

**INFORMATION FOR THE NEWS MEDIA
REGARDING ACCESS AND COVERAGE OF
GRAND CANYON WORKING GROUP (GCWG) MEETINGS**

Background

The GCWG is an advisory group formed by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service to discuss, negotiate and recommend policies, practices and regulations for measuring and managing the overflight noise at Grand Canyon National Park.

Discretion is necessary when covering a group such as this. Negotiations of a working group involve education, deliberation and accommodation. They are sensitive in this case because of a history of litigation and legislation, and the members are only now getting to know each other.

Participants are encouraged to think broadly and take some risks in order to help the group overall realize the best possible solution. Members may change their positions on particular issues during the course of negotiations that continue for months and years. Within their roles as members of the Working Group, the members also are expected to represent the interests of their organizations and may be unable to comment for the record without consulting their constituents or supervisors.

Meetings of the Grand Canyon Working Group are open to the public and the news media, with the following restrictions:

- All members of the public and the news media, and other interested observers, must register with the meeting facilitators or co-chairs.
- Members of the public and news media are not allowed to participate in the meeting of the GCWG when it is under way, except as provided in the agenda. The Working Group will allow at least one opportunity for observers to speak during each meeting.
- GCWG meetings may not be audio or video recorded by any means, except when specifically permitted by the Working Group.
- Because of the sensitive nature of negotiations, comments made by GCWG members or alternates and agency staff during Working Group meetings are considered off the record. However, members of the public or the news media may interview or discuss any issue with members, alternates or agency staff before or after formal sessions, or during breaks.
- GCWG members and alternates are not restricted in the comments they make to the public or the news media for publication, but they are urged to refrain from criticizing the Working Group or the ongoing collaborative process, or from making statements that would undermine trust among the members.
- Facilitators, members, alternates and agency staff do not have authority to speak on behalf of the GCWG unless specifically delegated that responsibility by the Working Group.

Approved by GCWG October 25, 2005