

Mount Rainier National Park 55210 238<sup>th</sup> Avenue E. Ashford, WA 98304-9751 www.nps.gov/mora

## Mount Rainier National Park News Release

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## Mount Rainier National Park Seeks Public Input on Proposed Air Tour Management Plan

ASHFORD, WA – The National Park Service (NPS) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are seeking public feedback on a draft Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) that is being proposed for Mount Rainier National Park.

The agencies encourage anyone with an interest in or concern about air tours over Mount Rainier National Park to review and comment on the draft ATMP. The proposed plan would authorize up to one air tour per year on a defined route.

Public feedback can be provided through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website from July 29-August 28, 2021. The NPS and FAA will consider comments to help inform the final ATMP for Mount Rainier National Park. The project website is available at: <a href="https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MountRainierATMP">https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MountRainierATMP</a>. A virtual public meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2021 from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The meeting will be available via Livestream at <a href="https://youtu.be/dVqpZ\_X5vww">https://youtu.be/dVqpZ\_X5vww</a>.

"We encourage anyone who is interested in air tours over the park to share their thoughts on the proposed plan for Mount Rainier National Park," said Greg Dudgeon, the park's superintendent. "The draft plan is based on current operations and reported air tour levels at Mount Rainier and includes measures to help protect wildlife, natural soundscapes, wilderness character, the Mount Rainier National Historic Landmark District, and visitor enjoyment by managing air tours over the park."

Mount Rainier National Park is among 24 parks in the National Park System developing air tour management plans in cooperation with the FAA. The agencies hope to complete all air tour management plans by the end of August 2022. The schedule is part of a plan approved by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for the agencies to comply with the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 within two years.

An important part of the process is the inclusion of American Indian Tribes. The agencies are consulting with Tribes that have tribal lands within or adjacent to Mount Rainier National Park, and with Tribes that attach historic and cultural significance to resources within the park.

Please visit this <u>NPS site</u> and this <u>FAA site</u> for more detailed information about air tour management plans. Links to meeting notifications, recordings and slide decks (where applicable) will be posted to the <u>NPS site</u>.

## The 24 parks:

- 1. Arches National Park, Utah
- 2. Badlands National Park, South Dakota
- 3. Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico
- 4. Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah
- 5. Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona
- 6. Canyonlands National Park, Utah
- 7. Death Valley National Park, California
- 8. Everglades National Park, Florida
- 9. Glacier National Park, Montana
- 10. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Arizona, Utah
- 11. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California
- 12. Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Tennessee, North Carolina
- 13. Haleakalā National Park, Hawai'i
- 14. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i
- 15. Lake Mead National Recreation Area; Arizona, Nevada
- 16. Mount Rainier National Park, Washington
- 17. Muir Woods National Monument, California

- 18. Mount Rushmore National Memorial, South Dakota
- 19. Natural Bridges National Monument, Utah
- 20. National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit; New York, New Jersey
- 21. Olympic National Park, Washington
- 22. Point Reyes National Seashore, California
- 23. Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Utah
- 24. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, California

For more information on Mount Rainier National Park, please visit www.nps.gov/mora.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.