

I am asking the FAA to maintain or increase the current minimum altitude, eliminate exemptions from the altitude rule, and give the state and National Park Service the ability to restrict tour overflights from state and national parks and wilderness areas. Noise from air tours is not only an annoyance for hikers and campers seeking a wilderness experience, but it can be fatal for Hawaii's forest birds.

-Repeated disruptions interrupt courtship and mating activities, nest-building, and searching for food, leading to higher mortality rates or abandonment of habitat. Government studies have demonstrated that the higher minimum altitude saves lives:

-constant noise has been shown to adversely impact human health;

Hawaii's wildlife--especially forest birds--are negatively affected by overflight disruptions, from mating problems to abandonment of nests;

-constant noise in state and national parks can ruin the wilderness experience for hikers and campers;

-the state and National Park Service should have the ability to restrict or ban air tour flights over sensitive areas.

Thank you.

JoAnne Backman