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## Haleakalā National Park News Release

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Four Companies Awarded New Haleakalā National Park Guided Vehicle Tour Contracts

MAKAWAO, Hawaii -- Eco Tours, Polynesian Adventure Tours, Skyline Eco Adventures, and Valley Isle Excursions have been selected to receive 10-year concession contracts to operate guided vehicle tours at Haleakalā National Park. These companies will provide guided vehicle tours for visitors in the Summit area and can offer guided vehicle tours in the park's Kīpahulu District as well. Haleakalā Eco Tours, Polynesian Adventure Tours, and Valley Isle Excursions have previous experience with guided vehicle tours in the park, as authorized under Commercial Use Authorizations. Skyline Eco Adventures is new to the park but has experience providing visitor services on Maui.

These companies were selected by the Pacific West Regional Director of the National Park Service, as recommended by an evaluation panel of National Park Service staff. Haleakalā NP employees were not involved in the selection. Successful bidders had the highest scores among the proposals received. Each proposal was evaluated in accordance with the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998.

"We believe the selected concessioners will do an excellent job providing memorable visitor experiences while protecting park resources," said Haleakalā National Park Superintendent Natalie Gates. "We look forward to working with our new partners," she added.

The 2013 Haleakalā National Park Commercial Services Plan Environmental Assessment and subsequent Finding of No Significant Impact directed the transition for guided vehicle tours from the current 18 Commercial Use Authorizations to up to four concession contracts. The purpose of the change was to improve the visitor experience and park oversight, while better protecting natural and cultural resources. The new contracts will take effect on January 1, 2018, allowing a 6-7 month transition period for all operators.

The park's new sunrise reservation system, implemented on February 1, 2017, applies only to private or rental vehicles and does not apply to commercial operators. In 2015, over 1.2 million people visited Haleakalā National Park, and of those, over 217,000 used commercial services. The park is the foremost tourist attraction on Maui and an important contributor to the local economy. In 2015, park visitors spent \$76.5 million in the county on park-related tourism and supported more than 900 Maui jobs.

For more information on commercial services in Haleakalā National Park, please visit: www.nps.gov/hale/learn/management/csp.htm. For more information about the park's new sunrise reservation system please visit:www.nps.gov/hale/planyourvisit/Haleakalā-sunrise-reservations.htm.

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