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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Haleakalā National Park News Release

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Park Unveils New Commercial Services Plan

The National Park Service has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination for the preferred alternative in the park's new Commercial Services Plan and Environmental Assessment.

The primary purpose of the Commercial Services Plan is to provide direction for management of guided commercial services in non-wilderness portions of the park over the next 10 to 15 years. The plan details how the park's commercial services program will achieve overall park goals and visitor experiences and meet desired resource conditions.

Under the selected alternative (B), the National Park Service will continue to authorize the same commercial visitor services that are currently occurring in the park. Hiking, horseback riding, and astronomy tours will be managed under commercial use authorizations, while road-based tours will be managed under concession contracts. Commercial bicycle tours will continue to be prohibited within the park. This selection is also the park's Preferred Alternative and the Environmentally Preferable Alternative.

Over the next 12-18 months the National Park Service will develop competitive processes that horseback, astronomy, and hiking tour commercial service providers will use to apply for commercial use authorizations. The National Park Service will also develop a prospectus that interested parties will use to compete for road-based tour concession contracts. By developing the commercial use authorization process and concession contract prospectus concurrently, the park will ensure that the different commercial services complement each other and meet the objectives outlined in the Commercial Services Plan.

Between August 2006 and August 2012 the park held public meetings, shared the draft plan, and collected and addressed public input. The Commercial Services Plan consists of two documents: the 2012 Draft Commercial Services Plan/EA and the Errata Sheets. Copies of the plan, Errata Sheets, and FONSI can be found at www.nps.gov/hale/parkmgmt/businesswithpark.htm.

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