

Grand Canyon National Park

Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Documents Associated with Draft EIS DES 10-60, Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park

| Date | Document |
|---------------|---|
| January 1975 | Grand Canyon National Park Enlargement Act (PL 93-620; 16 USC Chapter 1, 228g) If significant adverse effects of overflights on park natural quiet and experience, then action required http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/usc.cgi?ACTION=RETRIEVE&FILE=\$\$xa\$\$busc16.wais&start=1276764&SIZE=2570&TYPE=PDF |
| August 1987 | National Parks Overflights Act (PL 100-91; 16 USC §1a-1note) Noise associated with overflights is causing a significant adverse effect on natural quiet and experience of the park, and raising safety concerns. Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis of nature, scope, and effects of overflights in national park units • recommendations to substantially restore natural quiet and experience in park, designate Flight-free Zones, no flights below rim except for administrative and emergency operations http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/upload/PL100-91.pdf |
| June 1988 | SFAR 50-2 (53 FR 20264) Revised flight procedures in Grand Canyon National Park (GCNP) airspace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended the Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) • prohibited flights below 14,500 feet mean sea level (MSL) • established four Flight-free Zones • set special routes for commercial sightseeing operators • required certain terrain avoidance and communications requirements http://rgl.faa.gov/Regulatory_and_Guidance_Library%5CrgFAR.nsf/0/DD9C9F385188169E86256C7800586329?OpenDocument |
| March 1994 | Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (94-6216) Sought public comment on general policy and specific recommendations for voluntary and regulatory actions to address the effects of aircraft overflights on national parks http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1994/03/17/94-6216/overflights-of-units-of-the-national-park-system-proposed-rule-department-of-transportation |
| July 1995 | Report to Congress on Effects of Aircraft Overflights on the National Park System Defined restoration of natural quiet as 50% or more of the park achieves natural quiet (no aircraft audible) 75 to 100% of the day http://www.nonoise.org/library/npreport/intro.htm#TABLE%20OF%20CONTENTS |
| April 1996 | Presidential Memorandum (61 FR 18229) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of Transportation directed to issue proposed regulations for GCNP to appropriately limit sightseeing aircraft to reduce aircraft noise immediately, and further restore natural quiet, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior, while maintaining aviation safety in accordance with the Overflights Act • required development of plan to complete restoration and maintenance of natural quiet if the Final Rule did not accomplish the goal http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1996/04/25/96-10369/additional-transportation-planning-to-address-impacts-of-transportation-on-national-parks |
| December 1996 | Final Rule Special Flight Rules in the Vicinity of GCNP (61 FR 69302) Established <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seasonal flight curfews for GCNP East End (14 CFR § 93.305) • temporary cap on number of air-tour flights • air-tour operator reporting requirement • changed airspace routes and altitudes for air-tour flights (14 CFR §93.307) http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1996/12/31/96-33146/special-flight-rules-in-the-vicinity-of-grand-canyon-national-park |
| December 1996 | Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (61 FR 69334) Noise Limitations for Aircraft Operations in the Vicinity of GCNP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced air-tour aircraft impact by providing an incentive flight corridor through GCNP for noise-efficient (quiet) aircraft • categorized aircraft by noise efficiency • removed aircraft cap for the most noise-efficient aircraft http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1996/12/31/96-33145/noise-limitations-for-aircraft-operations-in-the-vicinity-of-grand-canyon-national-park |
| February 1997 | Final Rule (62 FR 8862) Delayed effective date for majority of provisions in the December 1996 Final Rule http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1997/02/26/97-4824/special-flight-rules-in-the-vicinity-of-grand-canyon-national-park |
| May 1997 | Notice of Availability (62 FR 26909) Announced availability of mapped commercial air-tour routes as announced in December 1996 Final Rule http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1997/05/15/97-12746/air-tour-routes-for-the-grand-canyon-national-park |

Grand Canyon National Park

Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



| | |
|---------------|--|
| October 1997 | <p>Notice of Clarification and Reevaluation of Final Environmental Assessment (EA) (62 FR 58898) regarding December 1996 Special Flight Rules in the Vicinity of GCNP Final Rule aircraft cap. The EA accompanying the Rule used incorrect number of 136 aircraft in the analysis (should have been 260)</p> <p>http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/1997/10/31/97-28856/special-flight-rules-in-the-vicinity-of-grand-canyon-national-park</p> |
| January 1999 | <p>Notice of Agency Policy Change (64 FR 3969) Noise Evaluation Methodology for Air Tour Operations over GCNP</p> <p>Described a two-zone system with different noise thresholds (audibility and noticeability) to model substantial restoration achieved. Natural ambient sound zones refined and added to additional zones</p> <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| July 1999 | <p>Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice 99-11)</p> <p>Modified GCNP SFRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extended SFRA's eastern portion and Desert View Flight-free Zone to the boundary 5 nautical miles east • modified Bright Angel Flight-free Zone to a possible quiet-technology incentive route • provided for an additional route between Las Vegas and Tusayan • modified Sanup Flight-free Zone's northern boundary <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| July 1999 | <p>Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice 99-12)</p> <p>Limited number of commercial air tours in the SFRA by proposing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary limits (allocations) on number of SFRA air tours to number reported 5/1/97 to 4/30/98 • new definitions for commercial SFRA operations (transportation, training, maintenance, repositioning, and flights serving Grand Canyon West) • no transfer of allocations into either Dragon or Zuni Point Corridors; transfer of allocations out of these corridors is permissible • no transfer of allocations from peak to off-peak season <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| July 1999 | <p>Notice of Proposed Rule Making (64 FR 37296-37301) Modification of the Dimensions of the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area and Flight Free Zones. Changes included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elimination of Blue-1 and Blue-1A routes through National Canyon and Havasupai Reservation • simplifying and shortening West End routes (Green-4 and Blue-2) • establishing Blue Direct North and Blue Direct South routes between Las Vegas and Tusayan • extending Green-3 and Black-4 routes around Bright Angel and Desert View Flight-free Zones <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| April 2000 | <p>Final Rule (65 FR 17736-17743) Modification of the Dimensions of the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area and Flight Free Zones</p> <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| April 2000 | <p>Final Rule (65 FR 17708) Commercial Air Tour Limitation in the Grand Canyon National Park Special Flight Rules Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changed air-tour airspace and routes • set limitations on number of GCNP air-tour flights (allocations) at 90,000 • added air-tour operator reporting requirements <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| April 2000 | <p>National Parks Air Tour Management Act (P.L. 106-181)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • required "quiet aircraft technology" definition and creation of incentive routes for quiet aircraft, as long as routes do not negatively impact substantial restoration of natural quiet, Native American lands, or safety. • mandated development of Air Tour Management Plans (ATMP) • prohibited commercial air-tour operators from conducting tours over a national park or tribal lands, except in accordance with the Act, conditions prescribed for the operator by the FAA administrator, and any air-tour management plan for the park or tribal lands • required a cooperative relationship between FAA and NPS regarding air-tour management planning <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| December 2001 | <p>Final Rule (66 FR 63294-63296)</p> <p>Extended implementation of East End Airspace Modification Final Rule until February 2003</p> <p>http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2001/12/05/01-30012/modifications-of-the-dimensions-of-the-grand-canyon-national-park-special-flight-rules-area-and#p-3</p> |
| January 2003 | <p>Aircraft Noise Model Validation Study</p> <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |
| November 2003 | <p>Federal Register Notices (68 FR 63129-63132)</p> <p>Defined "the day" and selection of NMSIM as NPS "model of choice" to determine restoration of natural quiet at GCNP</p> <p>http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm</p> |

Grand Canyon National Park

Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



| | |
|---------------|---|
| March 2005 | Assessment of Tools for Modeling Aircraft Noise in National Parks Designated Integrated Noise Model (INM) 6.2 as the model for assessing aircraft noise at GCNP and parks requiring Air Tour Management Plans http://www.fican.org/pdf/Assessment_ToolsModeling_NPS.pdf |
| March 2005 | Final Rule (70 FR 16084) Noise Limitations for Aircraft Operations in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park Rule <ul style="list-style-type: none">• set decibel levels for quiet-technology aircraft• classified tour aircraft by noise produced• identified which aircraft meet or do not meet GCNP quiet-aircraft technology designation http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm |
| March 2005 | Notice (70 FR 30992) Membership in the Grand Canyon Working Group of the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group Aviation Rulemaking Committee. NPS and FAA establish a Grand Canyon Working Group within NPOAG, and ask people to assist/nominate representatives to the ADR working group, and identify NPOAG role in ADR process and conflict-resolution efforts http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2005/05/31/05-10684/membership-in-the-grand-canyon-working-group-of-the-national-parks-overflights-advisory-group |
| January 2006 | Notice of Intent (71 FR 4192) to Prepare Environmental Impact Statement http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm |
| February 2006 | Final Rule (71 FR 09439) Delayed implementation of East End airspace and commercial air-tour route changes http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2006/02/24/06-1759/delayed-implementation-of-the-airspace-modification-final-rule-for-the-grand-canyon-national-park |
| April 2008 | Notice (73 FR 19246-19248) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clarified definition of substantial restoration of natural quiet at Grand Canyon National Park (will be achieved when reduction of noise from aircraft operations below 18,000 feet MSL results in 50% or more of the park achieving restoration of natural quiet, i.e., no aircraft audible for 75 to 100% of the day, each and every day)• 50% restoration defined as the minimum goal http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/airoverflights_documents.htm |
| February 2010 | Draft EIS Special Flight Rules Area in the Vicinity of Grand Canyon National Park http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grca |

