

The Noise Pollution Clearinghouse would like to comment on the proposed rulemaking for the National Parks Air Tour Management Act. We believe it is vital to protect the natural quiet of our national parks, and managing air tours that fly over our national parks is one important way to do that.

The 5000 foot above ground level altitude is a good one to designate for jurisdiction of the air tour management process. This altitude will capture most operators that give commercial air tours of parks.

When making decisions regarding natural quiet, the FAA needs to recognize the National Park Service's expertise and defer to their judgement. Impacts on visitors, resources, and values from noise are best determined by the park service.

As the planning process starts, new air tour operators should be prevented from beginning flights over our parks. This coincides with the "no new entrants" clause of the Act. Furthermore, air tour operators who ignored the FAA's request to notify the FAA of their over-park operations within 90 days of the passage of the Act should be prevented from flying over parks.

Most importantly, the public and the air tour operators themselves need to understand the process through which air tour management plans will be developed. The FAA should clearly and publicly define this process.