



Reporting Information for Commercial Air Tour Operations over National Park Units

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

March 29, 2017

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Background

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 contained a new amendment provision to the National Parks Air Tour Management Act (NPATMA) of 2000. The amendment provision required commercial air tour operators conducting air tours over national park units to begin reporting their activity to the FAA and the National Park Service (NPS) starting in calendar year 2013.

This 2015 annual report provides an overview of the reporting data that the agencies received from the calendar year 2015 reports submitted by commercial air tour operators. Since some of the reporting information may be business sensitive, no operator-specific data is disclosed.

With the submission of the 2015 reports, the agencies now have recent data about the extent of commercial air tour operations over national park units, including temporal information (date and time of day), aircraft type, and number of operations. This information will assist the agencies in implementing other requirements of NPATMA, including prioritizing efforts to develop air tour management agreements at national park units where appropriate.

This 2015 annual report is an abridged version of the 2013 report in that it includes the air tour data, but does not include information on the legislative history, regulatory requirements, development of reporting requirements, or implementation of reporting requirements. For this background, refer to the 2013 annual report available at:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/arc/programs/air_tour_management_plan/documents/FAA-NPS-2013-Report.pdf

About this version

This March 2017 version of the 2015 Annual Report incorporates a revised operator report submitted in October 2016 for second quarter 2015 activity at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The revised report resulted in an additional 15 tours at Hawaii Volcanoes over the previous report. These new data have been incorporated into all tables and charts throughout this report.

Table 1. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2015^a (Highest to Lowest Reported Tours)

National Park Service Unit	Region ^b	State	Reported Commercial Air Tours ^c				
			Jan Mar	Apr Jun	Jul Sep	Oct Dec	Total ^d
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	NER	NY,NJ	4,971	10,237	5,911	5,693	26,812
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	PWR	HI	3,967	3,577	3,820	3,281	14,645
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	PWR	AZ,NV	2,303	2,733	3,107	2,405	10,548
Haleakala National Park (HALE)	PWR	HI	1,198	1,182	1,061	1,102	4,543
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	MWR	SD	25	1,374	2,875	89	4,363
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)	IMR	AZ,UT	218	1,493	1,664	792	4,167
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR)	IMR	UT	125	889	1,029	372	2,415
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	PWR	CA	363	585	873	451	2,272
Badlands National Park (BADL)	MWR	SD	-	289	916	-	1,205
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	SER	TN,NC	102	257	267	222	848
Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO)	PWR	CA	115	187	284	168	754
Glacier National Park (GLAC)	IMR	MT	2	107	537	14	660
Canyonlands National Park (CANY)	IMR	UT	29	168	206	65	468
Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA)	IMR	UT	34	110	219	55	418
Bandelier National Monument (BAND)	IMR	NM	31	31	46	19	127
Arches National Park (ARCH)	IMR	UT	7	31	53	15	106
Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR)	IMR	UT	8	32	38	18	96
Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)	PWR	CA	17	16	35	14	82
Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU)	IMR	NM	15	19	25	17	76
Everglades National Park (EVER)	SER	FL	37	22	-	16	75
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY)	SER	FL	35	22	-	14	71
Canyon De Chelly National Monument (CACH)	IMR	AZ	13	18	20	15	66
Aztec Ruins National Monument (AZRU)	IMR	NM	11	13	19	17	60
Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE)	IMR	CO	9	13	17	17	56
Big Bend National Park (BIBE)	IMR	TX	-	-	-	-	47
Acadia National Park (ACAD)	NER	ME	7	6	11	11	35
Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE)	IMR	UT	9	6	9	10	34
Navajo National Monument (NAVA)	IMR	AZ	7	9	9	7	32
Petroglyph National Monument (PETR)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	24
Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	22
Olympic National Park (OLYM)	PWR	WA	1	6	8	4	19
El Malpais National Monument (ELMA)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	16
Fort Union National Monument (FOUN)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	15
Pecos National Historical Park (PECO)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	14
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (HUTR)	IMR	AZ	-	-	1	-	14
El Morro National Monument (ELMO)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	14
Colorado National Monument (COLM)	IMR	CO	1	3	6	4	14
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	11
Zion National Park (ZION)	IMR	UT	-	3	5	3	11
Capulin Volcano National Monument (CAVO)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	7
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR)	IMR	AZ	3	-	3	1	7
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park (BLCA)	IMR	CO	-	1	1	-	7
Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	7
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (CAGR)	IMR	AZ	-	1	-	-	6
Dinosaur National Monument (DINO)	IMR	CO,UT	-	-	-	1	4
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	IMR	ID,MT,WY	-	-	2	1	3
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	PWR	CA	1	1	-	-	2
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GICL)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	1
Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	1
Biscayne National Park (BISC)	SER	FL	-	-	-	-	-
Cape Hatteras National Seashore (CAHA)	SER	NC	-	-	-	-	-
Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	IMR	UT	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)	IMR	UT	-	-	-	-	-
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	IMR	WY	-	-	-	-	-
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)	SER	FL	-	-	-	-	-
Fort Bowie National Historic Site (FOBO)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-

National Park Service Unit	Region ^b	State	Reported Commercial Air Tours ^c					Total ^d
			Jan Mar	Apr Jun	Jul Sep	Oct Dec		
Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA)	IMR	TX	-	-	-	-	-	
Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP)	IMR	UT	-	-	-	-	-	
Grand Teton National Park (GRTE)	IMR	WY	-	-	-	-	-	
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA)	IMR	CO	-	-	-	-	-	
Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)	IMR	TX	-	-	-	-	-	
Hohokam Pima National Monument (PIMA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-	
Montezuma Castle National Monument (MOCA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Mount Rainier National Park (MORA)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-	
North Cascades National Park (NOCA)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-	
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (RIGR)	IMR	TX	-	-	-	-	-	
Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	-	
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	e	
San Juan Island National Historical Park (SAJH)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-	
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-	
Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA)	IMR	UT	-	-	-	-	-	
Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA)	MWR	MN	-	-	-	-	-	
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	IMR	CO	-	-	-	-	-	
Total ^d			13,664	23,441	23,077	14,913	75,300	

Notes:

- a. Data are subject to change pending receipt of additional reports.
- b. IMR = Intermountain Region, MWR = Midwest Region, NER = Northeast Region, PWR = Pacific West Region, SER = Southeast Region.
- c. This table lists parks where commercial air tours are authorized; a dash (-) indicates no reported tours.
- d. Totals may exceed sum of quarterly totals at parks where operators submitted annual reports.
- e. SAFR flights likely occurring in conjunction with GOGA. NPS and FAA working to clarify operator reporting requirements.

At these parks, there are no longer any operators with a current certificate and a B057 operating specification to conduct commercial air tours:

Colonial National Historical Park (COLO)	NER	VA	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LACH)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-
Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2015^a (Alphabetical by Park)

National Park Service Unit	Region ^b	State	Reported Commercial Air Tours ^c				Total ^d
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Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	IMR	UT	-	-	-	-	-
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Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	7
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Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	1
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	IMR	WY	-	-	-	-	-
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Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	IMR	NM	-	-	-	-	-	
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	e	
San Juan Island National Historical Park (SAJH)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-	
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Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Voyageurs National Park (VOYA)	MWR	MN	-	-	-	-	-	
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	-	
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	IMR	AZ	-	-	-	-	11	
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	IMR	ID,MT,WY	-	-	2	1	3	
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	PWR	CA	1	1	-	-	2	
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	IMR	CO	-	-	-	-	-	
Zion National Park (ZION)	IMR	UT	-	3	5	3	11	
Total^d			13,664	23,441	23,077	14,913	75,300	

Notes:

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- b. IMR = Intermountain Region, MWR = Midwest Region, NER = Northeast Region, PWR = Pacific West Region, SER = Southeast Region.
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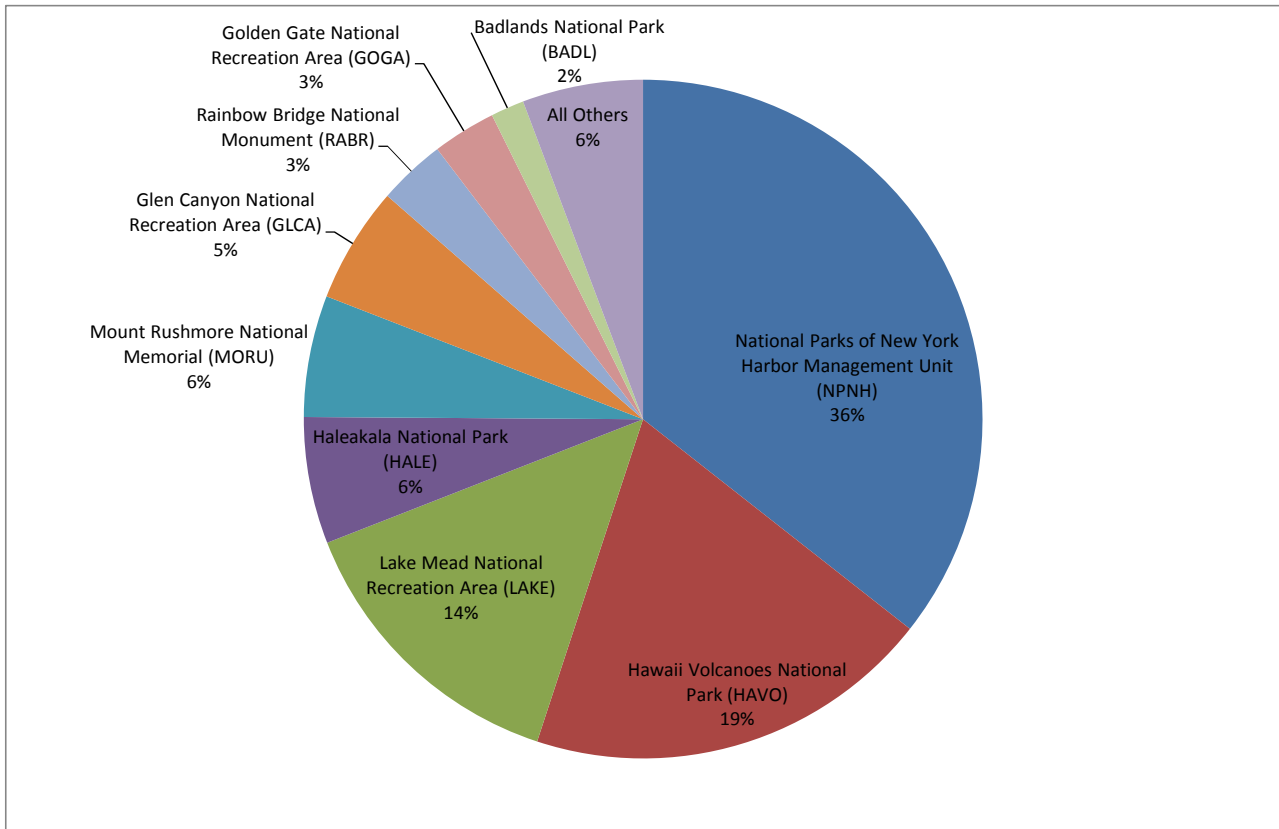
At these parks, there are no longer any operators with a current certificate and a B057 operating specification to conduct commercial air tours:

Colonial National Historical Park (COLO)	NER	VA	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (LACH)	PWR	WA	-	-	-	-	-
Lassen Volcanic National Park (LAVO)	PWR	CA	-	-	-	-	-

Table/Figure 3. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2015 (High-Activity Parks)

National Park Service Unit	Tours	Percent of Total	No. of Operators ^a
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	26,812	36%	3
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	14,645	19%	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	10,548	14%	5
Haleakala National Park (HALE)	4,543	6%	5
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	4,363	6%	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)	4,167	6%	6
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR)	2,415	3%	4
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	2,272	3%	2
Badlands National Park (BADL)	1,205	2%	1
All Others	4,330	6%	
Total	75,300		

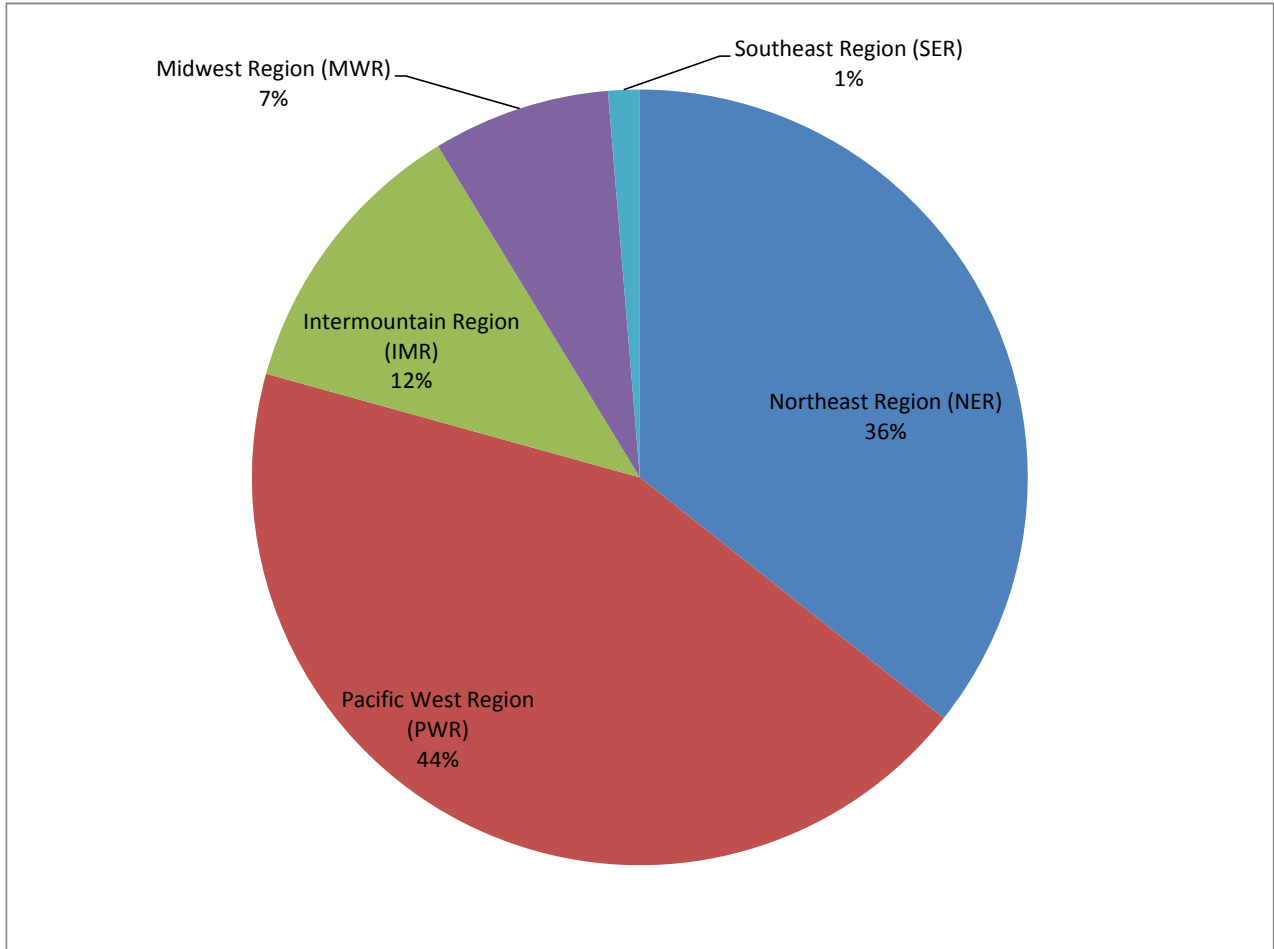
a. Who have reported at least one tour.



Table/Figure 4. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2015 (by Region)

Region	Tours	Percent of Total	No. of Parks ^a
Northeast Region (NER)	26,847	36%	2
Pacific West Region (PWR)	32,865	44%	8
Intermountain Region (IMR)	9,026	12%	34
Midwest Region (MWR)	5,568	7%	2
Southeast Region (SER)	994	1%	3
Total	75,300		49

a. Where at least one tour has been reported



Table/Figure 5. Reported Commercial Air Tours 2013-2015 (by Quarter)

Year	Tours by Quarter			
	Jan Mar	Apr Jun	Jul Sep	Oct Dec
2013	14,755	22,748	24,200	18,718
2014	13,548	25,402	30,176	20,450
2015	13,664	23,441	23,077	14,913

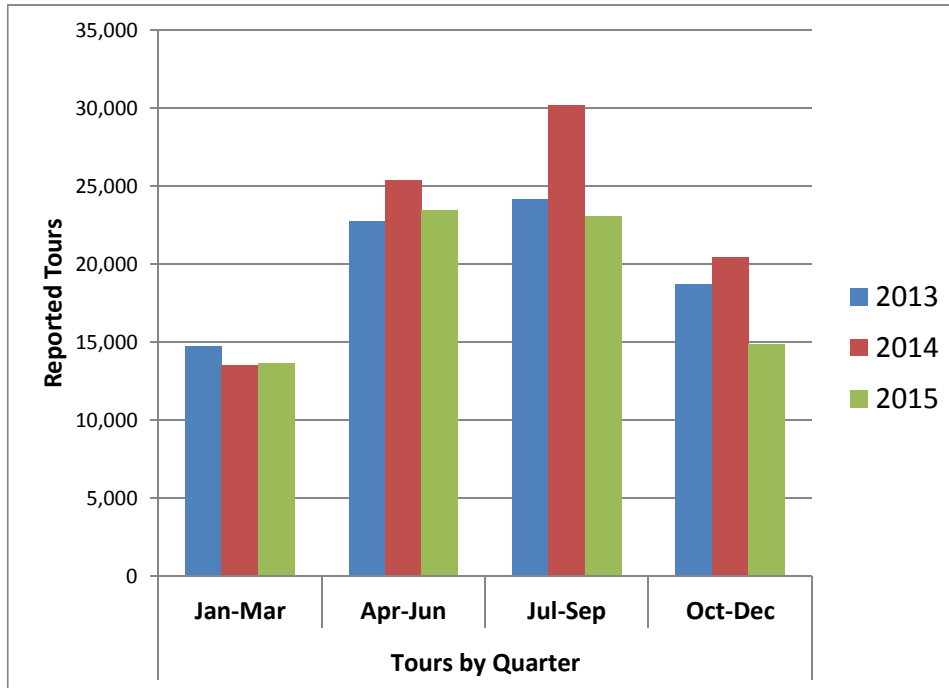


Table 6. Operators Conducting Tours in 2015

This table shows how many parks have the corresponding number of operators. For example, 69% of parks, where at least one flight has been reported, have only 1 active operator, 14% of the parks have 2 active operators, 4% have 3 operators, etc.

No. Oprs.	No. Parks	% of Parks
1	34	69%
2	7	14%
3	2	4%
4	1	2%
5	4	8%
6	1	2%