



RIMG0029-1B  
11 N 0313713 4515267

08/26/2008 15:51:25

# 3 AIRPORT

This aircraft certainly wasn't typical of most that flew into the Burning Man airport but it certainly was impressive enough to attract attention.



Stip. 51 - Airport

Stipulation Monitoring - BM'08

08/26/08 15:52:30

RIMG0032-1B

11 N 0313705 4515245

## A. GOAL

Use GPS to locate airport facilities such as the runway, camping area and helipad were to verify they are all located within the Public Closure Area.

## B. STIPULATION

### **AIRPORT / AIRCRAFT MANAGEMENT**

*51. A runway approximately 5000 feet long by 60 feet wide is approved and will be marked on the existing playa surface. No surface disturbance beyond removal of transient dunes to assure safety is authorized. The following stipulations apply to the runway:*

- a. The airport runway use is limited to small general aviation only. No air transport or scheduled air carriers will be allowed.*
- b. The runway will be marked to make it visible to pilots and also to alert surface traffic to avoid it. The marking will be removed at event completion.*
- c. Signs with reflectors will be installed at prominent or strategic locations around the event airport to forewarn playa travelers of safety hazards.*
- d. Aviation windsocks are to be placed at each end of the runway to provide pilots with a visual reference of wind speed and direction, and to alert other recreational users on the playa of an operational runway. The windsocks are to be removed at event completion.*
- e. Numbers and threshold markings at both ends of the runway will indicate compass bearing and help define the runway boundaries. These numbers will be painted on the playa surface using a biodegradable agricultural colorant exhibiting properties that will allow it to naturally degrade and disappear when exposed to sunlight.*

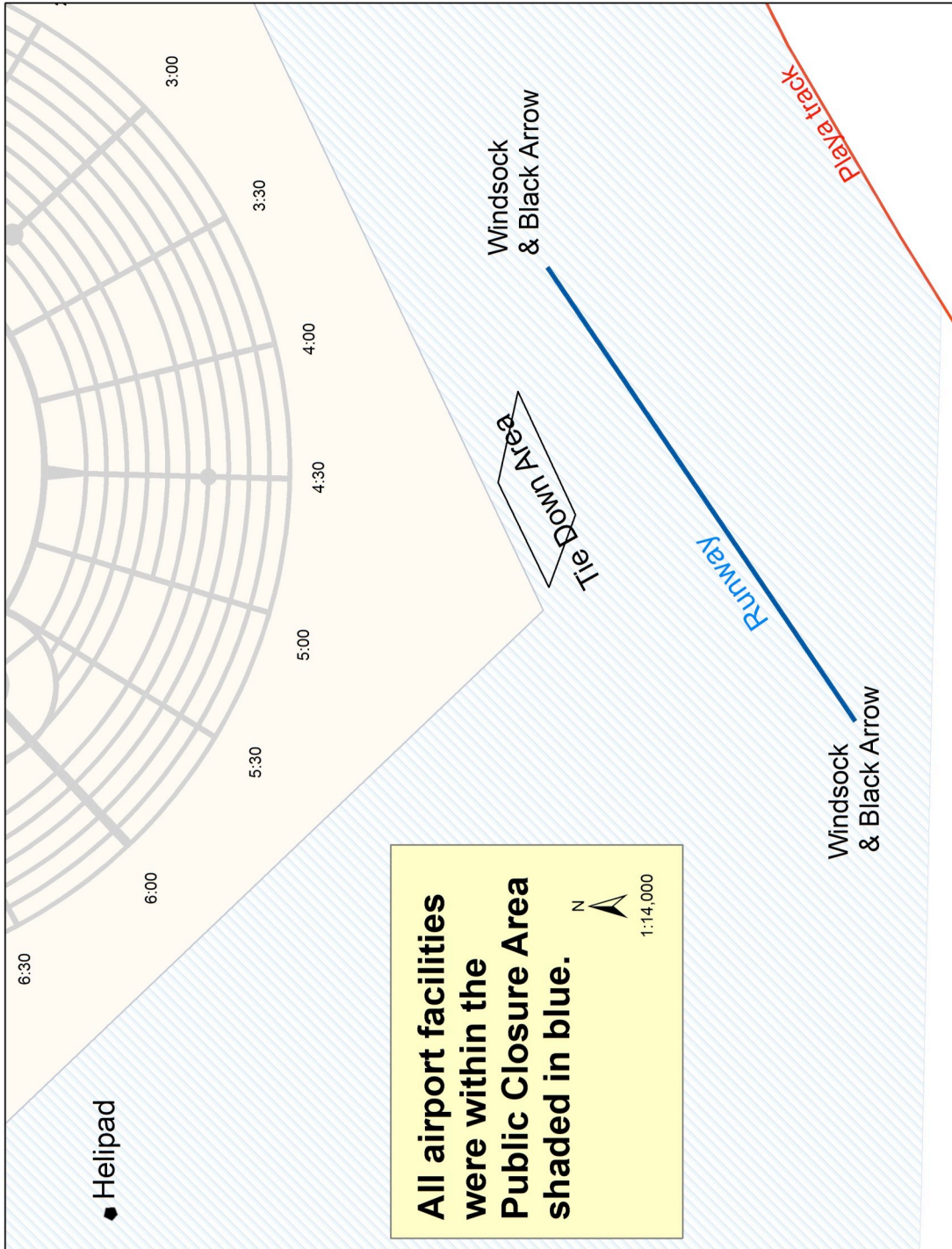
*53. Ultra-light aircraft take off/landing areas will be designated in the area to the southeast of the airport camp.*

## C. METHODS

All airport facilities were located using GPS cameras or Trimble GPS receivers. In GIS, this data was compared that of the public closure area to ensure all facilities were within the closure area.

### D. DATA

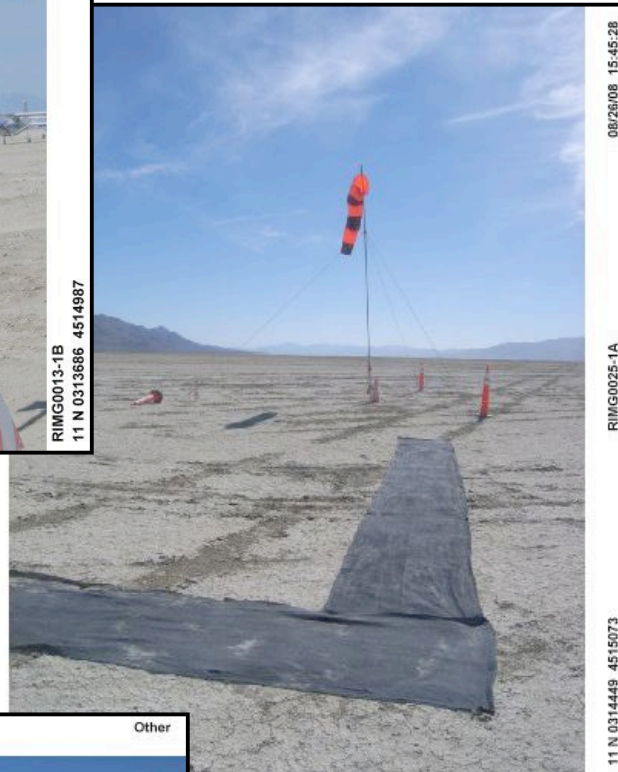
The map shows that all the airport facilities (runway, helipad etc) for the BM08 airport were within the Public Closure Area.







Corner at aircraft tie-down area



South end of runway



Fortunately, neither the passengers nor anyone on the ground was injured when this mechanical failure occurred.

## **E. RESULTS**

All airport facilities were within the boundaries of the Public Closure Area. In 2006 and 2007, this was found to not be the case and potentially endangered public safety.

## **F. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Simplify stipulations**

Since the FAA must also approve the Black Rock City airport, it is recommended the stipulations be simplified such that if facilities pass the requirements of the FAA, then they will also pass those of the BLM.

### **Include airport location on closure maps**

Alerting public users, event and BLM staff of the airport and runway locations has always been a challenge. Windssocks, reflective markings and other on-the-ground signs and markers are difficult to see while crossing the playa by vehicle. Include the airport location on all closure maps to alert travelers as they enter the playa and event area to the possibility of incoming and outgoing air traffic.

### **Coordinate airport and public closure areas in advance**

It is critical that BLM and Burning Man coordinate in advance to ensure that the airport is within the public closure area. This is of importance since the 2009 event returns to the 2007 location. As noted, the BM07 airport was not in the closure area and potentially endangered public safety. As part of this planning, the 3-mile track should be GPS recorded since the track has significantly drifted from that in the BLM GIS data. This coordination will also help to facilitate advance creation of the public closure area and maps.