



## ISSUE BRIEF

### ATMPs: Vertical Aviation Industry's Concerns

The vertical aviation industry is critically concerned not only with the transparency of the process used by the FAA and the National Park Service (NPS) to draft air tour management plans (ATMPs), but also with the operational safety, economic impacts, and public access restrictions imposed by the ATMPs. Top concerns include:

**Industry's Voice Excluded.** The agencies did not include the National Parks Overflights Advisory Group (NPOAG), a group established by Congress so that crucial stakeholders, including general aviation and commercial tour operators, could provide advice and counsel with respect to commercial air tour operations over and near national parks.

**Access to Airspace at Risk.** The ATMPs limit or eliminate helicopter operators' access to airspace over national parks, setting a precedent for other agencies or government bodies to challenge access to airspace in other settings, including utility corridors, agricultural areas, residential areas, and cities.

**Operational Safety in Jeopardy.** The ATMPs produced by the NPS and FAA include many safety-of-flight concerns because NPOAG members were not included in the development process.

**Unexamined Economic Impact.** The ATMPs for some parks eliminate ALL air tours; others cut air tours by 50% or more, making air tour businesses economically unfeasible. Yet the NPS and the FAA failed to sufficiently account for the economic impact on commercial air tour operators, their employees and vendors, and the communities in which they live and work.

**Loss of a Workforce Pipeline.** The air tour industry provides a vital workforce pipeline to the rest of the vertical aviation industry. Our entire rotorcraft ecosystem—which is already struggling with a shortage of skilled personnel—will be impacted by the loss of jobs in the air tour sector.

**Unequal Public Access.** By eliminating or severely reducing air tours, the NPS and the FAA are discriminating against all those who choose to experience US national parks through aerial sightseeing, including seniors, the young, and persons with disabilities. A one-size-fits all ideology is not how we should decide how the public can visit their national birthright.

*For more information about ATMPs and VAI's advocacy efforts, please visit [rotor.org/ATMP](http://rotor.org/ATMP).*

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