



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Hotchkiss, Colorado	Accident Number:	CEN23LA132
Date & Time:	March 13, 2023, 11:52 Local	Registration:	N235TT
Aircraft:	Maule M-7-235B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Nose over/nose down	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot planned to land at a Bureau of Land Management backcountry landing strip he had previously visited over 100 times. After completing multiple low passes to assess the snow depth and overall conditions of the landing area, he executed a soft field landing in a 3-point, full stall attitude. During the rollout, the drag from the snow was greater than expected and he was unable to maintain control. The airplane nosed over at low speed and came to rest inverted. The vertical stabilizer, rudder, and right-wing struts sustained substantial damage. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's loss of control during landing rollout on a snow-covered, turf airstrip.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Snow/slush/ice covered surface - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 1, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 29, 2022
Flight Time:	632 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model), 574 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Maule	Registration:	N235TT
Model/Series:	M-7-235B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1996	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	23031C
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 2, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	8 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2041 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-540-J3A5
Registered Owner:	WILD COUNTRY AIRCRAFT LLC	Rated Power:	235 Horsepower
Operator:	WILD COUNTRY AIRCRAFT LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	N/A	Operator Designator Code:	N/A

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAJZ, 5194 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	13 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	291°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	100°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.13 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Austin, CO (2C05)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Hotchkiss, CO (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:40 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BLM Airstrip PVT	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf; Snow
Airport Elevation:	6860 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1240 ft / 20 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.70422, -107.80556

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sorensen, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	Wesley Dollahite; FAA Flight Standards; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	April 20, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106884

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).