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Park: Glacier National Park
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Name: Kevin Proescholdt
Address: PO Box 9175
City: Missoula
State: MT
Postal Code: 59807
Email Address: kevinp@wildernesswatch.org
Organization: Wilderness Watch
Keep My Info Private: No

These comments come from Wilderness Watch, a national wilderness conservation organization. The focus of our work is the protection and proper stewardship of all units of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including recommended Wilderness as in the case of Glacier National Park.

Our comments follow:

" Glacier National Park consists of 1,013,839 acres in northern Montana and is bordered to the north by Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada. Together both parks were designated as the worlds first International Peace Park in 1932 and are named Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. The parks are also designated together as a World Heritage Site and the worlds first Transboundary International Dark Sky Park.

Comments: " The vast majority of Glacier (927,550 acres, or 91% of the Park) is recommended Wilderness and, pursuant to the 2006 NPS Management Policies, is managed in accordance with the 1964 Wilderness Act.

" As stated in Glacier Parks General Management Plan and subsequent planning efforts, the NPS intends to work with FAA to phase out commercial air tours but apparently only through attrition. Two former air tour operators did surrender their operating certificates in 2021, but three remaining air tour operators continue to fly, accounting for up to 891 flights each year.

" The noise from air tour operators over Glacier disrupts and diminishes the experience of everyone on the ground. The disproportionately small number of people causing this noise pollution adversely impacts the experience for the large number (majority) of visitors. One simply cannot escape the tour helicopter noise that invades Glacier. It should be eliminated.

" The draft Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) contains no sunset date for eliminating the remaining air tour operators. Since Congress passed the National Parks Air Tour Management Act (NPATMA) of 2000, there has been ample

opportunity to phase out air tour operators at Glacier. The NPS must include a firm sunset date for ending air tours in the final ATMP, preferably within 5 years.

" The NPS is required to protect solitude and silence for the 91% of Glacier National Park that is recommended Wilderness. The NPS must eliminate the noise from air tour operators in order to provide this protection.

" When I visit Glacier National Park again, I dont want my experience shattered by the ear-splitting din of these low-flying aircraft, and neither should wildlife be subjected to the stress of low-flying air tours. Such flights are always at odds with experiencing the quiet and solitude of wild places and should be prohibited over our national parks and their wild spaces.

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