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Mark A. Nilson, vice president of marketing for Cascade Airways, heads for the terminal after a Beechcraft 1900 landed on its first visit to Lewiston Airport.

## Cascade shows off Beechcraft 1900 at Lewiston

By Chris Tate  
of the Tribune

A reception party of about 35 well-wishers met officials from Cascade Airways, Inc., of Spokane, who flew into Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport Tuesday in one of the company's new Beechcraft 1900 planes.

Lewiston is one of six communities where the officials are promoting the plane this week. They will be at the Pullman-Moscow Airport at 1:20 p.m. Thursday.

The acquisition of the 1900s means that Cascade will be able to offer en-

tirely pressurized service by year's end, according to Mark M. Chestnutt, president and chairman of the airline's board of directors.

Mark Nilson, vice president of marketing, said the 19-passenger, pressurized planes will replace the airline's three unpressurized, 19-passenger Beechcraft 99s.

Eventually, more 1900s will replace six Swearingen Metroliner III prop-jet aircrafts. By year's end, Cascade's fleet will have 12 of the new 1900s, three 19-passenger Metroliners and two 48-passenger British Aerospace HS-748s, Nilson said.

Cascade also is adding to its regional

air fleet two 79-passenger BAC 1-11 jets, which have been compared to the DC 9-10. Those jets will not be used at Lewiston. Officials say the jets primarily will be flown on the airline's Seattle and Spokane to Calgary and Edmonton routes.

In addition to being pressurized, the 1900s have more comfortable seats, more cabin room and offer a quieter ride than the 99s, Nilson said.

Propelled by two prop-jet engines, the plane cruises at 300 mph. It maintains sea-level pressure up to 10,500 feet. Chestnutt, who founded the airline in 1969, said the 1900 is not as fuel efficient as the 99, but it is less expen-

sive to maintain.

Cascade flies to 17 airports in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana and Canada.

Passenger service accounted for about 90 percent of the airline's \$25 million revenue in 1983. Other services include cargo transportation, charter flights, mail, engine and airframe service and avionics and instrument work on private aircraft.

Cascade and Horizon Air are the only two airlines now serving the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport and the Pullman-Moscow Airport. Cascade has operated at Lewiston since 1976 and at Pullman since 1971.