

National Parks Air Tour Management Program

NPOAG-ARC Chairman's Report

Presented to: NPOAG, Port Angeles WA

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Federal Aviation
Administration



FAA ATMP PROGRAM UPDATE

- **NPOAG Membership News**
 - **On May 31, 2008 two members started 3 year terms**
 - **Don Barger for another term**
 - **Welcoming Kristen Brengel as new member, replacing Mark Peterson**
 - **Melissa Rudinger will finish out Heidi Williams term**
 - **Next membership term (Majenty) to expire is in April 2009**
 - **Update on Richard Deertrack**



NPOAG MEMBERSHIP

NPOAG Member	Employer or Interest Group	Representing	Start of Term	End of Term
Rory Majenty	Hualapai Nation	Native American Tribes	4/3/2006	4/2/2009
Richard Deertrack	Taos Pueblo	Native American Tribes	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Alan Stephen	Fixed Wing Air Tour Operators	Air Tour Operators	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Matthew Zuccaro	Helicopter Association International	Air Tour Operators	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Gregory Miller	American Hiking Society	Environmental Concerns	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Chip Dennerlein	Siskiyou Project	Environmental Concerns	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Melissa Rudinger (for Heidi Williams)	Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association	General Aviation	10/10/2006	10/9/2009
Elling Halvorson	Papillon Airways	Air Tour Operators	5/20/2007	5/19/2010
Don Barger	National Parks Conservation Association	Environmental Concerns	5/31/2008	5/30/2011
Kristen Brengel	The Wilderness Society	Environmental Concerns	5/31/2008	5/30/2011



FAA ATMP PROGRAM UPDATE

- **FAA and NPS held Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) program review meeting at Volpe on April 30 / May 1, 2008**
- **Proceeding with Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala, Environmental Assessments (EAs) for Mount Rushmore and Badlands**
- **Internal Mount Rushmore Preliminary Draft EA document being reviewed**
- **Flight Standards processed five requests from new entrant operators and submitted for NPS review/action**



FAA ATMP PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Ambient noise measurements conducted at - Death Valley National Park, CA**
 - **Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashore, NC and**
 - **Everglades National Park, Big Cypress, Biscayne, and Dry Tortugas, FL**
- **Candidate ARC Park Selected (Death Valley)**



FAA FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- **FAA and NPS Memorandum of Understanding calls for a 60% / 40% cost sharing between FAA and NPS for all “third-party costs required to produce ATMPs and associated environmental documentation.”**
- **FAA has set aside \$32.6m to fund its 60% share and general Volpe National Transportation Systems Center’s program support. Of this amount, \$ 11.1m has been expended.**
- **Earlier this year, FAA prepared an expenditure plan to ensure funds at Volpe at risk of cancellation would be fully utilized in support of ATMP efforts.**
- **Planned additional funding to support ATMP efforts include:**
 - **Development of Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) which will replace Integrated Noise Model (INM) and Emission and Dispersion Modeling System (EDMS)**
 - **National Parks and Air Tours Research**
 - **Noise dose-response workshop in October 2008**
 - **Baseline ambient data collection at additional parks**



NPOAG – SUBGROUPS

- **Prevention and mitigation of significant adverse environmental impacts: Provide recommendations on how, and at what level(s), an adverse impact can be quantified as significant adverse.**
- **Modifications to interim operating authority: Propose a process by which the FAA can achieve the requirement of the Act to publish the IOA information in the Federal Register. This process should start at the receipt of an application for operating authority and end with the Federal Register publication of IOA, and shall include the possibility of modifications to IOA. Also, suggest a verification process/procedure.**
- **Tribal issues: Provide recommendations that would assist the FAA and the NPS in proactively building effective Government-to-Government relationship with the affected tribes.**
- **Quiet technology: Provide recommendations regarding the adoption of quiet aircraft technology, indicate how can it be measured, and indicate how these measurements should be treated in the formulation of NEPA alternatives.**
- **Competitive Process: Propose a competitive process and selection criteria that can be used whenever an air tour management plan limits the number of commercial air tour operations.**
- **New entrant operators and increased operations of existing operators: Propose a recommended process that could be used by the NPS to determine if new entrant operations would create a noise problem. Propose a recommended process that could be used by the FAA and the NPS to argue that a request for increase in operations shall be granted.**

