



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK OVERFLIGHT ISSUES

NPS and FAA

Responsibilities and Collaboration



NATIONAL PARKS OVERFLIGHTS ACT OF 1987 Public Law 100-91

- NPS/DOI recommendations for substantial restoration of natural quiet and protection of park resources.
- FAA safety review and issuance of plan to manage air traffic above GC airspace.

NATIONAL PARKS OVERFLIGHTS ACT OF 1987 Public Law 100-91

On September 12, 1994 the NPS submitted its *Report on Effects of Aircraft Overflights on the National Park System to Congress* which established the goal of restoration of natural quiet as “50 percent of the park is experiencing natural quiet 75 to 100 percent of the day”, each and every day.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ORGANIC ACT

NPS is directed to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations”

And

“The authorization of activities shall be construed and the protection, management, and administration of these areas shall be conducted in light of the high public value and integrity of the National Park System and shall not be exercised in derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress.” (Amended by the Redwoods Act 3/2/78)



Relevant NPS Management Policies and Directors Orders

- **8.4.3 General Aviation**
- **8.4.4 Administrative Use**
- **8.4.5 Military Aviation**
- **8.4.6 Commercial Air
Tour Management**
- **4.9 Soundscape
Management**
- **4.1.5 Restoration of
Natural Systems**
- **DO 2 – Resource
Stewardship Planning**
- **DO12 - Conservation
Planning,
Environmental Impact
Analysis and Decision
Making**



FEDERAL AVIATION ACT

FAA directed to assign the use of airspace to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace.

TRIBAL INTERESTS

Government-to-Government consultation

Protection of traditional cultural properties

Special Tribal provisions in Overflights Act

Cooperating agency status for NEPA review



FEDERAL AVIATION ACT

Title 49 U.S.C.

FAA Administrator shall prescribe air traffic regulations on the flight of aircraft.

FAA amends Federal Aviation Regulations to establish special flight rules over Grand Canyon and standards for quiet technology.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

FAA is lead agency responsible for environmental review of proposed FAA regulations.

NPS will be joint lead agency for GCNP overflights plan.

Affected Tribes will be invited to be cooperating agencies.



NATIONAL PARKS AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000

- Use of reasonable scientific methods to assess air tour noise in the national park system.
- Designation of quiet aircraft technology and establishment of routes/corridors for aircraft using quiet technology.



REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT

Federal regulatory agencies are required to consider the impact of regulations on small businesses.



NPS and FAA Commitment

Provide joint Federal leadership necessary to complete a final overflights plan that fulfills the requirements of the National Parks Overflights Act of 1987 in collaboration with members of the Grand Canyon Working Group