

HELICOPTER FACT SHEET

Presented by: Skies Over Sedona - community group sponsored by
Keep Sedona Beautiful

GOAL: To have the FAA require helicopter tour operators to comply with the FAA Advisory on flights in Noise Sensitive Areas - fly at 2000 feet above ground level

I. Nature of the Problem

- Yavapai County owns and operates the Sedona Airport
- by taking federal grants the airport cannot restrict operations on its own
- the FAA has exclusive jurisdiction over traffic in the air
- there were over 10,000 helicopter tour flights in 2013 (last available year of data)
- Airport Master Plan predicts this will double by 2033
- helicopters only need to be 300 feet above ground to be legal

II. Recommendations and Advisories

- many organizations have recognized that flights over noise sensitive areas should be modified from the base legal standard
- the FAA (Advisory Circular 91-36D) recommends flights over areas like Sedona be at least 2000 feet above ground level
- the Sedona Airport Authority enacted a Noise Abatement Program that recommended flight be 2000 feet above ground level
- even the Helicopter Association International has a policy that flights over noise sensitive areas be at least 1000 feet above ground level
- none of the helicopter tour companies have complied with any of these recommendations nor will they agree voluntarily to do so

III. The FAA Options

- as noted above, only the FAA can compel the helicopter tour companies to comply with the FAA Advisory
- the FAA has made special requirements for tour flights in selected areas such as the Grand Canyon

IV. Support for this Alternative

- the City of Sedona has been a partner in efforts to mitigate noise including noise from helicopter tours
- the County and airport authority support our efforts
- the Forest Service recognizes the value of quiet in the forest - particularly in Wilderness Areas
- there is broad public support for this initiative
- it is critical to make sure that elected officials know that the public is supportive of this initiative

V. More Information: see: www.skiesoversedona.com