

ARCHIVED NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 2005

National Park Service And FAA Hosting Meeting On Grand Canyon Overflights Issues

Grand Canyon, AZ - The Department of the Interior/National Park Service (DOI/NPS) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will host an informational meeting, open to the public, on interagency efforts to manage aircraft overflights above Grand Canyon National Park. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2005, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mesa Convention Center located at 201 N. Center Street in Mesa, Arizona.

The National Parks Overflights Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-91) requires actions by the DOI/NPS and FAA to provide for substantial restoration of the natural quiet of the park and for protection of public health and safety from adverse effects associated with aircraft overflights. Previous efforts to achieve this mandate have been challenging -- both technically, in terms of developing new analytical noise capabilities, and practically, in terms of generating broad support for the specific means of accomplishing substantial restoration of natural quiet. The agencies recognize that the best means of crafting viable solutions for resolving the complexities of restoring natural quiet is through the collaborative involvement of stakeholders and sovereign tribal governments affiliated with the Grand Canyon.

The DOI/NPS and FAA have engaged the independent and impartial services of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute) to facilitate interagency collaboration with effective and meaningful stakeholder involvement. The U.S. Institute is a federal program established in 1998 by the U.S. Congress to assist parties in resolving environmental, natural resource and public land conflicts. It is a program of the Morris K. Udall Foundation, based in Tucson, Arizona.

The first meeting of this kind was held September 29, 2004, in Flagstaff, Arizona. The two agencies offered updates on their efforts to implement Public Law 100-91. They also announced the initiation of a stakeholder and tribal government assessment process to help the agencies understand the perspectives of those with an interest in the issue of overflight noise at Grand Canyon National Park. Working under the direction of the U.S. Institute, Lucy Moore of Lucy Moore Associates, Inc., and her team conducted this assessment by interviewing 46 individuals representing a cross section of interests. An assessment summary of stakeholders and tribal governments views on the overflight issue for the Grand Canyon region was completed and mailed to interested parties in December 2004.

DOI/NPS and FAA have continued their collaborative work and believe that they have a good foundation for this next phase of constructively engaging stakeholders and working with tribal governments. At the meeting on February 10 they will: 1) update the status of the noise model review; 2) review the results of the assessment of stakeholders and tribal governments; and 3) propose a stakeholder process design for feedback

and comment. Anyone interested in Grand Canyon overflight noise issues is invited to attend.



Go to Aircraft Overflight [Documents](#)