

## **Snohomish County Pledged To Keep Paine Field Open To All Aviation Uses**

Paine Field was originally constructed in 1936 by the U.S. Government as a Works Progress project.

At the time of development, it was envisioned that the airport would create jobs and economic growth in the region by becoming one of ten new "super airports" around the country. Instead of becoming a "super airport" for passenger airlines, however, the airport became "Paine Air Force Base" and was mostly used by the U.S. military during the 1940s and 1950s.

In 1972, the U.S. Government transferred ownership of Paine Field to Snohomish County. The 18-page "Quit Claim Deed" transferring ownership of the airport included numerous "reservations, restrictions and conditions".

Among the conditions, on Page 12, Paragraph 7B:

*"Property transferred for the development, improvement, operation or maintenance of airport shall be used and maintained for the use and benefit of the public on fair and reasonable terms, without just discrimination. In furtherance of this covenant (but without limiting its general applicability and effect), the grantee specifically agrees (1 that it will keep airport open all types, kinds and classes of aeronautical use without discrimination between such types, kinds and classes."*

On Page 15, Paragraph 7N, the U.S. Government retained the right to void the transfer – and repossess the airport – if Snohomish County failed to meet the conditions, reservations and restrictions.

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