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## Flight Track Plot Sample - Propeller

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Flight track plots are a graphic illustration of the ground paths of aircraft traffic, as observed from above, for a specific time period. The flight track plots represent both arrivals and departures of the aircraft to and from Sea-Tac International Airport, according to the direction of traffic flow (north or south). These plots represent daytime flight activity from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

A flight track sample gives the date and time range, the type of operation (arrival or departure), and the traffic flow direction. Each map has a legend; arrivals are red and departures are green. Flyovers, such as flights from Renton Airport and King County International Airport, are shown in blue. Although some information about operations at other airports may show up on a flight track plot provided by Sea-Tac Airport's Noise Abatement Office, it is best to contact the other airports for the details on those flights.

Whether an airplane departs to the north (north flow) or the south (south flow) depends on wind conditions. Aircraft arrive and depart heading into the wind. In the Puget Sound region, winds tend to flow out of the north during clear weather, necessitating departures to the north.

During the average year, Sea-Tac Airport experiences north flow approximately 35 percent of the time and south flow approximately 65 percent of the time.

The data used in creating the flight tracks is generated by the air traffic control system operated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). An antenna passively reads and collects flight track data from the FAA's Automated Radar Terminal System (ARTS). This antenna provides near-live continuous flight track data, which is monitored by Noise Abatement Staff. Citizens also can view the flight track data using WebTrak at <http://www.portseattle.org/community/environment/noiseabatement.shtml>

Because propeller aircraft cannot fly as fast as jet aircraft, they are not required to fly inside flight "corridors" the way that jets are. These corridors help minimize the neighborhoods affected by aircraft noise by keeping jets on certain designated routes going to and from the airport.

The Noise Abatement Office will provide, upon request, up to four pages of customized flight track maps or reports per residence per month.