

Airline	Ticket Cost	Destinations	Number of Seats	Relationships	Marketing Budget
SkyWest	\$119 / Verbal	DEN/SLC	50	Codeshare: United, Delta	\$25,000
Contour	\$69 / \$90 One way	DEN/PHX/LAS	30	Interline: United, Delta, Alaskan, American, JetBlue (Spirit)	\$75,000
Advanced	\$115 One way	DEN/PHX	30	Interline: Alaskan	\$75,000
Denver	\$125 One way	DEN/PHX/SLC	30/50	Interline: United, American, Delta	\$25,000
Comments and thoughts:					

Airline	Flexibility	Future Growth	Other
SkyWest			
Contour			
Advanced			
Denver			
Comments and thoughts:			

Proposal to Provide Essential Air Service

Vernal, Utah



Filed: March 3, 2026

**Via e-mail to: EAS@dot.gov and mark.raggio@dot.gov with the title
"Proposal to provide EAS to Vernal, Utah"**

Order: 2026-I-16

Served: January 29, 2026

Docket: DOT-OST-1997-2706

Under 49 U.S.C. § 4173I et seq.



Todd M. Homan, Director
United States Department of Transportation
Office of Aviation Analysis
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 3, 2026

Re: Response to Order: 2026-1-16/Proposal to Provide Essential Air Service at Vernal Regional Airport

Via e-mail to: EAS@dot.gov and mark.raggio@dot.gov

Dear Mr. Homan,

Attached is Denver Air Connection's proposal to provide air service at Vernal Regional Airport serving Vernal, Utah to DEN, SLC, PHX or combination that best suits the community.

We look forward to the opportunity to support the region's transportation needs and economic growth by providing safe, reliable, scheduled passenger service.

Denver Air Connection provides passengers with seamless access to the most comprehensive route networks through convenient connections with United, American, and Delta, offering travel options tailored to meet a wide range of passenger needs.

Our service is developed with airline schedules in mind to ensure seat availability and direct flights to and from these hub airports. The communities we serve praise our excellent completion and on-time performance rates.

As directed by the RFP, we will offer the community 12 round-trip flights per week, flown under the highest safety standards afforded via Part 121, in 50-seat Embraer 145s for a new Four-year term.

We will work closely with local leadership to set the best possible schedule to maximize connection possibilities. Denver Air Connection believes this proposal meets the needs of the community and provides the best overall option for air service to the region.

Thank you for your consideration,

Marcus Hesting,
Director of Finance
Denver Air Connection

13252 E. Control Tower Rd. | Englewood Colorado 80112 | O: 303.768.9626 | M: 720.635.5903
mhesting@keylimeair.com | denverairconnection.com

A D V A N C E D A I R



Essential Air Service Proposal

for Vernal, UT DOT-OST-1997-2706
and Moab, UT DOT-OST-1997-2827

Connecting **Vernal, UT** and **Moab, UT** to **Phoenix** and **Denver** with right-sized, high-reliability service.

Advanced Air, LLC

12101 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 100
Hawthorne, California 90250
Ph. 310.644.3344 Fx. 310.644.9344
www.flyadvancedair.com



Why Advanced Air is the Right Partner for Vernal and Moab, UT



Safety First

Advanced Air maintains a Perfect Safety Record.



Right-Sized Fleet

30-passenger Dornier 328 Jet or ERJ-145 perfectly matched to Vernal and Moab demand



Frequent Flights

12 weekly round trips to Phoenix and/or Denver, any combination.



Transparent Pricing

Average \$115 fares



Community Investment

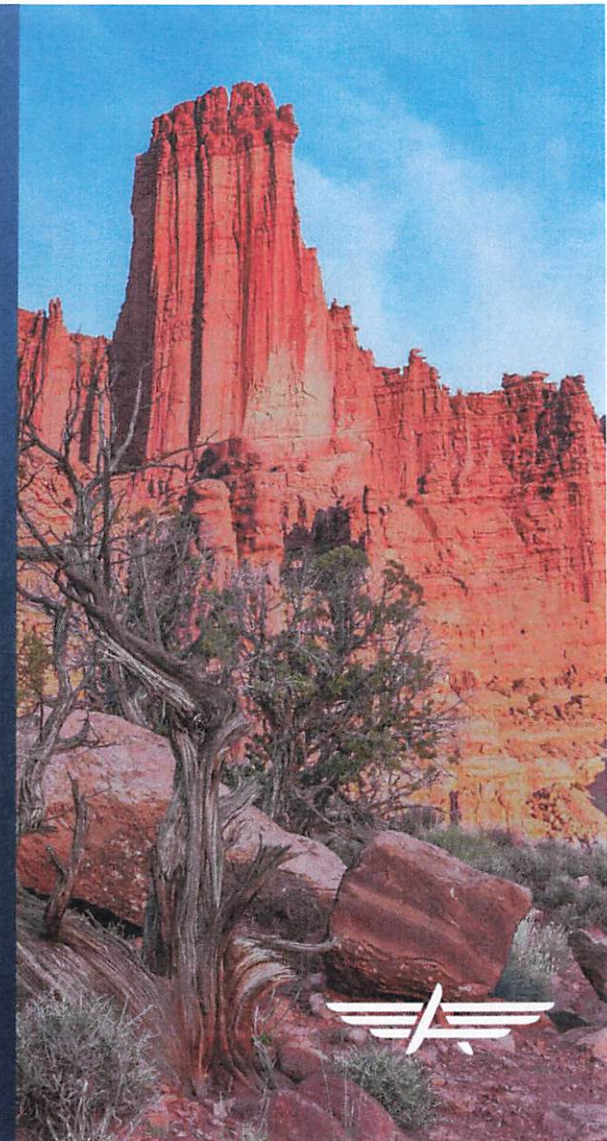
\$75,000 annual marketing commitment to Vernal and Moab



Proven Performance

96-98% completion across all markets

Our commitment extends beyond flights; we aim to be an integral part of Vernal and Moab's growth, offering not just transportation but a partnership built on trust, safety, and community support.



Proposed Service:

Vernal to PHX & DEN | Moab to PHX & DEN

Route Details

Origin: Vernal, UT and Moab, UT

Destination: Phoenix, AZ (PHX) & Denver, CO (DEN)

Weekly Service: 12 round-trip flights

Aircraft Type: Dornier 328 Jet (30-Passenger) or ERJ-145

Annual Flights: 1,248

Annual Seats: 37,440

Average Fare: \$115 one-way



This service provides Vernal and Moab residents with same-day access to Phoenix and Denver's medical facilities, business centers, and connecting flights - transforming hours of driving into a comfortable quick flight.



Proposed Service:

Vernal to PHX & DEN | Moab to PHX & DEN

Route Details

Origin: Vernal, UT and Moab, UT

Destination: Phoenix, AZ (PHX) & Denver, CO (DEN)

Weekly Service: 12 round-trip flights

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Annual Seats: 37,440

Average Fare: \$115 one-way



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Essential Air Service Proposal

Vernal, Utah

DOT-OST-1997-2706

Corporate Flight Management Inc. d/b/a Contour Airlines
A Tennessee Corporation
808 Blue Angel Way, Smyrna, TN 37167



Dear Mr. Raggio,

Contour Airlines is pleased to submit this proposal to continue providing Essential Air Service to Vernal, Utah (VEL). As part of our proposal, we are offering the community 12-weekly non-stop flight proposals, including options for Denver (DEN), Salt Lake City (SLC), and Phoenix (PHX). Contour prefers a 48-month term for the award.

Contour Airlines will continue to utilize twin-engine regional jet aircraft, comfortably configured with 30 seats. Passengers will be able to connect to Contour partners Alaska, American, Delta, JetBlue, and United Airlines. We believe that this proposal well positions the community to continue to see enplanement growth and the corresponding economic growth that means for the community.

We are confident that Contour's continued service to Vernal would be beneficial to the region, and we hope to continue our important partnership with this community.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ben Munson
President





SkyWest
AIRLINES®

Vernal Regional Airport Vernal, Utah



Dear Mr. Raggio:

SkyWest Airlines is pleased to submit our proposal to provide Essential Air Service from Vernal Regional Airport (VEL) with two options:

1. Service to Denver International Airport (DEN) under our United Airlines Codeshare Agreement. We will operate 12 subsidized weekly round-trip flights onboard our CRJ-200 aircraft for a term of up to four years.
2. Service to Denver International Airport (DEN) and/or Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) under our United Airlines and Delta Air Lines Codeshare Agreements. We will operate 12 subsidized weekly round-trip flights onboard our CRJ-200 and/or CRJ-550 aircraft for a term of up to four years.

We are confident that we can provide reliable and efficient air service to the region, and we are excited about the opportunity to partner with the community. As outlined in the RFP, we propose operating 12 subsidized weekly round-trip flights for a term of up to four years. Our regional jets are an ideal choice for both business and leisure travelers, and our proposed flight schedule is designed to offer seamless connections to United and Delta's extensive network at both the DEN & SLC hubs.

This new service would not only enhance air connectivity but also stimulate economic growth by improving business and tourism opportunities in the Vernal, UT community. We believe this proposal offers the best option to meet the community's air service needs.

Thank you for your consideration.



Cody Thomas
Managing Director – Market Development

SkyWest
AIRLINES®

