



Arizona Airways 1946-1950

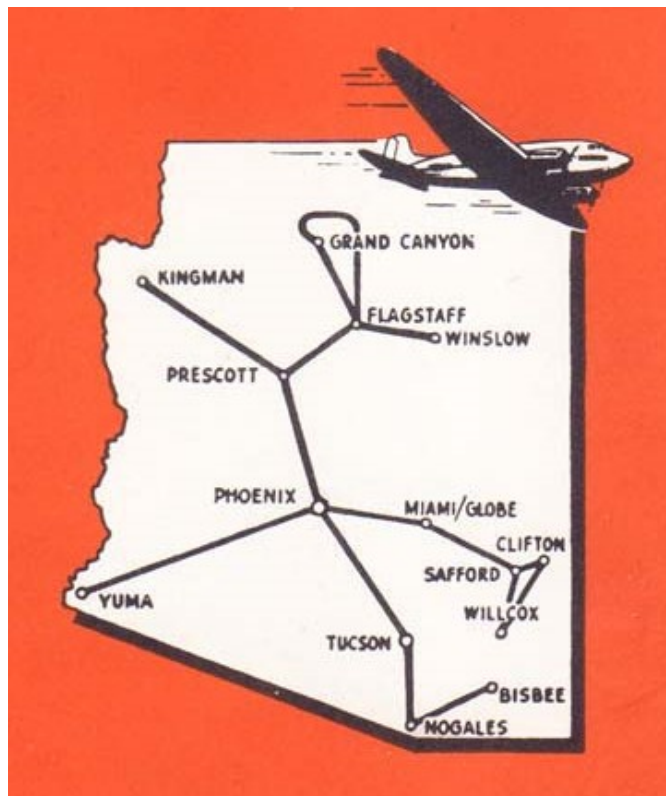
Arizona Airways began operations on March 17, 1946 and was based in Phoenix with routes throughout Arizona using Douglas DC-3 aircraft. In February, 1948 the carrier was issued authority by the Civil Aeronautics Board to expand into New Mexico with a route from Phoenix to El Paso stopping at Globe, Safford, and Clifton, Arizona, then onto Lordsburg, Silver City, Deming, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Two months later, Arizona Airways was forced to stop all operations due to financial obligations putting the new route through New Mexico on hold. The carrier was then put up for sale and Monarch Airlines of Denver purchased Arizona's operating assets, airline certificate, and route authority. Monarch was in a merger process with Challenger Airlines of Salt Lake City at the time and the carriers decided to include the assets and routes of Arizona Airways as well. The three carriers merged on June 1, 1950 and became known as Frontier Airlines. Arizona's route from Phoenix to Winslow, Arizona was extended to Gallup, New Mexico which joined up with Monarch's routes to Albuquerque and Denver and provided a link to Phoenix from the rest of the new Frontier Airlines system. The route between Phoenix and El Paso, stopping at four cities in southern New Mexico, was started one month later. Although Arizona Airways had stopped operating before any routes to New Mexico had started, it was Arizona's route authority that enabled Frontier to begin the new routes into Arizona. A review of Frontier can be found under the link for "Frontier Airlines, 1950-1986".

Arizona Airways had also operated a route from Phoenix to Douglas/Bisbee Arizona which stopped in Tucson and Nogales. Just prior to the merger into Frontier, the carrier applied to extend this route onto Lordsburg, New Mexico but the extension was not granted. Arizona also applied for a new southern route from Phoenix to Albuquerque with stops in Silver City, Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences), and Socorro, New Mexico however that route was not granted either.

A second Arizona Airways, a commuter airline, existed between 1992 and 1996, flying between Albuquerque and Tucson. There is no known correlation between these two companies.



Arizona Airways Douglas DC-3.



Arizona Airways route map from 1946.