

# National Parks Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) Program Update

Presented to: NPOAG, Port Angeles, WA

By: FAA/NPS ATMP Staff

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Federal Aviation  
Administration



National Park  
Service



# ATMP Update

- **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**

- Elevated issues on terrorist threat analysis and climber speech interference no longer an impediment for MORU EA
- In light of NPS impairment determinations for previously analyzed alternatives, re-evaluated range of alternatives, including various operational levels
- Number of action alternatives reduced because they did not perform as expected based on preliminary environmental analysis or due to safety considerations
- Changes in air tour operator status
- Cooperating agency status formally extended to Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Revised EA format proposed to “streamline” document
- Internal PDEA document currently being reviewed by ATMP National Team
- Will share PDEA with NPOAG after internal review / updates



# ATMP Update

- **Badlands National Park**

- Reviewing range of alternatives and number of operations under each alternatives for potential adjustments
- Confirming cooperating agency status with Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Confirming tribal interest in air tour route over South Unit of park
- General Management Plan for South Unit of park currently being developed
- Operator status at park



# ATMP Update

- **Hawaii Volcanoes (HAVO) and Haleakala (HALE) National Parks**
  - November 2007: 2<sup>nd</sup> alternatives development refinement meetings
  - January 2008 Final NPS Social Science Research to Inform Soundscape Management for HAVO and HALE.
  - February 2008: FAA and NPS staff meeting with air tour operators
  - April 2008: Acoustic monitoring of 3 sites at HAVO and 3 at HALE for current conditions



# ATMP Update

- June 2008: Final Ethnographic Study for HALE completed
- June 2008: Hawaii Air Tour Common Procedures Manual published in Federal Register in for public comment
- July 2008: FAA forwarded two new entrant operators requests for operating authority at HALE and HAVO to NPS



# ATMP Update

## Next Steps

- Continued refinement of alternatives
- Public version of alternatives development report package being prepared for public review and comment
- Targeting completion of Draft EIS's for 2009



# ATMP Update

- **Lake Mead National Recreational Area (NRA)**
  - ATMP effort on hold
  - Pending completion of Grand Canyon Overflights EIS



# ATMP Update

- **Expedited ATMP ARC Process**

- Previously identified candidates Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and Colonial National Historic Park did not pan out
- Death Valley National Park is new candidate park, Superintendent has agreed
- Baseline ambient noise measurements conducted in April 2008
- Total of 7 operators with combined IOA of approximately 70 annual operations
- Draft ARC charter being prepared
- Timbisha Shoshone tribe has lands in park
- Abbreviated EA envisioned for NEPA requirements



# 2008 Acoustic Monitoring

- **Volpe Acoustic Monitoring Activities**

- Death Valley National Park
- Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores
- Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne National Park

- **NPS Acoustic Monitoring Activities**

- Dry Tortugas National Park and Everglades National Park
- Golden Gate National Recreational Area
- North Cascades National Park
- Zion National Park
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Haleakala National Park

