



Reporting Information for Commercial Air Tour Operations over Units of the National Park System

2019 Annual Report

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/NSNSD/NRR—2020/2193



ON THE COVER

Air tour helicopter. (NPS/ Vicki Ward)

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The format and presentation of data in this *2019 Annual Report* follow that of the *2017 Annual Report* (NPS/NRSS/NSNSD/NRR—2018/1694), which was reviewed by subject-matter experts who were not directly involved in the collection, analysis, or reporting of the data. Peer review of the *2017 Annual Report* was conducted by highly qualified individuals with subject area expertise and was overseen by a peer review manager.

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Executive Summary

Beginning in 2013, commercial air tour operators who conduct tours over units of the national park system have been required to report their air tour activity to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of this report is to provide a high-level quantitative summary of the data provided by air tour operators for flights conducted in 2019. The NPS and FAA use these data to implement requirements of the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000*, as amended, including the identification of parks where an air tour management plan or agreement is required.

Table E1 displays the number of reported tours at the 78 units of the national park system where one or more air tour operators hold authority to conduct tours. Operators may hold authority for conducting tours through interim operating authority (IOA)¹ or through air tour management plans or agreements. According to reports submitted by operators, a total of 48,760 air tours were conducted in 2019².

The *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000*, as amended, requires that park units with more than 50 annual tours establish an air tour management plan or agreement. While units with 50 or fewer tours are exempt from the requirement to establish a plan or agreement, NPS may withdraw an exemption if NPS determines that a plan or agreement is necessary to protect park resource and values, or visitor use and enjoyment.

Currently, 29 park units require a plan or agreement—27 units with more than 50 tours (including Canyon de Chelly National Monument which had previously been withdrawn) and 2 units with less than 50 tours but where NPS has withdrawn the exemption (Death Valley National Park, and Mount Rainier National Park). Of these units, NPS and FAA have completed agreements with operators at Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and with seven of the nine operators at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument. The remaining 49 park units listed in Table E1 qualify for the exemption based on 2019 data because the number of tours has not exceeded 50.

¹ IOA is the annual maximum number of flights an operator may fly over a single park. The Federal Aviation Administration granted IOA to existing operators who applied for operating authority following the enactment of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000.

² This number does not include tours over Grand Canyon, Alaska, and those over Lake Mead determined to be “for transportation only”. Grand Canyon had over 100,000 reported tours and related flights in 2018. More information about air tours at Grand Canyon is available at NPS Story Map (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/airtours.htm>).

Table E1. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(A)
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	9,276	26,664
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	7,859	35,532
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) ^(B)	5,919	8,159
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	5,218	36,819
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	4,875	25,827
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	4,204	5,608
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	2,506	5,090
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	2,506	5,090
Badlands National Park (BADL)	1,349	4,117
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR) ^(B)	1,301	3,992
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	983	1,920
Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA)	532	3,131
Canyonlands National Park (CANY)	367	665
Glacier National Park (GLAC)	352	1,653
Arches National Park (ARCH)	305	566
Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)	154	5,090
Bandelier National Monument (BAND)	125	126
Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU)	75	147
Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR)	73	145
Biscayne National Park (BISC) ^(B)	70	200
Canyon de Chelly National Monument (CACH)	62	175
Olympic National Park (OLYM)	60	76
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) ^(B)	57	972
Everglades National Park (EVER)	57	674
Aztec Ruins National Monument (AZRU)	57	83
Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE)	55	63
Big Bend National Park (BIBE)	54	55
Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE)	38	92
Navajo National Monument (NAVA)	33	267
Acadia National Park (ACAD)	24	60
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	22	115
Zion National Park (ZION)	21	684
Petroglyph National Monument (PETR)	19	45
El Malpais National Monument (ELMA)	14	43

^A Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^B Park with air tour management agreements.

Table E1 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(A)
Pecos National Historical Park (PECO)	14	32
Fort Union National Monument (FOUN)	13	32
Colorado National Monument (COLM)	12	57
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (HUTR)	12	27
El Morro National Monument (ELMO)	12	43
Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO)	11	60
Capulin Volcano National Monument (CAVO)	9	13
Dinosaur National Monument (DINO)	9	9
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR)	8	94
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park (BLCA)	7	7
Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	6	18
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	6	17
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	6	60
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA)	3	16
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	2	103
Mount Rainier National Park (MORA)	2	34
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (RIGR)	2	5
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)	2	37
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	1	22
Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	1	284
Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO)	0	5,090
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)	0	10
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (CAGR)	0	6
Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)	0	66
Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	0	5
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)	0	100
Fort Bowie National Historic Site (FOBO)	0	5
Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA)	0	5
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GICL)	0	26
Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP)	0	11
Grand Teton National Park (GRTE)	0	29
Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)	0	18
Hohokam Pima National Monument (PIMA)	0	5
Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)	0	15

^A Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^B Park with air tour management agreements.

Table E1 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(A)
Montezuma Castle National Monument (MOCA)	0	180
North Cascades National Park (NOCA)	0	2
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI)	0	5
Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP)	0	26
Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	0	18
Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA)	0	254
Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	0	5
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	0	57
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	0	48
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	0	63
Total	48,760	180,964 ^(A)

^A Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^B Park with air tour management agreements.

Of the 78 park units where operators hold IOA, operators reported conducting tours over 54 units. Most of the air tour activity, however, occurred at ten park units (Table E2) which accounted for 45,013 tours (92.3% of all tours nationwide). The remaining park units had a combined total of 3,747 tours.

Table E2. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2019.

National Park System Unit	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Number of Active Operators ^(A)
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	9,276	19.0%	5
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	7,859	16.1%	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)	5,919	12.1%	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	5,218	10.7%	3
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	4,875	10.0%	5
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	4,204	8.6%	3
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	2,506	5.1%	2
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	2,506	5.1%	2
Badlands National Park (BADL)	1,349	2.8%	1
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR)	1,301	2.7%	4
All Others	3,747	7.7%	–
Total	48,760	100%	n/a

^A Number of operators who reported at least one air tour.

1. Introduction

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) *Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* amended the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* to include a provision that requires commercial air tour operators conducting air tours over units of the national park system to report their activity to the FAA and the National Park Service (NPS).

The FAA and NPS developed reporting requirements, including the data that would be required to be submitted as well as the frequency of reports and the mechanism by which operators would report. These new reporting requirements went into effect beginning in calendar year 2013.

The purpose of this *2019 Annual Report* is to provide a high-level, quantitative summary of the reporting data that the agencies received from calendar year 2019 reports submitted by commercial air tour operators. With the submission of the 2019 reports, the FAA and NPS continue to compile data about the extent of commercial air tour operations over units of the national park system. The agencies use this information to implement requirements of the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act*, including the identification of parks where an air tour management plan or agreement is required.

2. Background

The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000

The *Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century* (AIR-21) was signed into public law (P.L. 106-181, codified at 49 U.S.C. 40128) on April 5, 2000. Title VIII of this law, called the *National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000* (the Act) regulates commercial air tour operations over units of the national park system. The Act requires the FAA and NPS to develop air tour management plans for units of the national park system where an operator has applied for authority to conduct commercial air tours. The objective stated in the Act for plans is to develop acceptable and effective measures to mitigate or prevent significant adverse impacts, if any, of commercial air tour operations upon the natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences, and tribal lands.

Interim Operating Authority

Section 49 U.S.C §40128(c) of the codified Act has a grandfathering provision that applies to existing operators (those operators who had operated over a national park system unit prior to enactment of the Act). FAA granted interim operating authority (IOA) to existing operators who applied for operating authority. The intent was to allow the operators to continue to conduct operations until such time as an air tour management plan was developed for the park system unit. Essentially IOA was the maximum number of flights an operator could conduct over a national park system unit. The provision allowed FAA to provide an operator with an annual authorization for the greater of:

- 1) the number of flights used by the operator to provide the commercial air tour operations over a national park system unit within the 12-month period prior to the date of the enactment of this section; or
- 2) the average number of flights per 12-month period used by the operator to provide such operations within the 36-month period prior to such date of enactment, and, for seasonal operations, the number of flights so used during the season or seasons covered by that 12-month period.

The Act also required that the IOA granted under the Act be published in the Federal Register for notice and the opportunity for comment. On June 23, 2005 (70 FR 36456-36463) the FAA published a *Notice of Interim Operating Authority Granted to Commercial Air Tour Operators Over National Parks and Tribal Lands Within or Abutting National Parks*. The list provided the IOA granted to each operator for each national park system unit / abutting tribal lands. On October 7, 2005 (70 FR 58778-58784) the FAA published a supplemental notice. The supplemental notice republished the IOA alphabetically by park system unit rather than operator.

Since 2005, the number of operators with IOA and the total amount of IOA has changed as some operators have gone out of business, operators have purchased other companies, and four parks have developed air tour management agreements that may authorize a different number of tours than may occur under IOA. With agreements in place for Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National

Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument, the system-wide authorized number of air tours is 180,964 tours annually.

Reporting Requirements

The *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* amended various provisions of the Act. Amendments codified in 49 U.S.C §40128(d) require that each commercial air tour operator submit a report to both the FAA and NPS on the number of commercial air tour operations over each park system unit where they operate at and “such other information” as the agencies request. This section also indicates that the reports shall be submitted “with a frequency and in a format” prescribed by the agencies. The full text of the codified Act, including paragraph 49 USC 40128(d) on reporting requirements, is available at <http://uscode.house.gov/browse.xhtml>.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) assigned control number 2120-0750 for this data collection effort. In January of 2013, the FAA and NPS distributed a guidance memo to air tour operators that provided information on the new reporting requirements, the data that were being requested, how they were to submit the data, and the frequency with which they were to submit reports. The FAA and NPS also provided a reporting template in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, where operators could input their data. A copy of the reporting template used in 2019 is provided in Appendix A of this report.

In July of 2015, FAA updated the template for operating specifications (OpSpecs) issued to commercial air tour operators who conduct tours over units of the national park system (FAA Notice, N 8900.312, 7/27/15). Specifically, OpSpec B057, National Park Air Tour Management Operations under 14 CFR 136, was amended to include the reporting requirement and instructions for reporting air tour data on a quarterly basis for all operators conducting air tours over national park system units, except for exempt park units. For exempt park units, operators are required to report only on an annual basis.

Air Tour Management Agreements

The *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* included another amendment to the Act that allows the FAA and NPS to enter into air tour management agreements with operators as an alternative to air tour management plans. Agreements must address the management issues necessary to protect park resources and visitor use without compromising aviation safety or the air traffic control system, and may contain many of the conditions that would be found in plans. Development of agreements requires public review and consultation with tribes, after which an agreement may be implemented without further administrative or environmental process.

Exempt Parks

Another amendment to the Act exempts units of the national park system with 50 or fewer air tours each year from the requirement to prepare an air tour management plan or agreement. However, the NPS may withdraw an exemption “If the Director determines that an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement is necessary to protect park resources and values or park visitor use and enjoyment” (49 USC 40128(a)(5)(B)). While operators are required to submit quarterly reports for non-exempt park units, the amendments require only an annual report for any exempt park unit.

3. Compliance with Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to FAA Notice N 8900.312, quarterly reports are due within 30 days after each calendar quarter, and annual reports are due within 30 days after the calendar year end. When the reporting deadlines have passed, NPS and FAA contact operators or local FAA offices (e.g., Flight Standards District Offices) to follow up on missing reports or any others issues with reporting. FAA has the sole authority to enforce compliance with the reporting requirements.

There are currently 47 unique operating certificates associated with operators who are authorized to conduct commercial air tours over units of the national park system. There were no missing reports in 2019.

4. Summary of Reporting Data

This section provides information on data collected from the 2019 calendar year reporting. This includes all data submitted by air tour operators through quarterly or annual (for exempt parks) reports.

Table 1 lists all units of the national park system where operators have authorization to conduct commercial tours, with park units sorted by the count of air tours, highest to lowest. Table 2 provides the same information but with park units sorted alphabetically.

Of the 78 park units listed, there were a total of 54 national park system units where at least one air tour is reported to have occurred. Overall, 48,760 air tours were reported over these units. Appendix B shows a map representing the geographic distribution of park system units for which operators reported tours.

Table 1. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours) ^(A).

National Park System Unit	Department of Interior Region	State	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	12	Hawaii	2,582	2,239	2,452	2,003	9,276	26,664	10
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	1	New York, New Jersey	1,294	2,083	2,439	2,043	7,859	35,532	3
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) ^(C)	7, 8	Arizona, Utah	637	2,028	2,167	1,087	5,919	8,159 ^(C)	9
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	8	Arizona, Nevada	1,147	1,357	1,567	1,147	5,218	36,819	7
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	12	Hawaii	1,209	1,266	1,268	1,132	4,875	25,827	6
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	5	South Dakota	0	997	3,075	132	4,204	5,608	3
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	10	California	372	643	951	540	2,506	5,090	2
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	10	California	372	643	951	540	2,506	5,090	2
Badlands National Park (BADL)	5	South Dakota	0	393	956	0	1,349	4,117	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR) ^(C)	7	Utah	74	552	496	179	1,301	3,992 ^(C)	8
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	2	Tennessee, North Carolina	104	241	348	290	983	1,920	2
Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA)	7	Utah	51	196	205	80	532	3,131	9
Canyonlands National Park (CANY)	7	Utah	31	133	151	52	367	665	8
Glacier National Park (GLAC)	5, 9	Montana	4	83	235	30	352	1,653	5
Arches National Park (ARCH)	7	Utah	33	97	120	55	305	566	8
Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)	10	California	26	40	50	38	154	5,090	2
Bandelier National Monument (BAND)	7	New Mexico	35	32	33	25	125	126	1
Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU)	7	New Mexico	13	21	24	17	75	147	1
Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR)	7	Utah	13	19	32	9	73	145	5
Biscayne National Park (BISC) ^(C)	2	Florida	18	16	20	16	70	200 ^(C)	2
Canyon de Chelly National Monument (CACH)	8	Arizona	12	16	20	14	62	175	4
Olympic National Park (OLYM)	9	Washington	5	20	23	12	60	76	1
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) ^(C)	2	Florida	45	11	0	1	57	972 ^(C)	2
Everglades National Park (EVER)	2	Florida	45	12	0	0	57	674	1
Aztec Ruins National Monument (AZRU)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	57	83	1
Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	55	63	1
Big Bend National Park (BIBE)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	54	55	2
Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	38	92	3
Navajo National Monument (NAVA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	33	267	4
Acadia National Park (ACAD)	1	Maine	2	6	12	4	24	60	1

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

Table 1 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours)^(A).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	10	California	2	6	14	0	22	115	2
Zion National Park (ZION)	7	Utah	1	6	8	6	21	684	8
Petroglyph National Monument (PETR)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	19	45	1
El Malpais National Monument (ELMA)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	14	43	1
Pecos National Historical Park (PECO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	14	32	1
Fort Union National Monument (FOUN)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	13	32	1
Colorado National Monument (COLM)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	12	57	1
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (HUTR)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	12	27	1
El Morro National Monument (ELMO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	12	43	1
Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	11	60	3
Capulin Volcano National Monument (CAVO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	9	13	1
Dinosaur National Monument (DINO)	7	Colorado, Utah	–	–	–	–	9	9	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	8	94	4
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park (BLCA)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	6	18	1
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	6	17	1
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	6	60	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	3	16	1
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	5, 7, 9	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming	0	0	2	0	2	103	4
Mount Rainier National Park (MORA)	9	Washington	2	0	0	0	2	34	2
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (RIGR)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	2	5	1
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)	8, 10	California	0	2	0	0	2	37	4
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	7	Wyoming	–	–	–	–	1	22	1
Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	1	284	7
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (CAGR)	10	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)	10	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)	7	Florida	–	–	–	–	0	100	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site (FOBO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

Table 1 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours) ^(A).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GICL)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	0	26	1
Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park (GRTE)	7	Wyoming	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Hohokam Pima National Monument (PIMA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)	8	California	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument (MOCA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO)	9	California	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
North Cascades National Park (NOCA)	8	Washington	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	7	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)	8	California	–	–	–	–	0	10	1
Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA)	8	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	7	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	6	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Total ^(D)	–	–	8,129	13,158	17,620	9,452	48,760	180,964 ^(B)	47 ^(E)

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

Table 2. Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit) ^(A).

National Park System Unit	DOI Region	State	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Acadia National Park (ACAD)	1	Maine	2	6	12	4	24	60	1
Arches National Park (ARCH)	7	Utah	33	97	120	55	305	566	8
Aztec Ruins National Monument (AZRU)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	57	83	1
Badlands National Park (BADL)	5	South Dakota	0	393	956	0	1,349	4,117	2
Bandelier National Monument (BAND)	7	New Mexico	35	32	33	25	125	126	1
Big Bend National Park (BIBE)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	54	55	2
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY) ^(C)	2	Florida	45	11	0	1	57	972 ^(C)	2
Biscayne National Park (BISC) ^(C)	2	Florida	18	16	20	16	70	200 ^(C)	2
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park (BLCA)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	7	7	1
Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA)	7	Utah	51	196	205	80	532	3,131	9
Canyon de Chelly National Monument (CACH)	8	Arizona	12	16	20	14	62	175	4
Canyonlands National Park (CANY)	7	Utah	31	133	151	52	367	665	8
Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	1	284	7
Capulin Volcano National Monument (CAVO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	9	13	1
Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	6	18	1
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (CAGR)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	6	1
Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	66	4
Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU)	7	New Mexico	13	21	24	17	75	147	1
Colorado National Monument (COLM)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	12	57	1
Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Death Valley National Park (DEVA)	8, 10	California	0	2	0	0	2	37	4
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	7	Wyoming	–	–	–	–	1	22	1
Dinosaur National Monument (DINO)	7	Colorado, Utah	–	–	–	–	9	9	1
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)	2	Florida	–	–	–	–	0	100	1
El Malpais National Monument (ELMA)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	14	43	1
El Morro National Monument (ELMO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	12	43	1
Everglades National Park (EVER)	2	Florida	45	12	0	0	57	674	1
Fort Bowie National Historic Site (FOBO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Fort Union National Monument (FOUN)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	13	32	1

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

Table 2 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit) ^(A).

National Park System Unit	Region	State	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GICL)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	0	26	1
Glacier National Park (GLAC)	5, 9	Montana	4	83	235	30	352	1,653	5
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) ^(C)	7, 8	Arizona, Utah	637	2,028	2,167	1,087	5,919	8,159 ^(C)	9
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	10	California	372	643	951	540	2,506	5,090	2
Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	11	1
Grand Teton National Park (GRTE)	7	Wyoming	–	–	–	–	0	29	3
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	3	16	1
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	2	Tennessee, North Carolina	104	241	348	290	983	1,920	2
Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	0	18	1
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	12	Hawaii	1,209	1,266	1,268	1,132	4,875	25,827	6
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	12	Hawaii	2,582	2,239	2,452	2,003	9,276	26,664	10
Hohokam Pima National Monument (PIMA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	38	92	3
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (HUTR)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	12	27	1
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	8	Arizona, Nevada	1,147	1,357	1,567	1,147	5,218	36,819	7
Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	55	63	1
Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)	8	California	–	–	–	–	0	15	1
Montezuma Castle National Monument (MOCA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	180	3
Mount Rainier National Park (MORA)	9	Washington	2	0	0	1	2	34	2
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	5	South Dakota	0	997	3,075	132	4,204	5,608	3
Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO)	10	California	0	0	0	0	0	5,090	2
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	1	New York, New Jersey	1,294	2,083	2,439	2,043	7,859	35,532	3
Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR)	7	Utah	13	19	32	9	73	145	5
Navajo National Monument (NAVA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	33	267	4
North Cascades National Park (NOCA)	9	Washington	–	–	–	–	0	2	1
Olympic National Park (OLYM)	9	Washington	5	20	23	12	60	76	1
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Pecos National Historical Park (PECO)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	14	32	1
Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	11	60	3
Petroglyph National Monument (PETR)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	19	45	1

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

Table 2 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours in 2019 (sorted alphabetically by National Park System Unit) ^(A).

National Park System Unit	Region	State	January– March	April–June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(B)	Number of Authorized Operators
Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	26	2
Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)	10	California	26	40	50	38	154	5,090	2
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR) ^(C)	7	Utah	74	552	496	179	1,301	3,992 ^(C)	8
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (RIGR)	6	Texas	–	–	–	–	2	5	1
Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	18	2
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	7	New Mexico	–	–	–	–	6	17	1
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	10	California	372	643	951	540	2,506	5,090	2
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)	10	California	–	–	–	–	0	10	1
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	8	94	4
Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA)	7	Utah	–	–	–	–	0	254	1
Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	5	1
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	57	2
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	0	48	2
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	8	Arizona	–	–	–	–	6	60	3
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	5, 7, 9	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming	0	0	2	0	2	103	4
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	10	California	2	6	14	0	22	115	2
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	7	Colorado	–	–	–	–	0	63	1
Zion National Park (ZION)	7	Utah	1	6	8	6	21	684	8
Total ^(D)	–	–	8,129	13,158	17,620	9,452	48,760	180,964 ^(B)	47 ^(E)

^A Dashes in table indicate the park is exempt from the requirement for operators to submit a quarterly report; therefore, only an annual report is required.

^B Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual report is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

High-Activity Park Units

Table 3 and Figure 1 display the reported air tours for high-activity park units in 2019. The bulk of air tour operations were concentrated at ten park units where 92.3% of air tours occurred. All of these park units had over 1,000 reported annual operations. The remaining 44 park units had a combined total of 3,747 annual operations.

Table 3. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2019.

National Park System Unit	January– March	April– June	July– September	October– December	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Tours	Authorized Air Tours ^(A)	Number of Active Operators ^(B)
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	2,582	2,239	2,452	2,003	9,276	19.0%	26,664	5
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	1,294	2,083	2,439	2,043	7,859	16.1%	35,532	2
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA) ^(C)	637	2,028	2,167	1,087	5,919	12.1%	8,159 ^(C)	5
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	1,147	1,357	1,567	1,147	5,218	10.7%	36,819	3
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	1,209	1,266	1,268	1,132	4,875	10.0%	25,827	5
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	0	997	3,075	132	4,204	8.6%	5,608	3
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	372	643	951	540	2,506	5.1%	5,090	2
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	372	643	951	540	2,506	5.1%	5,090	2
Badlands National Park (BADL)	0	393	956	0	1,349	2.8%	4,117	1
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR) ^(C)	74	552	496	179	1,301	2.7%	3,992 ^(C)	4
All Others	442	957	1,298	649	3,747	7.7%	28,058	–
Total ^(D)	8,129	13,158	17,620	9,452	48,760	100%	180,964 ^(A)	47 ^(E)

^A Total number of air tours authorized through IOA and/or agreements.

^B Number of operators who reported at least one air tour.

^C Park with air tour management agreements.

^D Grand total exceeds sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual total is required.

^E This is not a sum of all values in this column since some operators have certificates for multiple parks. It reflects the number of unique certificates across all operators.

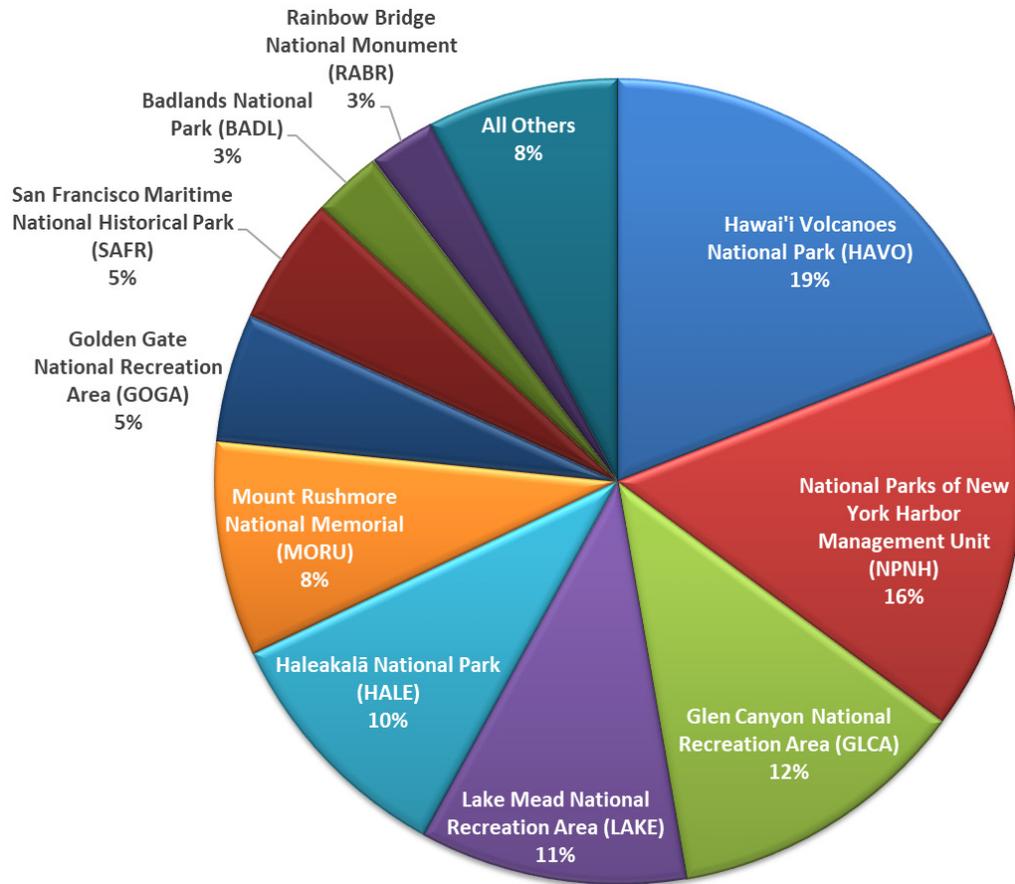


Figure 1. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2019.

Table 4 and Figure 2 display annual data for these same high-activity parks, from 2013–2019. The declining trend in tours at the National Parks of New York Harbor is due to an agreement between New York City and air tour operators that bans air tours on Sundays and which mandated a phased reduction of air tours to 50% of 2015 levels by 2017. The nearly 50% drop in tours at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park from 2017 to 2018 is a result of the Kīlauea Volcano eruptive activity in 2018. Tour flight paths shifted in order to pursue views of lava flows outside of the park. In addition, the FAA implemented multiple temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) over areas of volcanic activity.

Table 4. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2019.

National Park System Unit	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	15,410	14,427	14,645	15,489	16,520	8,333	9,276
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	34,682	39,797	26,812	18,638	11,006	8,141	7,859
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)	4,437	4,861	4,167	3,820	4,243	4,715	5,919
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	13,218	12,160	10,548	7,530	8,735	7,401	5,218
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	4,631	4,932	4,543	4,589	4,839	4,757	4,875
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	9	3,648	4,363	4,011	3,749	3,788	4,204
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	1,920	2,003	2,272	2,250	2,588	2,550	2,506
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	_(A)	_(A)	_(A)	_(A)	_(A)	1,119	2,506
Badlands National Park (BADL)	962	1,317	1,205	1,330	1,194	1,729	1,349
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR)	2,135	2,399	2,415	2,065	1,316	1,526	1,301

^A Tours likely occurred 2013–2017 in connection with tours over Golden Gate. FAA and NPS have clarified reporting with operator.

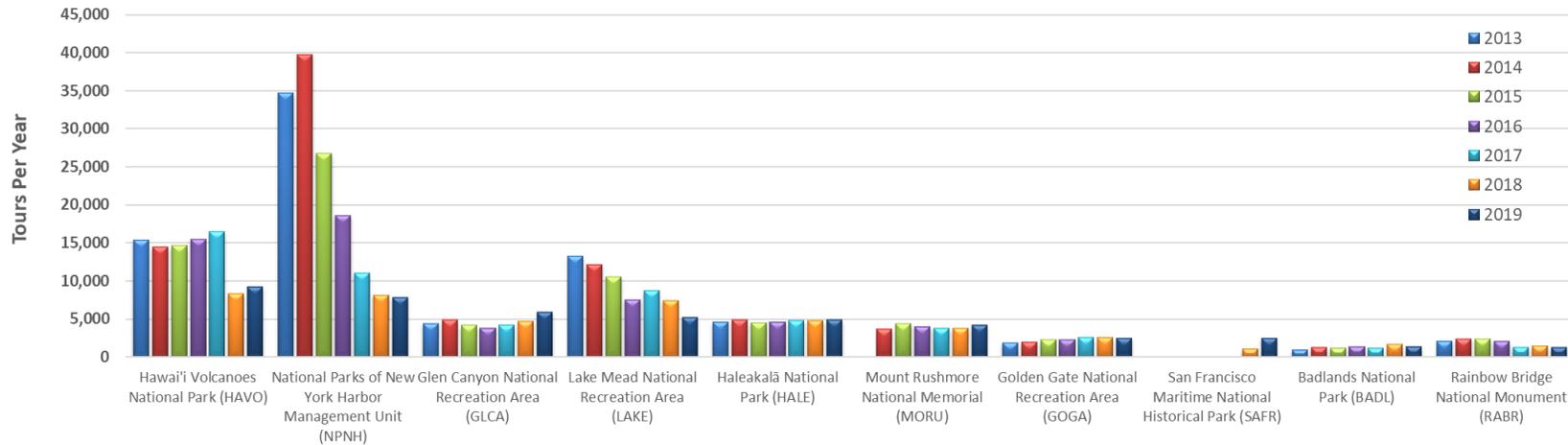


Figure 2. Reported Commercial Air Tours at High-Activity Units of the National Park System, 2013–2019.

Air Tours by Region

Table 5 and Figure 3 display the amount of air tour activity by the Department of Interior (DOI) unified region³. Region 12 contains the greatest number of air tours, although these operations were concentrated over only 2 park units. In contrast, there is less activity in region 7, but there are significantly more park units where tours occur. Appendix C provides a map of the DOI regions.

Table 5. Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2019.

DOI Unified Region ^A	Coverage ^B	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Number of Park Units with At Least One Tour
1 – North Atlantic-Appalachian	Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington DC, West Virginia	7,883	16%	2
2 – South Atlantic-Gulf	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands	1,167	2%	4
5 – Missouri Basin	Kansas, Most of Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota	5,553	11%	2
6 – Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf	Oklahoma, Texas	56	<1%	2
7 – Upper Colorado Basin	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico	3,075	6%	25
8 – Lower Colorado Basin	Arizona, Southern California, Southern Nevada	5,350	11%	7
9 – Columbia-Pacific Northwest	Idaho, Most of Oregon, Washington, NW Montana	62	<1%	2
10 – California-Great Basin	Most of California, Most of Nevada, Klamath County Oregon	5,188	11%	4

^A Where indicated, some parks may span more than one region.

^B Source: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/doi-regions-bureau-executive-assignments.pdf>

^C Yellowstone National Park spans DOI Regions 5, 7, and 9.

^D Glacier National Park spans DOI Regions 5 and 9.

^E Glen Canyon National Recreation Area spans DOI Regions 7 and 8.

^F Death Valley National Park spans DOI Regions 8 and 10.

³ The reorganization of DOI from 49 regions across 8 bureaus to 12 unified Interior Regions was completed in 2018. The Unified Interior Region boundaries are based on watersheds but generally drawn along state lines to simplify coordination with external partners. (<https://www.doi.gov/employees/reorg/unified-regional-boundaries>)

Table 5 (continued). Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2019.

DOI Unified Region^A	Coverage^B	Total Reported Air Tours	Percent of All Air Tours	Number of Park Units with At Least One Tour
12 – Pacific Islands	American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Marianas	14,151	29%	2
Regions 5, 7, 9	(See above for associated states)	2	<1%	1 ^C
Regions 5, 9	(See above for associated states)	352	1%	1 ^D
Regions 7, 8	(See above for associated states)	5,919	12%	1 ^E
Regions 8, 10	(See above for associated states)	2	<1%	1 ^F
Total	–	48,760	100%	54

^A Where indicated, some parks may span more than one region.

^B Source: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/doi-regions-bureau-executive-assignments.pdf>

^C Yellowstone National Park spans DOI Regions 5, 7, and 9.

^D Glacier National Park spans DOI Regions 5 and 9.

^E Glen Canyon National Recreation Area spans DOI Regions 7 and 8.

^F Death Valley National Park spans DOI Regions 8 and 10.

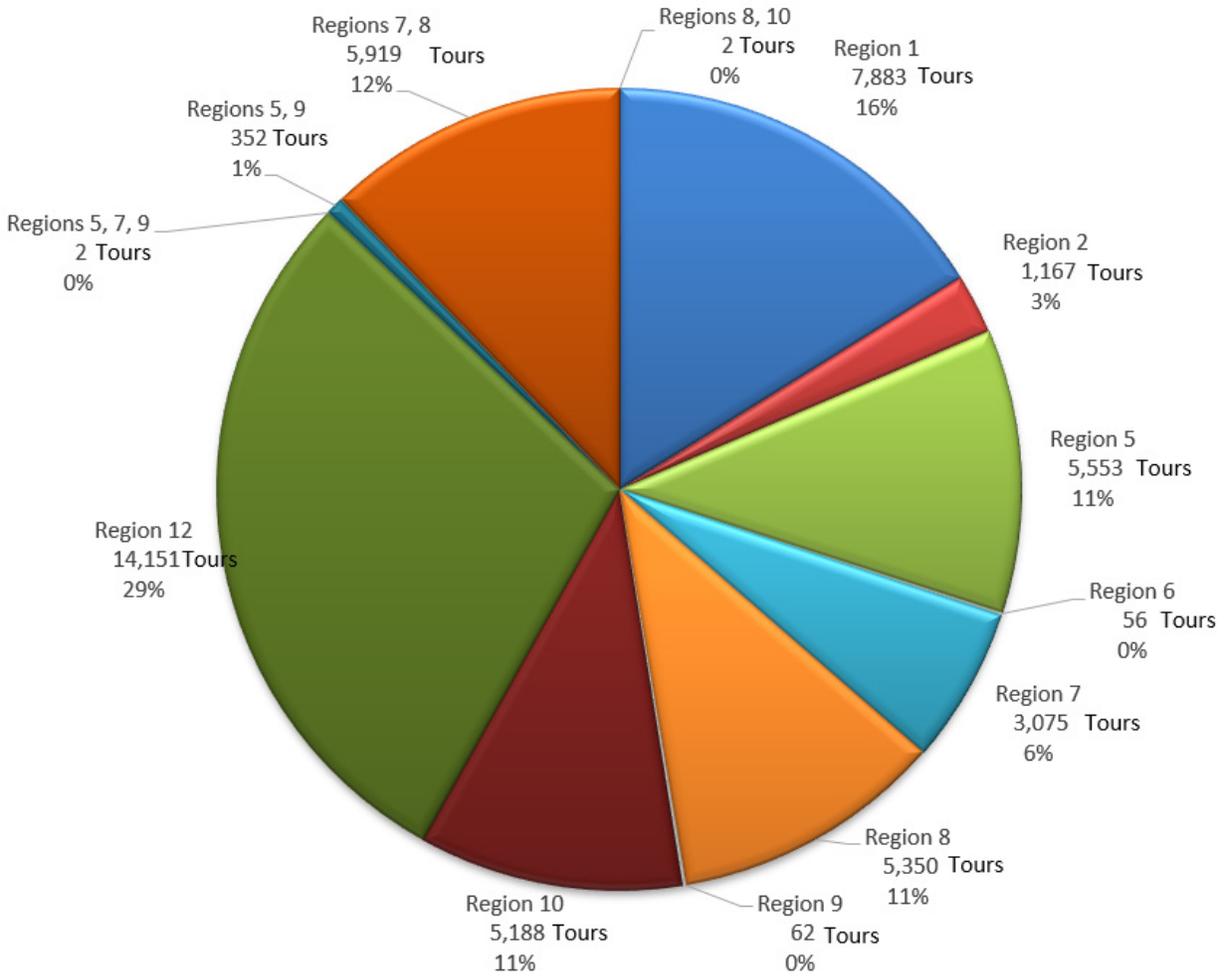


Figure 3. Reported Commercial Air Tours by DOI Unified Region, 2019.

Quarterly and Annual Trends

Table 6 and Figure 4 display air tour activity by quarter for 2013–2019. Most park units experienced seasonal fluctuations in operations associated with weather and customer demand. Figure 5 displays the total annual tours for 2013–2019. As mentioned, the declining trend in tours over the past several years is due in part to a reduction in activity at the National Parks of New York Harbor, where an agreement between New York City and air tour operators bans air tours on Sundays and mandated a phased reduction of air tours to 50% of 2015 levels by 2017. More recently, a nearly 50% drop in tours at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park from 2017 to 2018 was a result of the Kilauea Volcano eruptive activity in 2018, where tour flight paths shifted in order to pursue views of lava flows outside of the park and the FAA implemented multiple temporary flight restrictions (TFR) over areas of volcanic activity.

Table 6. Reported Commercial Air Tours, 2013–2019.

Year	January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December	Total Reported Air Tours ^(A)
2013	14,755	22,748	24,200	18,718	80,558
2014	13,548	25,402	30,176	20,450	89,752
2015	13,664	23,441	23,077	14,913	75,300
2016	12,815	15,676	21,715	13,913	64,235
2017	11,520	15,386	19,467	12,126	58,692
2018	9,714	13,041	14,914	9,252	47,145
2019	8,129	13,158	17,620	9,542	48,760

^A Annual totals exceed sum of quarterly totals due to exempt parks where only the annual total is required.

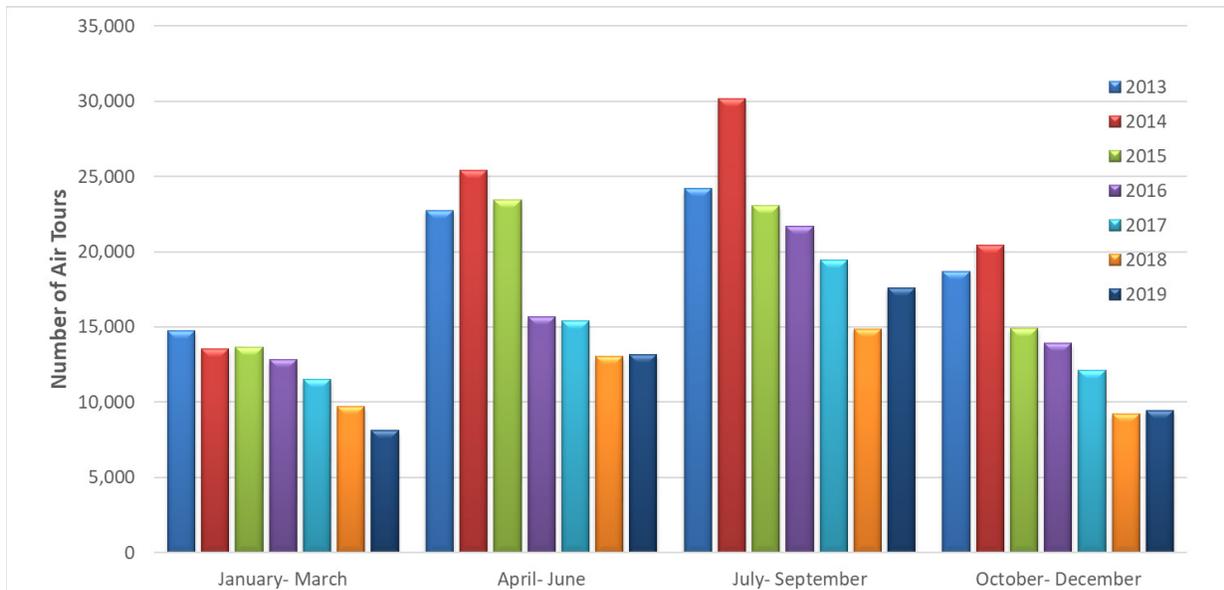


Figure 4. Reported Commercial Air Tours 2013–2019 by Quarter.

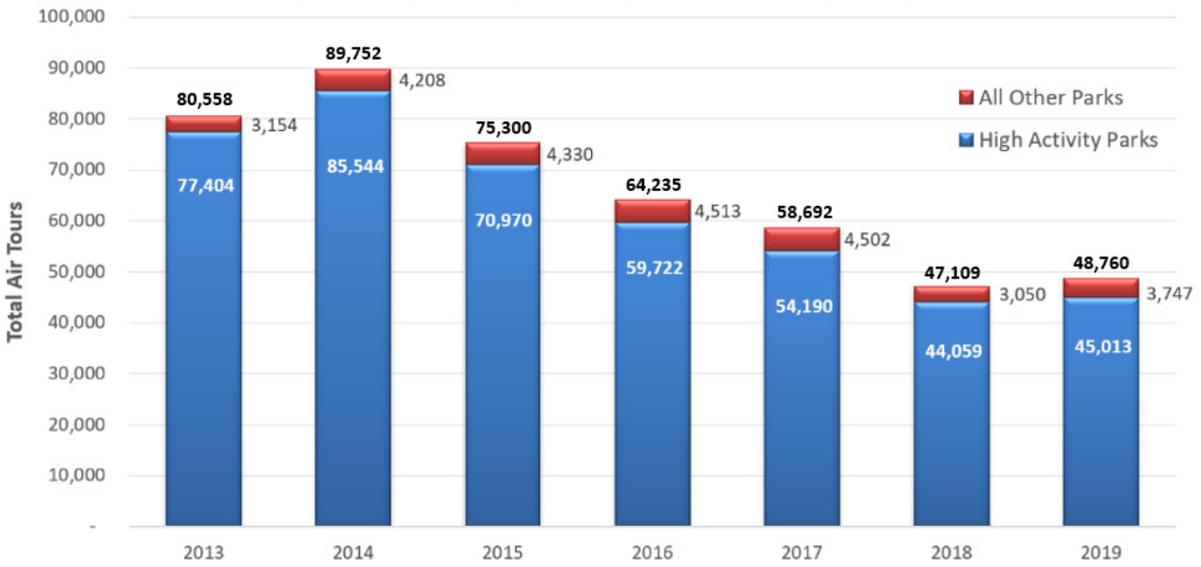


Figure 5. Reported Commercial Air Tours 2013–2019 by Year.

5. Parks that Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement

The Act requires that park units with more than 50 annual tours enter into an air tour management plan or agreement to protect park resources and values, or visitor use and enjoyment. While the Act exempted park units with 50 or fewer tours from the requirement to establish a plan or agreement, Congress anticipated that there might be instances where even 50 or fewer annual air tours could affect park resources or the visitor experience. Therefore, if the NPS determines that a plan or agreement is necessary to protect park resources or the visitor experience, NPS can withdraw an exemption.

Table 7 lists the 29 park units that currently require a plan or agreement—27 units with more than 50 tours (including Canyon de Chelly National Monument which had previously been withdrawn) and 2 units with less than 50 tours but where NPS has withdrawn the exemption (Death Valley National Park, and Mount Rainier National Park). Of these units, NPS and FAA have completed agreements with operators at Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, and with seven of the nine operators at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area / Rainbow Bridge National Monument.

Table 8 lists the 49 park units that qualify for the exemption based on 2019 data because the number of tours has not exceeded 50.

Table 7. Park Units that Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	NPS Legacy Region	State	Total Reported Air Tours
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO)	12	Pacific West	Hawaii	9,276
National Parks of New York Harbor Management Unit (NPNH)	1	Northeast	New York, New Jersey	7,859
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GLCA)	7, 8	Intermountain	Arizona, Utah	5,919
Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAKE)	8	Pacific West	Arizona, Nevada	5,218
Haleakalā National Park (HALE)	12	Pacific West	Hawaii	4,875
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (MORU)	5	Midwest	South Dakota	4,204
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA)	10	Pacific West	California	2,506
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR)	10	Pacific West	California	2,506
Badlands National Park (BADL)	5	Midwest	South Dakota	1,349
Rainbow Bridge National Monument (RABR)	7	Intermountain	Utah	1,301
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM)	2	Southeast	Tennessee, North Carolina	983
Bryce Canyon National Park (BRCA)	7	Intermountain	Utah	532
Canyonlands National Park (CANY)	7	Intermountain	Utah	367
Glacier National Park (GLAC)	5, 9	Intermountain	Montana	352
Arches National Park (ARCH)	7	Intermountain	Utah	305
Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE)	10	Pacific West	California	154
Bandelier National Monument (BAND)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	125
Chaco Culture National Historical Park (CHCU)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	75
Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR)	7	Intermountain	Utah	73
Biscayne National Park (BISC)	2	Southeast	Florida	70
Canyon de Chelly National Monument (CACH) ^(A)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	62
Olympic National Park (OLYM)	9	Pacific West	Washington	60
Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY)	2	Southeast	Florida	57
Everglades National Park (EVER)	2	Southeast	Florida	57

^A With 50 or fewer flights in previous years, NPS withdrew the exemption for Canyon de Chelly National Monument in 2017.

^B NPS withdrew exemption for this park unit in 2015, therefore, an air tour management plan or agreement is required.

Table 7 (continued). Park Units that Require an Air Tour Management Plan or Agreement (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	NPS Legacy Region	State	Total Reported Air Tours
Aztec Ruins National Monument (AZRU)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	57
Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE)	7	Intermountain	Colorado	55
Big Bend National Park (BIBE)	6	Intermountain	Texas	54
Mount Rainier National Park (MORA) ^(B)	9	Pacific West	Washington	2
Death Valley National Park (DEVA) ^(B)	8, 10	Pacific West	California	2
Total	–	n/a	n/a	48,455

^A With 50 or fewer flights in previous years, NPS withdrew the exemption for Canyon de Chelly National Monument in 2017.

^B NPS withdrew exemption for this park unit in 2015, therefore, an air tour management plan or agreement is required.

Table 8. Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2019 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	NPS Legacy Region	State	Total Reported
Hovenweep National Monument (HOVE)	7	Intermountain	Utah	38
Navajo National Monument (NAVA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	33
Acadia National Park (ACAD)	1	Northeast	Maine	24
Yosemite National Park (YOSE)	10	Pacific West	California	22
Zion National Park (ZION)	7	Intermountain	Utah	21
Petroglyph National Monument (PETR)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	19
El Malpais National Monument (ELMA)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	14
Pecos National Historical Park (PECO)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	14
Fort Union National Monument (FOUN)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	13
Colorado National Monument (COLM)	7	Intermountain	Colorado	12
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (HUTR)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	12
El Morro National Monument (ELMO)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	12
Petrified Forest National Park (PEFO)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	11
Capulin Volcano National Monument (CAVO)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	9

Table 8 (continued). Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2019 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	NPS Legacy Region	State	Total Reported
Dinosaur National Monument (DINO)	7	Intermountain	Colorado, Utah	9
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (SUCR)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	8
Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park (BLCA)	7	Intermountain	Colorado	7
Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CAVE)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	6
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	6
Wupatki National Monument (WUPA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	6
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA)	7	Intermountain	Colorado	3
Yellowstone National Park (YELL)	5, 7, 9	Intermountain	Idaho, Montana, Wyoming	2
Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River (RIGR)	6	Intermountain	Texas	2
Devils Tower National Monument (DETO)	7	Intermountain	Wyoming	1
Capitol Reef National Park (CARE)	7	Intermountain	Utah	1
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI)	10	Pacific West	California	0
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument (CAGR)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Cedar Breaks National Monument (CEBR)	7	Intermountain	Utah	0
Coronado National Memorial (CORO)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO)	2	Southeast	Florida	0
Fort Bowie National Historic Site (FOBO)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Fort Davis National Historic Site (FODA)	6	Intermountain	Texas	0
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (GICL)	7	Intermountain	New Mexico	0
Golden Spike National Historic Site (GOSP)	7	Intermountain	Utah	0
Grand Teton National Park (GRTE)	7	Intermountain	Wyoming	0
Guadalupe Mountains National Park (GUMO)	6	Intermountain	Texas	0
Hohokam Pima National Monument (PIMA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Mojave National Preserve (MOJA)	8	Pacific West	California	0
Montezuma Castle National Monument (MOCA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0

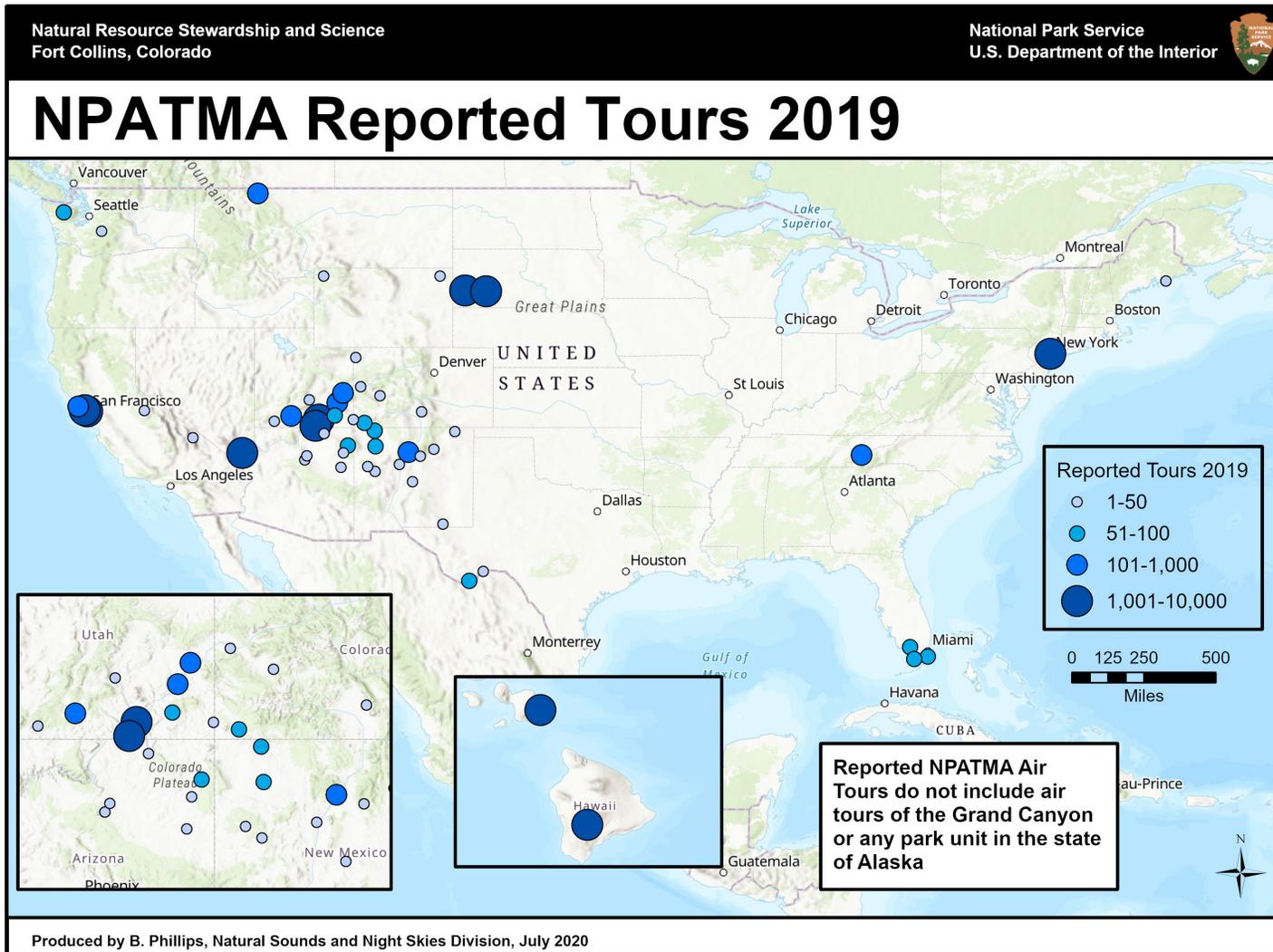
Table 8 (continued). Park Units that Qualify for the Exemption Based on 2019 Data (sorted by Total Reported Air Tours).

National Park System Unit	DOI Unified Region	NPS Legacy Region	State	Total Reported
North Cascades National Park (NOCA)	9	Pacific West	Washington	0
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Pipe Spring National Monument (PISP)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Saguaro National Park (SAGU)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA)	7	Intermountain	Utah	0
Tumacacori National Historical Park (TUMA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Tuzigoot National Monument (TUZI)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Walnut Canyon National Monument (WACA)	8	Intermountain	Arizona	0
Yucca House National Monument (YUHO)	7	Intermountain	Colorado	0
Muir Woods National Monument (MUWO)	10	Pacific West	California	0
Total	–	n/a	n/a	305

Appendix A. Air Tour Reporting Template

 Commercial Air Tour Reporting Data 				
As Mandated by the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Title V, Section 501 Please Fill In Shaded Areas Below Where and As Appropriate Note: Guidance is included in each cell and the first cell of each section.				
Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement: A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120-0750. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 4-16 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory per The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the FAA at: 800 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20531, Attn: Information Collection Clearance Officer, AES-200.			OMB CONTROL NUMBER 2120-0750	Revised 12/15/2017
Operator/Company Name:				FAA Information: Go to http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/ for more information.
dba (doing business as):				Name of Assigned POI:
Certificate Designator:				Name of Assigned FSDO:
Reporting Quarter:	Click on cell; select from dropdown	Reporting Year:	Click on cell; select from dropdown	FSDO Phone No.:
Notes:				
Location Information			Route Information	
National Park Service Unit Name(s):	Alpha-Code(s):	Departure Airports/Helipads:	Route Code:	Route Name:
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Park Name (pick from list)				
Air Tour Data Submission				
Date of Tour	Hour of Tour	Aircraft Make/Model	Park-Route Code	

Appendix B. Map of 2019 Commercial Air Tour Activity



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen,

Appendix C. Department of Interior Unified Regions

12 Interior Region Names Based on Watersheds



The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its special responsibilities to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

NPS 909/173833, November 2020

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



[Natural Resource Stewardship and Science](#)

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