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Inland Empire

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DECEMBER 13, 1977

Cascade wants 'federal status'

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Cascade Airways plans to ask the Civil Aeronautics Board for federal airline certification, the company's president said Monday.

The airline, which has been serving Boise since last August, operates as a commuter carrier and is exempt from CAB authority, said President Mark M. Chestnutt. The airline is based in Spokane.

Chestnutt made the announcement Monday before the Boise Chamber of Commerce's Aviation Committee meeting at the Boise airport.

He said although there are advantages to functioning as a commuter line, Cas-

cade seeks certificated status because of increasing passenger loads.

"We can't operate any longer as a commuter," Chestnutt said, noting Cascade is handling a passenger load of 16,000 to 17,000 persons a month.

Chestnutt said Cascade expects to turn a profit this year. The airline is planning to upgrade its air fleet with the purchase of several \$1.1 million Swearingen turbocharged aircraft with a 19-passenger capacity, he said.

Cascade flies regularly scheduled routes in Washington, Oregon and Idaho and serves Lewiston and Moscow-Pullman in north-central Idaho.