

National Parks Air Tour Management Program



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



**National Park
Service**

**WELCOME –
We will begin shortly**

May 25, 2023



NPS Photo

National Parks Air Tour Management Program



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**National Park
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Draft Air Tour
Management Plan for:

**Haleakalā
National Park**

May 25, 2023



NPS Photo

Welcome

- Thank you for joining us today.
- Today's meeting focuses on the draft Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) for Haleakalā National Park.
- We invite you to share your feedback on this draft ATMP.
- Specific instructions will be provided throughout this meeting on how to submit your questions.
- This meeting is held pursuant to the National Parks Air Tour Management Act (NPATMA) and its implementing regulations.



Presenters

- **Eric Elmore** – FAA, Senior Policy Advisor
- **Vicki Ward** – NSNSD, Overflights Program Manager
- **Natalie B. Gates** – NPS, Superintendent
- **Lindsay Moore** – NPS, Environmental Protection Specialist
- **Jin Prugsawan** – NPS, Chief of Interpretation, Education & Volunteers



Asking Questions

- Throughout the meeting, we invite you to share your questions. Please submit questions using the Google form posted by the FAA in the chat.
- Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentations as part of the Q&A portion as time will allow.
- The purpose of today's meeting is to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and clarify information so that you can submit official comments.



Submitting Official Comments

- All written official comments for the record must be submitted via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site or sent to the mailing addresses listed on the Haleakalā National Park PEPC site.
- These written comments become part of the official record.
- Please note that written comments must be submitted on or before **June 20, 2023, at 8:00 PM HST.**



Format of Meeting

- This meeting will be 90 minutes long.
- We will adjourn at 7:30 PM Hawai'i Standard Time.
- In the event questions are addressed before this end time, we will continue to hold the meeting until this identified end time to allow for any additional questions that might come in.



National Parks Air Tour Management Program



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**Overview of the
National Parks Air
Tour Management
Act and Air Tour
Management Plans**

May 25, 2023



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NPATMA Overview

- Requires the FAA, in cooperation with the NPS, to develop an Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) for those parks where operators have applied to conduct commercial air tours.
- An ATMP applies to commercial air tours:
 - Within ½ mile of a park; and
 - Below 5,000 feet altitude above ground level (AGL).
- Does not apply to general aviation, commercial airline, or military flights.
- Commercial air tour operators apply for FAA Interim Operating Authority (IOA) in order to operate over National Park System units.



Air Tour Management Plans

The objective of this draft ATMP is to develop acceptable and effective measures to mitigate or prevent the significant adverse impacts, if any, of commercial air tour operations on the Park's natural and cultural landscapes and resources, areas of historic and spiritual significance to Native Hawaiians, Wilderness character, and visitor experience.



Air Tour Management Plans

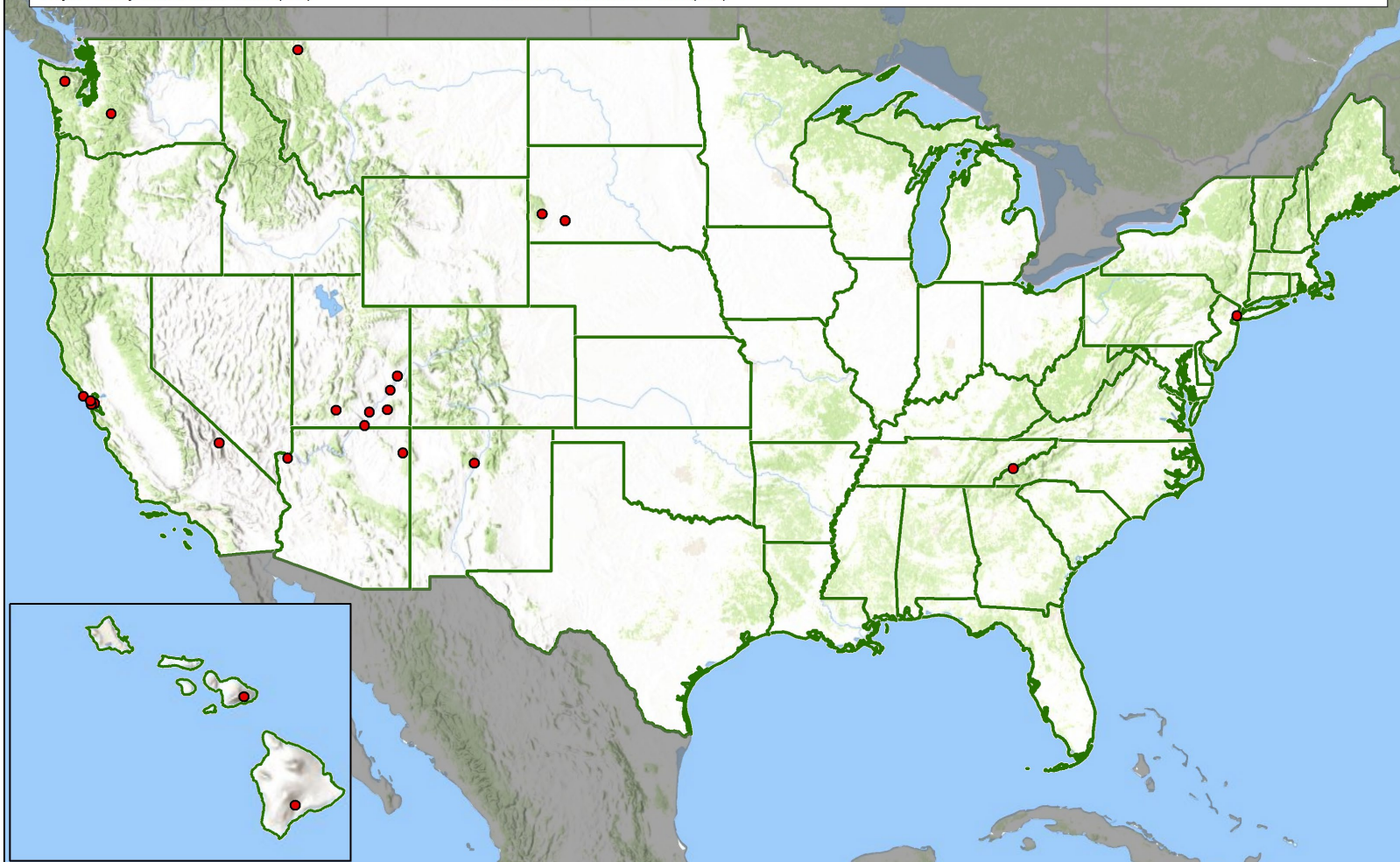
An ATMP:

- May prohibit commercial air tour operations in whole or in part;
- May establish conditions for the conduct of air tour operations including routes, altitudes, time-of-day restrictions, restrictions for particular events, maximum number of flights, etc.;
- Shall apply to all commercial air tour operations within ½ mile outside the boundary of a national park;
- Shall include incentives for the adoption of quiet aircraft technology;
- Shall provide for the allocation of opportunities to conduct air tours when the ATMP limits the number of operations; and
- Shall justify and document the need for measures taken pursuant to items above and include such justifications in the record of decision.



23 Parks

- Mount Rainier National Park (WA)
- Olympic National Park (WA)
- Point Reyes National Seashore (CA)
- San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (CA)
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA)
- Muir Woods National Monument (CA)
- Death Valley National Park (CA/NV)
- Glacier National Park (MT)
- Bryce Canyon National Park (UT)
- Canyonlands National Park (UT)
- Rainbow Bridge National Monument (UT)
- Natural Bridges National Monument (UT)
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (UT)
- Arches National Park (UT)
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument (AZ)
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NV/AZ)
- Bandelier National Monument (NM)
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial (SD)
- Badlands National Park (SD)
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC/TN)
- National Parks of New York Harbor (NY)
- Haleakalā National Park (HI)
- Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HI)



ATMP Updates

Completed ATMPs

- Mount Rainier National Park (WA)
- Olympic National Park (WA)
- Point Reyes National Seashore (CA)
- San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park (CA)
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area (CA)
- Muir Woods National Monument
- Death Valley National Park (CA/NV)
- Glacier National Park (MT)
- Bryce Canyon National Park (UT)
- Canyonlands National Park (UT)
- Natural Bridges National Monument (UT)
- Arches National Park (UT)
- Great Smokey National Park (NC/TN)

Completed Voluntary Agreement's (VA)

- National Parks of New York Harbor (NY)

Ongoing ATMPs

- Haleakalā National Park (HI)
- Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HI)
- Badlands National Park (SD)
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial (SD)
- Bandelier National Monument (NM)
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (UT)
- Rainbow Bridge National Monument (UT)
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NV/AZ)
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument (AZ)

ATMP Development

- For each ATMP, the agencies:
 - Publish proposed ATMPs in the Federal Register;
 - Hold at least one public meeting; and
 - Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other legal requirements.
- The purpose of today's meeting is to review the components of the draft ATMP.



National Parks Air Tour Management Program



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**Draft Air Tour
Management Plan for:**

**Haleakalā
National Park**

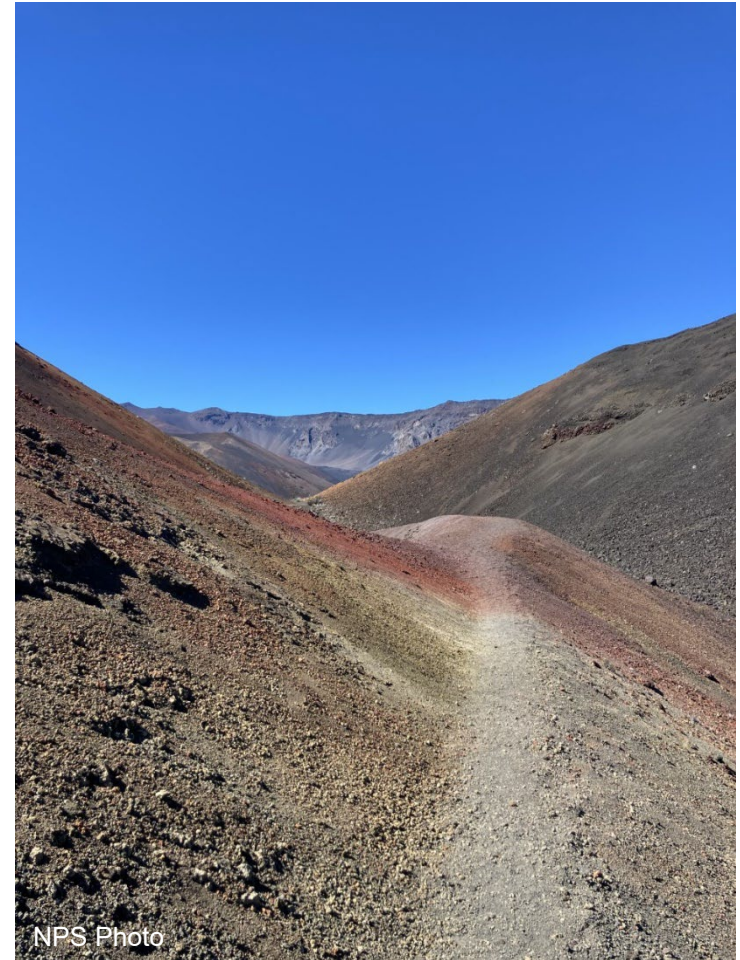
May 25, 2023



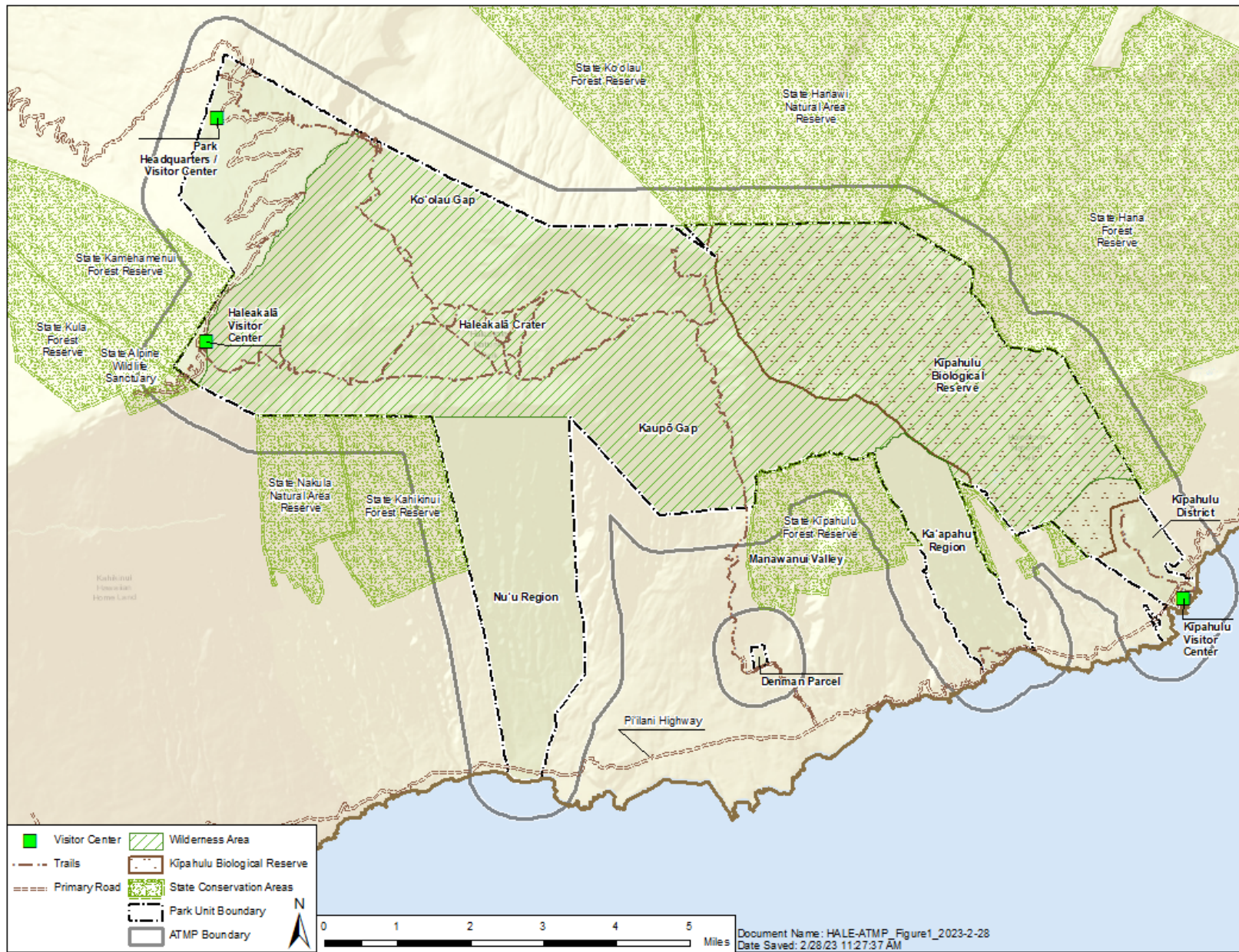
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Park Overview

- Haleakalā National Park preserves over 33,000 acres, 24,719 acres of which are preserved as Wilderness, in the south-eastern portion of Maui in Hawaiʻi.
- One of the Park's main features is Haleakalā Crater, which is known as one of the quietest places on Earth. The Park includes diverse ecosystems and significant cultural resources.



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Park Resources

- The Park has historically been utilized by the Native Hawaiian Community as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), significant as a source for both traditional materials and sacred use, and as a place exhibiting spiritual power.
- There are over 25 historic properties within the Park, including the Haleakalā TCP, Crater Historic District, CCC Crater Trails District, Kīpahulu Historic District, and over a hundred additional archeological sites.
- The Park protects a unique diversity of native wildlife species, over 90% of which are only found on the Hawaiian Islands, including: Hawaiian hoary bat, Hawaiian monk seal, kiwikiu, ‘i‘iwi, and nēnē



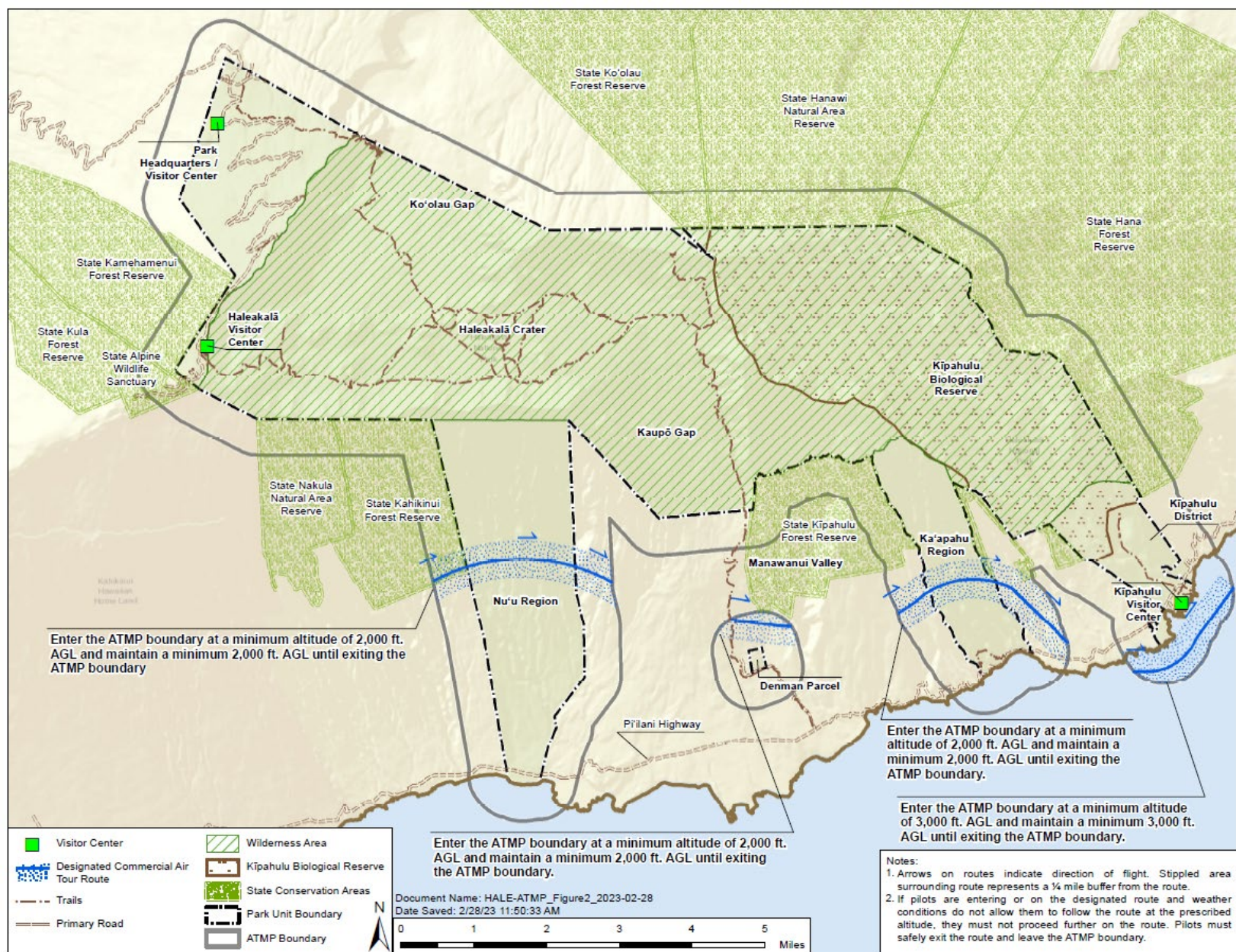
Existing Air Tour Conditions

- Six commercial air tour operators currently hold Interim Operating Authority (IOA) for a combined total of 25,827 flights per year over the Park.
- The three-year average of reported data (2017-2019) is 4,824 total flights conducted by the five operators each year.
- Annual number of commercial air tours at the Park is limited by the IOA.
- There are no restrictions on route or time-of-day; no procedures to establish no-fly periods.



Draft ATMP for the Park

Attribute	Existing Air Tour Conditions	Draft ATMP
Number of Air Tours Authorized Per Year	IOA: 25,827 flights per year 3-Yr. Average (2017-2019): 4,824	2,412 flights per year 16 flights per day
Routes and Altitudes	No mandatory routes or no-fly zones.	One air tour route, entering the Park from the west, south of the State Kahikinui Forest Reserve and exiting the ATMP planning area approximately 1.25 km from the Kīpahulu area and Visitor Center. The route requires operators to fly in one direction at minimum 2,000 ft. AGL over land and 3,000 ft. AGL over the ocean.
Time-of-Day Restrictions	No restrictions, may occur at any time	On days where air tours are permitted: 11 AM – 2 PM for non-quiet technology flights 11 AM – 4 PM for quiet technology flights
Day-of-Week Restrictions	No restrictions, may occur on any day of the week	No-fly days on Sunday and Wednesday
Restrictions for Particular Events	No restrictions, may occur on any day of the year	Six no-fly days generated by following the Hawaiian Moon Calendar and Makahiki Season; two no-fly days on HI State holidays of historical importance with prior notice provided to operators.
Training, Education, and Meetings	No interpretive training, education or annual meeting.	Mandatory training and annual meeting. Helicopter operators required to complete the FAA Introduction to Fly Neighborly training.



Justification for Measures Taken

- Annual and daily flight limits are intended to protect Park cultural resources, reduce impacts to biological resources, improve visitor experience, and protect Wilderness character.
- Minimum required altitudes of 2,000 ft. AGL over land and 3,000 ft. AGL over the ocean protects land and marine species and their critical habitat and reduce impacts to visitor experience.
- Day-of-week restrictions and designated no-fly days for particular events would reduce noise and visual impacts to the Park's cultural resources and protect Native Hawaiian practices.
- Reducing the intensity and duration of air tour noise to Park visitors would improve Wilderness character and visitor experience.
- Operator training, education, an annual meeting, and semi-annual reporting facilitate effective implementation of the ATMP.

NEPA

- The FAA and the NPS are complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in development of the draft ATMP.
- NEPA requires that the agencies:
 - Consider the human and natural environment that could be affected by their action (ATMP).
 - Determine the appropriate level of NEPA review.
 - Prepare associated environmental review documents.
- The agencies considered over 4,300 public scoping comments obtained February 28 through April 1, 2022, on the potential alternatives, information obtained during consultations, and fully assessed the environmental impacts while developing the draft EA. The draft EA is currently available for public review and comment.



Section 106 / NHPA

- The FAA and the NPS are complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in development of the draft ATMP and draft EA.
- Section 106 includes the requirement that the agencies:
 - Define the Undertaking and Identify Consulting Parties;
 - Determine the Area of Potential Effects and Identify Historic Properties;
 - Assess Effects to Historic Properties; and
 - Resolve Adverse Effects, if Any, to Historic Properties.
- The FAA and the NPS have consulted with SHPD, Native Hawaiian Organizations and individuals, and Consulting Parties. The agencies considered over 300 comments during scoping of the alternatives regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.
- The FAA proposed a finding of no adverse effects to historic properties in a letter that was sent to the SHPD and all Consulting Parties.

Section 7 / ESA

- The FAA and the NPS are complying with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in development of the draft ATMP and draft EA.
- Section 7 includes the requirement that the agencies:
 - Ensure their actions do not jeopardize the existence of any species listed under ESA or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.
- The NPS and FAA have consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and anticipate a determination of may affect, not likely to adversely affect for the:
 - ‘ōpe‘ape‘a, nēnē, forest birds including ‘ākohekohe, kiwikiu, ‘i‘iwi, ‘alalā, and ‘akikiki, seabirds including ‘akē‘akē, ‘a‘o, and ‘ua‘u, waterbirds including ae‘o and Hawaiian coot, reptiles including green sea turtle, hawksbill sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, and olive ridley sea turtle, and Hawaiian monk seal

Public Review of the Draft ATMP and Draft EA

- The FAA and the NPS invite official comments from the public, agencies, Native Hawaiian Organizations, and other interested parties on the draft ATMP and draft EA.
- Official comments must be received on or before **June 20, 2023, at 8:00 PM HST**.
- Submit your official comments:
 - Online: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HaleakalaATMP> or <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HaleakalaDraftATMPandEA>
 - Via Mail:

Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
Kaitlyn Rimol, V-326
Attn: Haleakalā National Park ATMP
55 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02142



Next Steps

- Following the end of the public comment period, the FAA and the NPS will:
 - Review the comments and use them to inform the final ATMP.
 - Complete Section 106, Section 7, and any other necessary consultations and compliance.
 - Conclude the NEPA process and sign a decision document.
- Upon the completion of the public comment period, consultations, and NEPA process, the ATMP will be finalized. The final ATMP will be available on the FAA and the NPS websites.
- Once the final ATMP is in place, the FAA will update Operations Specifications for each air tour operator.

Questions and Comments

- **During the meeting**, please submit **questions** using the Google form posted by the FAA in the chat.
- Please submit your **official comments** for the record on or before **June 20, 2023**, at **8:00 PM HST**:
 - Online:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HaleakalaATMP> or
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HaleakalaDraftATMPandEA>
 - Via Mail:
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Protecting Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

