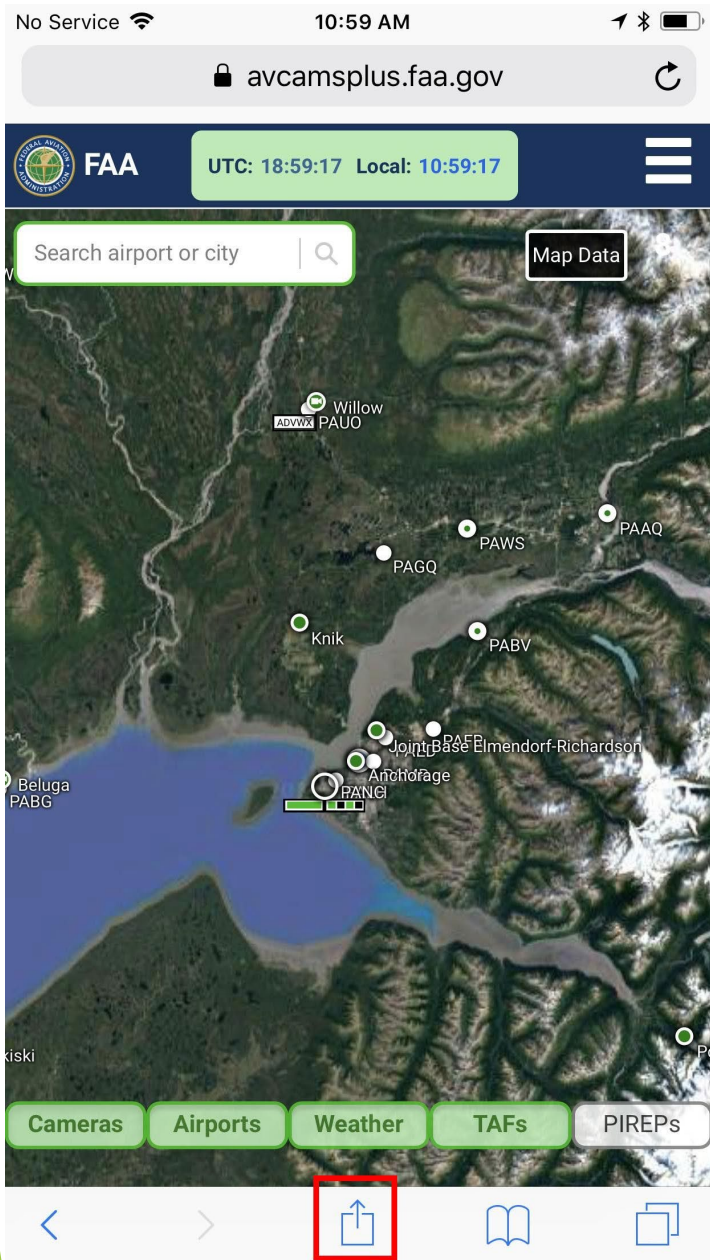


▶ When you open the website, this is what you will see.



Android Mobile App

- ▶ Android
- ▶ If you're using Chrome on Android, you should see a banner pop up near the bottom of your screen prompting you to add it to your Home screen. A screen shot is shown.
- ▶ You can also install it by tapping the settings button in Chrome and tapping "Add to Home screen".

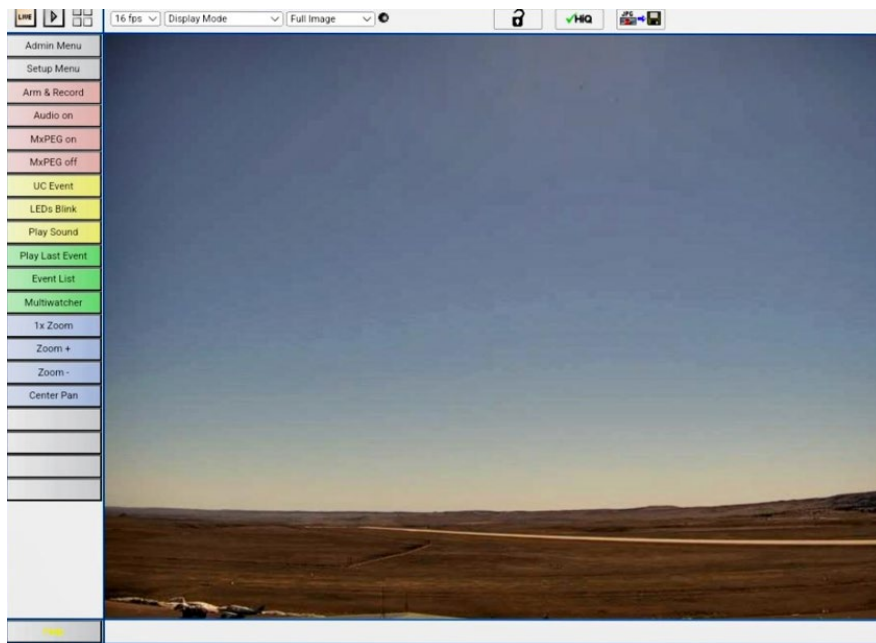


Apple Device Mobile App

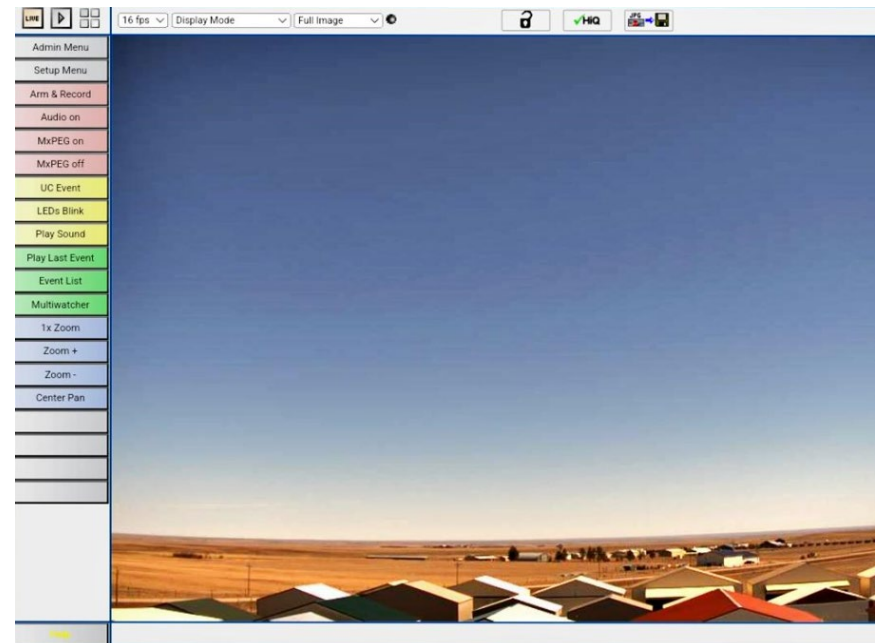
- ▶ iOS
- ▶ If you've got iOS version 11.3 or later and you are using Safari, you can install it to your Home screen as well.
- ▶ Step 1: Tap the "Action" button (on an iPhone it's in the bottom center, for an iPad it's in the top right).
- ▶ Step 2: Scroll to the right.
- ▶ Step 3: Tap "Add to Home screen"
- ▶ Step 4: Tap "Add"

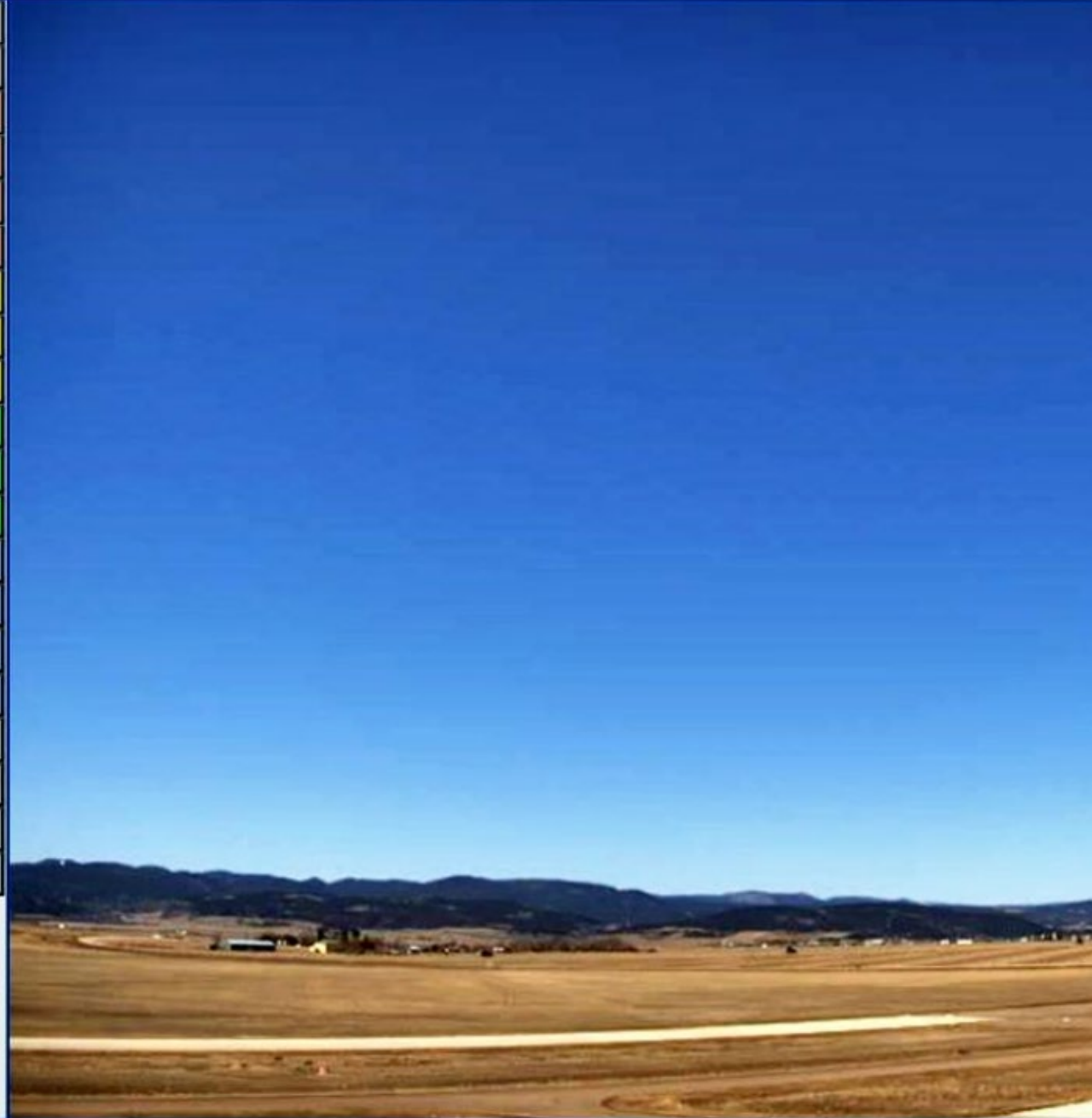
This shows the clear day visual reference and the current conditions.

Sturgis Municipal Airport



Current Conditions







New Systems being Installed in 2024

- ▶ Sturgis Municipal Airport (Installed and operational)
- ▶ 8 New Systems to be installed in North Dakota
- ▶ 7 New Systems to be installed in Minnesota

Want to add cameras at your airport?

- ▶ Airport Weather Camera Systems
LaDelle George
- ▶ System average cost \$12,500 to
\$13,500



The Sturgis Municipal Airport staff and all pilots would like to say thank you to the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission for their support and allowing us to provide you with this presentation!!

Contact us



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