



Monthly Update July, 2020



Report Jet Noise at:

<https://gis.sanjuanco.com/aircraft-noise-reporting>

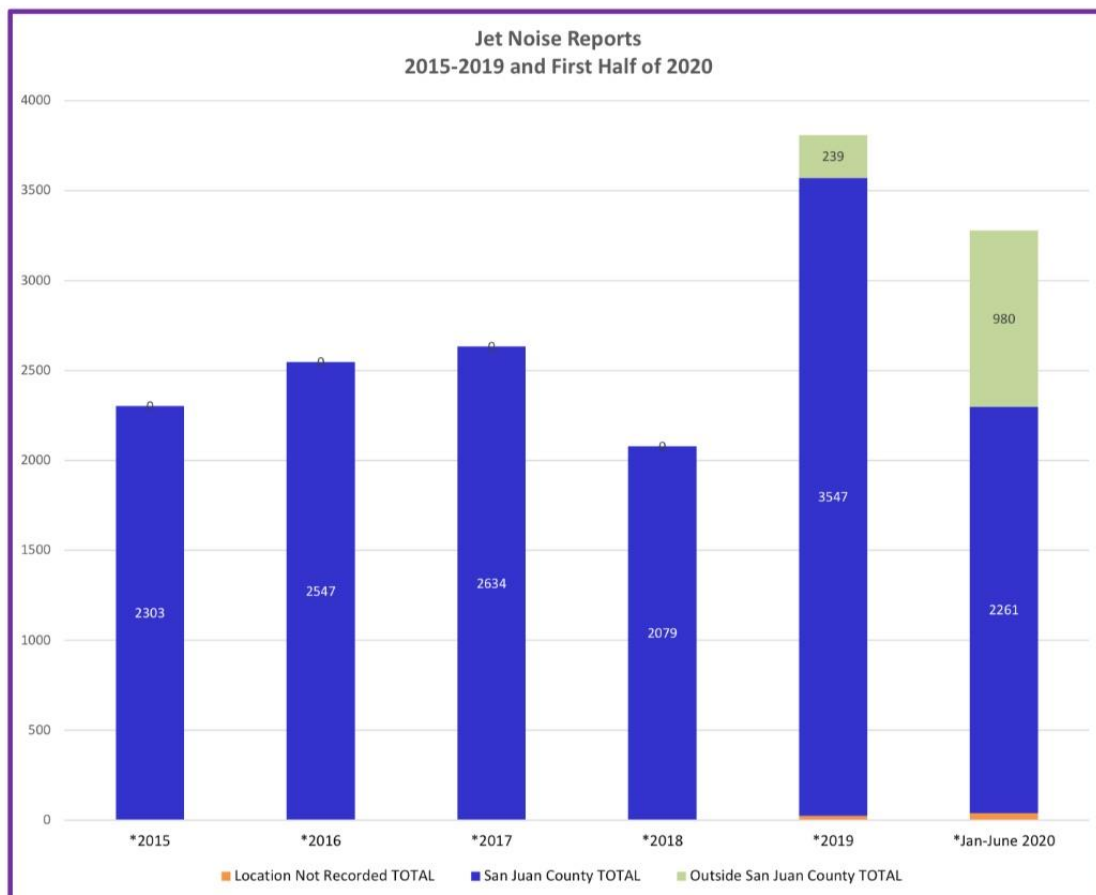
It's Anything But Quiet

There is always a lot more happening than meets the eye.

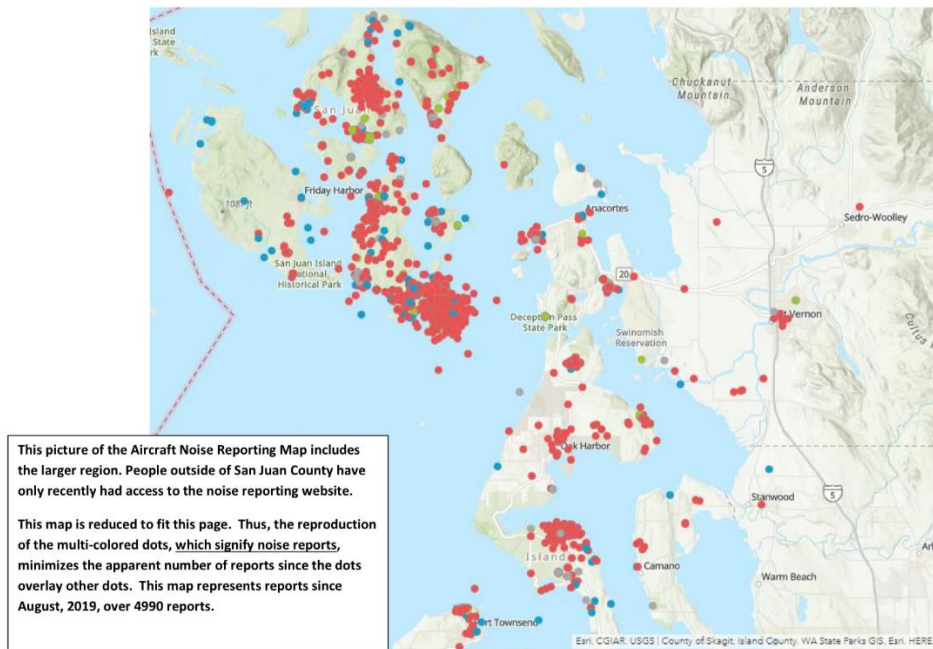
Our Aircraft Noise Monitoring Report can be found at <https://www.quietskies.info/county-website-data-summaries>

The charts below show how the additional 36 Growlers has two consequences:

Noise Impacts Are Increasing



The Noise Is Spreading



Navy Noise Monitoring

San Juan County Council Member Jamie Stephens worked diligently to have the Navy put one of its only 12 noise monitors on Lopez.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) required that they do noise monitoring of the Growler jets. Thanks to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a site was approved at Point Colville at the National Monument.

There has been no confirmation yet from the Navy that a noise monitor will indeed be placed there. In fact, we don't know if the noise monitors will be placed where and when the Growlers are flying. Moreover, there is no certainty that we will see the detailed analysis rather than the Navy's usual annual average noise.

Recent information is that the monitoring may be delayed.

Return Quiet Skies to the Skagit Valley

"When attempting to describe the experience of the Navy's Growler jets flying over the Skagit Valley, it's difficult to know where to begin.

In some ways, the central question is this: How can it be acceptable to allow the flight of these jets to do such harm? How can it be acceptable to allow the flight of these jets to do so much damage? It should not be acceptable.

The question is not if the Navy should fly, but rather: Are there alternatives to the location of these jets, the number of jets, the volume, the altitude, the flight paths, the time of day they fly, etc? The answer is obviously yes. Are there solutions to these challenges? Yes. Should the Navy be willingly and actively addressing these issues? Yes.

Here in the Skagit, it seems clear that the number of flights have increased. The number of jets flying in formation have increased. They now fly very late at night, long after most people are trying to get much desired and required sleep. The volume has increased. The altitude at which they fly has decreased which results in even louder events. The skies above have the sound and appearance of a wartime training ground precisely because that's what they've become. The jets

rocket across the sky as if in pursuit of an enemy, they slowly crawl and bank at low elevation with a growl so loud and disruptive that farm animals react, conversations must cease, ears must be plugged. The sight, the sound, the feel, the exhaust all amount to one thing: pollution.

Pollution of all kinds. We all want quality of life and we don't all have the same definition of that, but for many of us here in the Skagit, having the ability to peacefully and safely enjoy this valley and all it has to offer is unnecessarily and severely diminished.

On a recent sailing excursion out of La Conner, some friends described their excitement at having the opportunity to be on the water in such a beautiful location only to have to cancel their day due to the fact that they could not hear each other speak.

When the flight of these jets over the Skagit Valley (and the Olympics, and the Methow, etc.) results in animals, people, and economies responding defensively, it's time to evaluate the situation and find a balanced solution to this challenge."

Concerned Skagit Valley Resident.

Return Quiet Skies to Fidalgo Island

"Thanks to you and to Quiet Skies for putting out another report. I think that the data you present is essential, and the statements are invaluable. People on Fidalgo Island are VERY grateful for your work. Just so you know.

Stories make the most difference in changing things. Your organized statements and reports are key to moving the Growler jets to an appropriate location."



Return Quiet Skies to the Peninsula

"I live in the Fort Worden area of Port Townsend. The fly over that just occurred, at 1:12 p.m., is the loudest, most ear shattering shaking and rumbling that I have experienced since moving here 4 years ago. This type of activity cannot be necessary."

Return Quiet Skies to Lopez Island

Sample of comments:

A week ago I saw/heard 5 Growlers in formation near my house.

71 decibels in the house. 80+ decibels outside. Very loud. This will be gardening with Bose noise canceling headphones.

Extremely noisy day. ROARING, BLASTING, house shaking, windows and body shaking—70-84 decibels. Twelve hour day of noise.

Listening to Silence:

“Why We Must Protect the World’s Quiet Places”

BY JENNY MORBER • JUNE 30, 2020

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/listening-to-silence-why-we-must-protect-the-worlds-quiet-places>

As more people push into once-remote areas, truly quiet spots — devoid of the noise of traffic or crowds of tourists — have become increasingly scarce. Now, a coalition of activists, scientists, and park officials are trying to preserve the last quiet places on the planet.

News from the Sound Defense Alliance

SDA is focusing on building their board with regional representatives, strengthening and developing their committees, engaging more volunteers and developing a plan.

Currently, Quiet Skies does not have a representative on the Sound Defense Alliance (SDA) Board, but a member of the Quiet Skies Steering Committee, Brian Silverstein, serves on the SDA Legislative Committee.

If anyone is interested in serving on the SDA Board on behalf of Quiet Skies, please email us at quietskiessanjuan@gmail.com and we'll have a chat.

We Need a GIS Guru

Now that the SJC Jet Noise Website accepts reports beyond the County we need to separate the data by County, Island, town, etc. Each report has the Latitude and Longitude so someone who speaks GIS can put the reports into buckets.

We are looking for a volunteer who can do this every two months when we prepare a summary.

If you have the skills please email us at QuietSkies.