**2026-27 Big Bend CUA Handbook**

This handbook includes information meant to assist prospective applicants and returning operators in learning more about the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) permitting process and commercial operations in Big Bend National Park (BIBE) and Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River (RIGR).

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**Summary of Important Dates**

**October 1, 2025** – Application period opens for permits beginning Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2027.

\*CUA Permits have changed from a 1 year to a 2-year term. Annual Reports are still due each year. The two-year term is valid until Dec. 31, 2027 not two years from the date the permit is issued.

**November 1, 2025** – Deadline for submitting CUA Application if you are planning to begin conducting trips on January 1, 2026. MUST apply at least 60 days before conducting planned trip.

**January 31, 2027** – Deadline for submitting 2026 operating year Annual Report (January 31, 2028, for 2027 operating year). If not submitted by this deadline, the CUA permit may be suspended.

**February 28, 2027** – Deadline for paying 2026 Market Price Management Fee (February 28, 2028, for 2027 operating year). If not submitted by this deadline, the CUA permit may be suspended.

**December 31, 2027** – Date the two-year term 2026-27 CUA permits expire. Note: MUST apply at least 60 days before you begin conducting any trips during the two-year term.

**F.A.Q.’s**

**What is a Commercial Use Authorization?**

CUA’s are permits issued by the park Superintendent to allow certain commercial activities within the park. Permits are required of all operators who provide any goods, activities, agreements, or other services to the general public that:

* take place, at least in part, on lands managed by the National Park Service,
* use park resources, and
* result in compensation, monetary gain, benefit or profit to an individual, organization or corporation.

Federal law mandates the NPS issue CUA’s only for commercial activities and visitor services that:

* are determined to be an appropriate use of the park,
* will have minimal impact on park resources and values, and
* are consistent with the park purpose, management plans, policies, and regulations.

Federal regulations (36 CFR 5.3) prohibit engaging in or soliciting any business in the park areas, except in accordance with the provisions of a written agreement with the United States. Commercial aspects, such as advertising, negotiation of compensation, and receipt of money/compensation must occur outside of the park. Additionally, Public Law 105-391, Section 418, passed in 1998, provides the NPS the authority to issue CUAs to allow business operations and requires NPS to collect a reasonable fee for CUA administration and management.

**What types of activities are authorized in Big Bend National Park under a CUA?**

Big Bend National Park accepts CUA applications for the following activities:

4 x 4 Jeep Tours

Art Instruction/Workshops

Bicycle Tours

Boat Tours – non-motorized

Environmental Education (birding, botanizing, biology/geology, history, wilderness education/therapy

Hiking – backcountry (backpacking)

Hiking/Walking - frontcountry

Motorcycle Tours

Outdoor Skills Education (survival camp, boot camp, NOLS)

Photography Instruction/Workshops

Transport – non-tour

The park does not accept applications for activities not listed above such as lodging, campgrounds, food and beverage, or retail. These activities are deemed both appropriate and necessary to resource protection and visitor experiences and are under competitive concession contracts, which are generally put up for bid every 10 to 20 years.

All other commercial activities not authorized under a CUA, concession contract, or Special Use Permit for any commercial operation are prohibited by Big Bend National Park.

Big Bend does NOT issue CUA’s for Road-Based Commercial Motorcoach/Bus Tours. Please see park website for more information regarding requirements for motorcoaches/buses.

**What is the definition of each CUA category?**

**Authorized Activities:**

* 4 x 4 Jeep Tours – road-based (paved or dirt) tours for group sizes of 1-25 participants, including guides per day. ATV’s are PROHIBITED in Big Bend National Park. Step-on guide service is authorized. Limited hiking is authorized. Overnight camping is NOT authorized.
* Art Instruction/Workshops – non-commercial art trip/tour/workshops with guide service within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA.
* Bicycle Tours – bike tours with guide service, hard surface or dirt roads only within Big Bend National Park. Bikes are not allowed off- road or on trails. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA. Limited guided hiking is authorized.
* Boat Tours – non-motorized – canoe, raft, or kayak rentals/tours/charters with guide service or delivering/outfitting river equipment within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Repair/salvage service of canoe, raft, kayak, etc. within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle of vehicles is authorized under this CUA. Hiking is authorized under this CUA if it is incidental to the river trip. Step-On guides are authorized under this CUA.
* Environmental Education – includes bird watching, botanizing, biology/geology courses, wilderness education/therapy tours while walking/hiking with an instructor/guide within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA.
* Hiking – backcountry (backpacking) – backcountry hiking and/or camping/backpacking with guide service or delivering/outfitting backcountry camping equipment within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle of vehicles is authorized under this CUA. PLEASE NOTE: Issuance of a CUA for this activity does not guarantee the Permittee the availability of campsites nor does it entitle the Permittee to supersede the general public in obtaining campsites.
* Hiking/Walking – frontcountry – day hiking with guide service within Big Bend National Park boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA.
* Motorcycle Tour – guided motorcycle tours on paved roads within Big Bend National Park boundaries. Tours are only authorized on roads open to the public. Motorcycles must be street legal. No off-road plates are allowed. Limited guided hiking from hard surfaced roads is authorized.
* Outdoor Skills Education – survival, boot camp, NOLS, etc. – conducting outdoor education skills with a guide within Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River boundaries. Backpacking and hiking are authorized under this CUA if incidental to the outdoor skills education.
* Photography Instruction– non-commercial photography trip/tour/workshops with guide service within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA. (Commercial Photography requires a Special Use Permit. Contact the Superintendent’s office at (915) 477-1101 for more information.)
* Transport – non-tour (road, air, water-based) – non-tour transport services within Big Bend National Park. A shuttle transportation consists of a drop-off or pick-up service for clients on designated roads and at designated parking areas, pullouts, and developed areas where the CUA holder leaves the park after the service has been conducted. Only vehicles with a capacity at or below 15 passengers are authorized for this service.

**What criteria must commercial operations meet to qualify for a CUA?**

* The activity authorized must be appropriate to the preservation of the park and be consistent with all park management plans and must fit into one of the definitions listed above.
* Commercial operators must be based outside the park. Services must initiate and terminate outside of the park, except for concession lodging facilities. All aspects of the business (such as advertising, exchange of money, etc.) must take place outside the park boundary.
* Authorization holders may not construct any facilities within the park, including temporary tent canopy/structures.
* The services provided may not conflict with the services provided by concessionaires under contract or the National Park Service’s operations.
* CUA holders must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles and watercraft.
* Authorization holders must comply with all applicable state, local and National Park Service laws in conducting their business. The Superintendent's Compendium ([Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm) details park level regulations and is subject to change annually.
* A complete application form (NPS form 10-550) and application fee ($350 via Pay.gov) along with other required documents identified on the Checklist for Applicants located at the end of the handbook must be submitted.
* An Annual Report for the previous operating year must be submitted no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities.
* Management Fees calculated by Market Price from the previous year's Annual Report must be paid no later than February 28 of the next year.
* Commercial operators may be required to submit other information to the NPS upon request (guide registration forms, workshop itineraries, CPR and WFR certifications etc.).

Note: The National Park Service monitors activities authorized through CUA’s. Any violation of CUA conditions or operating plan requirements is grounds for suspending/revoking the current authorization and/or not issuing future authorizations under the authority of the park Superintendent.

**How do I apply for a CUA?**

Review the Checklist for Applicants at the end of this handbook. Once you have gathered all the required documentation, you may submit a complete application package and application fee electronically on the **NPS Online Application and Reporting System at** [Home - Commercial Use Authorization (nps.gov)](https://cua.nps.gov/).

**Electronic submission via the NPS Online Application and Reporting System:**

You will need to go to the above site and create a LogIn.gov account to begin.

If you have questions or need assistance navigating the site, email:

[bibe\_cua@nps.gov](mailto:bibe_cua@nps.gov) – use subject line format “[Company Name dba Name] 2026 CUA Application

**When is the application period?**

The CUA application period for Operating Term 2026-2027 opens October 1, 2025. These CUA’s will be valid from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.

If you plan to operate the first week of January 2026, please submit your CUA application by November 1, 2025. **We require up to 60 days to process and issue a CUA.** **Complete applications must be submitted a minimum 60 days in advance of first trip for processing**. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received; incomplete applications are moved to the bottom of the list and may take longer than 60 days until fully executed.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| If you plan to begin operations on January 1, 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by November 1, 2025 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations on February 1, 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by December 1, 2025 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations on March 1, 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by January 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in April 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by February 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in May 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by March 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in June 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by April 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in  July 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by May 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in August 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by June 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in September 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by July 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in October 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by August 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in November 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by September 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |
| If you plan to begin operations in December 2026 | YOU MUST apply\* by September 1, 2026 | Allow 60 days for processing |

\* apply means that you have submitted a completed application electronically and made the application fee payment by this date as well on Pay.Gov.

**What happens once I apply for a CUA?**

1. Once the park has received a complete application package via the NPS Online Application and Reporting System portal, the Big Bend permit office will notify you of receipt of the complete application.
2. Once the application package is reviewed and approved, you will be sent a copy of your permit to review, sign and return. Upon receipt, the Superintendent will review, approve, and sign permit.
3. The online system will then email the fully executed CUA to you and you may begin operating in Big Bend National Park within the authorization dates. **You are not allowed to operate in Big Bend National Park without a fully executed CUA in hand**.
4. To continue to operate commercially in Big Bend National Park, CUA holders are required to maintain compliance with all Big Bend National Park CUA Conditions, activity/category specific conditions, and all laws and park regulations and in addition, document gross receipts through the Annual Report due January 31st and pay applicable Management Fees.

**How long does it take to obtain a CUA?**

On average, it takes at least 45 days to receive a fully executed CUA. The process can take longer if the application package is incomplete or requested information to complete the application package is not returned promptly from the applicant. Please allow up to 60 days before your first planned trip. We cannot guarantee full execution of a permit with less than 60 days.

**What kind of insurance do I need?**

**Commercial General Liability Insurance**

Liability insurance is required for all CUA holders under the terms of the authorization. Such insurance should be of sufficient scope to cover all potential risks and in an amount to cover claims that can reasonably be expected in the event of serious injury or death. Minimum coverage amount is $500,000 per occurrence for Big Bend NP for all other activities. Some activities may require increased coverage or other types of liability insurance ($1,000,000 for boat tours). Liability insurance policies must name the United States of America as additional insured. The business or person that is providing the service must be named insured (policy holder).

**Automobile Liability Insurance (2026 minimum is $1,500,000 – see app form)**

CUA holders **who rent vehicles will be required to show proof of automobile liability insurance**. Please refer to the permit application (Attachment A) for required minimum coverages **as it has changed**. Commercial automobile insurance coverage types are identified as auto designation symbols (1-9). Each symbol represents the type of vehicle protected by the applicable liability policy. CUA insurance certificates will typically reflect one or more of the following symbols (from RM 48B Commercial Use Authorizations):

1. Symbol 1, "Any auto" provides coverage for any owned, hired, non-owned automobile use in conjunction with the business. This is the most common comprehensive auto designation symbol available.
2. Symbol 2, "Owned autos" provides coverage only for those vehicles owned by the CUA holder. It does not include autos hired or non-owned.
3. Symbol 7, "Specified auto" provides coverage for vehicles specifically listed on the CUA insurance policy.
4. Symbol 8, "Hired autos" provides coverage only for autos leased, hired, rented, or borrowed from an employee, partner, or member of an insured's household.
5. Symbol 9, "Non-owned" provides coverage only for autos owned by employees, partners, or members of an insured's household, but only while those non-owned autos are used either in the conduct of the insured's business or personal affairs. It does not include autos hired, leased, or borrowed from other sources.

**Insurance Company Rating**

Insurance companies must be rated at least A- by the most recent edition of A.M. Best’s Key Insurance Reports (Property-Casualty edition) or similar insurance rating companies (Moody’s, Standard and Poor’s, or Fitch). You may be subject to additional insurance requirements. Refer to “Attachment A”.

**The insurance certificate and insurance ratings must be submitted with the CUA application**. The rating companies do not issue certificates. We require the insurance broker to note this rating in the Certificate. If the rating does not appear on the certificate, the insurance broker must provide it in another document.

**What is the cost of holding a CUA and how are CUA fees assessed?**

A $350 application fee for the first application/activity submitted is a requirement of applying for a CUA. The same applicant will pay a $250 application fee for each subsequent application/activity submitted to the same NPS unit during the same CUA season. The Application Fee is cost recovery of staff time to process and issue a CUA. CUA holders will also be charged a reasonable fee to ensure program cost recovery and for the identifiable economic privileges received from conducting business inside Big Bend National Park. Reasonable fees will be based on a percentage of gross receipts (Management Fee). A Market Price fee calculator is used to determine the Management Fee. Because the $350 Application Fee counts as a credit towards the percentage of gross receipts (Management Fee), operators grossing amounts less than $11,650 will not owe an additional fees (3% of $11,650 = $350), unless other actions of the operator necessitate further cost recovery. “Gross receipts” means the revenue for the most recent business year the company brought in while operating in Big Bend National Park, regardless of whether or not the gross receipts are a result of the service provided under this CUA.

An Annual Report is required for each CUA holder. The CUA holder is responsible for maintaining accounting records that demonstrate evidence of gross receipts and required fee payment. The Service may audit CUA holder financial reports at any time.

**When is the Application Fee due?**

The application fee is due at the time of submittal. Payments must be made through Pay.gov. Each applicant will be assigned a new CUA number through the online system. If you are a current or past CUA holder, the Big Bend may reassign your previous CUA number, but the application number will remain the same.

**When are the Management Fee and Annual Report due?**

The Annual Report is due within 30 days after the previous operating year is completed and no later than January 31st of the next calendar year. For example, the calendar year 2026 (Jan. 1, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026) Annual Report is due by January 31, 2027. For operating year 2027 (Jan 1, 2027-Dec. 31, 2027), the Annual Report is due by Jan. 31, 2028.

This report determines the Management Fee which is due within 30 days of Annual Report submission or by February 28, 2027 (February 28, 2028 for operating year 2027). The $350 Application Fee is credited towards the Management Fee, which is calculated as follows:

* + Less than $250,000 earned from park-based operations: 3% of gross receipts (minus application fee)
  + $250,000-$500,000 earned from park-based operations: 4% of gross receipts (minus application fee)
  + More than $500,000 earned from park-based operations: 5% of gross receipts (minus application fee)
* This will be included as part of the annual report. **Management Fees will be calculated by the NPS Online Application and Reporting System and paid via Pay.gov.**

**How do I pay the Application and Management Fees?**

1. Please pay electronically on Pay.gov by going through the **NPS Online Application and Reporting System.**
2. Be sure you enter the correct amount as our office cannot issue refunds.
3. The NPS Online Application and Reporting System will calculate any management fees and you may pay online through Pay.gov.

**What is the term of a CUA?**

Starting in 2026, all CUA permits will be issued for a two-year operating term, following the calendar year in Big Bend National Park. The authority begins January 1, 2026 and ends December 31, 2027. Please note, the two-year term is valid until December 31, 2027 not two years from the date your permit is issued. For example, if you apply June 1, 2027, your application will expire December 31, 2027. We do not “renew” permits from previous years. Every commercial operator will need to apply for a permit each two-year operating term they intend to operate. We do not “discount” the application fee for one-time entry permits.

**How Does Subcontracting Work?**

CUA holders may enter into agreements with an entity that advertises, books, and/or sells trips to provide the services arranged by the other entity.  However, the CUA holder must brand the trip and be identifiable as the CUA holder and not as the contracting entity while operating in the park.

**What happens if the Annual Report and/or Management Fees are not submitted on time?**

If we do not receive your Annual Report for the previous operating year by January 31st and/or your Management Fees for the previous operating year are not paid by February 28, your CUA issued for the current operating term could be suspended. You would not be able to conduct business in Big Bend National Park until the Annual Report is received and all fees are paid. If you have questions regarding fees, please contact the CUA Coordinator at bibe\_cua@nps.gov.

**Operating Two-Year Term 2026-27 Updates**

**2026-27 CUA Application Checklist (must be included in app packet)**

Your completed CUA Application Checklist should be included in your application packet.

**CUA Fees Must Be Paid Through the NPS Online System**

All 2026-27 application and cost recovery fees should be paid through Pay.gov **on the NPS Online Application and Reporting System**. We will no longer accept application fees, etc. on our Big Bend CUA Pay.gov site. It was disabled March 31, 2025. All 2025 Management Fees will be paid via the Big Bend Pay.gov site NOT on the new online system.

**CUA Application Processing Time**

The CUA application period for the two-year operating term 2026-27 will **open October 1, 2025**. These CUA’s will be valid from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027. If you plan to operate the first week of January 2026, please submit your CUA application by November 1, 2025. **We require up to 60 days to process and issue a CUA.** **Complete applications must be submitted a minimum 60 days in advance of first trip for processing**. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received; incomplete applications are moved to the bottom of the list and may take longer than 60 days until fully executed.

**Park Entrance Fees**

**A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems.**

All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original park entrance receipt for prior entrance.

Entrance fees for commercial tours at Big Bend are as follows:

* $15.00 per person, or
* Interagency “America the Beautiful” Pass - <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>, or
* Original VALID park entrance receipt from prior entry to Big Bend National Park
* Outfitters with multiple daily/weekly entries may use the Entrance Station Fee Sheet (inquire with CUA Office)

**Commercial operators may NOT use personal passes to cover commercial entrance fees. Using a personal pass may result in suspension or revocation of permit.**

**Automobile Insurance and Rental Vehicles**

CUA holders who rent vehicles will be required to show proof of automobile liability insurance before permit is issued. Please refer to the permit application (Attachment A) for required minimum coverages and this handbook for auto designation symbols. The Acord format is preferred.

**Safety Documentation**

Copy of **safety information delivered to guests** on trip with information specific to Big Bend National Park, including but not limited to Leave No Trace, proper clothing and footwear, altitude, bites and stings, and importance of hydration. More information can be found here: [Hike Smart (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/articles/hiking-safety.htm)

**Operating Plan**

Operating Plan: Detailed itinerary including dates in the park and locations (viewpoints and/or trails) in the park that will be visited. **Note: Local River Outfitters DO NOT need to submit detailed itineraries as they will be reflected in the Monthly Reports and on Annual Report submission.**

**What if I conduct business without a CUA?**

Operating any type of commercial visitor service within Big Bend National Park without written authorization from the United States is a violation of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations. It is a citable offense. If you are in doubt, please contact Big Bend CUA Coordinator either by email (bibe\_cua@nps.gov) or phone (432-213-3309).

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**2026-27**

**Calendar Year Big Bend National Park CUA Application Checklist**

(Updated 9/30/2025)

(The CUA Application Checklist MUST be submitted with Application)

All application materials must be submitted electronically through the **NPS Online Application and Reporting System**. All additional forms are available at ([Commercial Use Authorization - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://home.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/cua.htm))

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Completed CUA Application** & Application Fee via NPS Online Application

and Reporting System (Form 10-550). See instructions in application.

You may only apply for one activity per application.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **General Liability Certificate of Insurance**

* Must meet minimum ($500,000) listed in CUA Application (Attachment A) and have “United States of America, Big Bend National Park” listed as an Additional Insured. High risk activities may require a higher liability minimum as determined by the park ($1,000,000 for Boat Tours).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Automobile Liability Certificate of Insurance** (if applicable)

(**rental vehicles must be covered under commercial auto liability)**

* If you transport clients, you must provide proof of automobile liability
* Must meet minimums described in CUA Application (Attachment A) and have “United States of America, Big Bend National Park” listed as an Additional Insured. Minimum $1,500,000-up to 15 passengers, 16+ is $5,000,000.
* Include vehicle year, make/model, state issued, passenger capacity and whether it is owned, rented, or leased.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Itinerary** (required of ALL Outfitters conducting 20 or fewer trips per year)

* Include proposed dates in the park and intended locations that will be visited inside the park boundaries. (Attachment C)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Safety Documentation**

* Copy of **safety information delivered to guests** on trip with information specific to Big Bend National Park. We also require proof of all training and vehicle license documents listed upon request. All documentation must be **on file** with the CUA holder (Attachment E). Permit may be suspended or revoked without proper documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Acknowledgement of Risk Form**

* Provide an ‘Acknowledgement of Risk’ form or other participation forms guests are required to sign that involve legal rights and authorities. Refer to NPS form 10-550 (Attachment D).
* **Note: NPS does not allow CUA holders to request or require visitors to sign a waiver of liability statement, insurance disclaimer, and/or indemnification agreement for travel inside park boundaries**.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **CUA Annual Report**

* If you held a previous Big Bend National Park CUA (operated in 2024 with submission due 2025), your Annual Report must be on file and paid (if applicable) before a 2026-27 permit will be issued. If you currently hold a 2025 CUA (valid until Dec. 31, 2025), your Annual Report is due by January 31, 2026 and Management Fee paid by February 28, 2026 or permit may be suspended.
* While the two-year permit allows a CUA to operate for up to two years under one application, an annual report and management fee are still required for each previous calendar year of operation.

NOTE: You will be assigned an application number in the system, but Big Bend will keep your previous CUA # or assign one for Big Bend if you are a new CUA applicant

**Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River**

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Guided Jeep Tours (4x4 Tours)

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization.  (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.)  This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service.  In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA for Guided Jeep Tours authorizes road-based (paved or dirt) tours for group sizes of 1-25 participants per day, including guides. **ATVs are PROHIBITED in Big Bend National Park**. Step-on guide service is authorized under this CUA. A Step-On Guide is determined as a guide who rides in a visitor’s vehicle/tour bus and performs guide services for sightseeing tours within the park. Limited hiking is authorized under this CUA (see #9). Overnight camping is not authorized under this CUA. **Please note: Groups with more than 25 people fall into a different commercial category. Please contact the CUA office at bibe\_cua@nps.gov for more information.**

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry a valid permit at all times upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this

privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all

applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is

expected to comply with all Park Specific Conditions, Superintendent’s Compendium

regulations, and Federal and State Laws.

1. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the outfitter or clients from NPS entrance fee

requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)

1. **Permit:**Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use

Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.

1. **Authorized Locations:** CUA holders are authorized to operate on park roads (paved or

dirt) with visits to facilities, services, exhibits, overlooks, and walks on trails less than ½ mile from trailheads or roadways. Tours are only authorized on roads that are open to the public.

1. **Group Size:** Guided vehicle tours are limited to a maximum group size of 25 people,

including guide(s). There is no limit to the number of vehicles a CUA holder can bring into the park per day as long as the max group size of 25 participants per day, including guides, is not exceeded.

1. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate

from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.

1. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring

more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park within seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).

1. **Guided Hiking:** This CUA allows for limited guided hiking. A hiking CUA is required for any guided hike more than ½ mile from any trailhead, paved or dirt road.

1. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company

vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear

(at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when

stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the

company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.

1. **Vehicles:** Impeding traffic or causing unnecessary delays in traffic is prohibited. Vehicles

may not stop in the roadway to allow clients to take pictures or load and unload passengers. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5 (a)(2).

1. **Licenses:** A valid state driver’s license is required for vehicle operation within the park. A

commercial driver’s license (CDL) is required in the state of Texas when a vehicle is designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver. Documentation of current driver’s license must be carried with each driver AND kept on file with the CUA holder.

1. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and

consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.

1. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation

standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.

1. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the

same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.

1. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than

January 31 for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit the annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).

1. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any

written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part

of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of

Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Art Workshops/Instruction

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The CUA for Art Workshops/Instruction allows for art workshops/instruction with an instructor/guide, visits to facilities, services, and walks less than ½ milefrom trailheads or roadways within Big Bend National Park. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must always carry a valid permit upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is expected to comply with all Special Conditions (Attachment D), Superintendent’s Compendium regulations (see link at [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the outfitter or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **Group Size Limits:** Art Workshops/Instruction are limited to no more than 30 participants per day, including instructors. Group size is limited to 15 participants including guides/instructors at a single destination. Multiple groups must be dispersed and may not congregate at a destination.
6. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
7. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
8. **Authorized Locations:** This CUA allows the holder to conduct road-based (paved or dirt) art workshops/instruction in Big Bend National Park. The holder is authorized for incidental stops at visitor centers, wayside exhibits, visitor services, and limited guided hiking from hard surfaced roads. A hiking CUA is required for any guided hike more than ½ mile from any hard surfaced or dirt road. Guides and clients may not ask other visitors to move, and areas may not be closed to accommodate art/photography workshops. Permitted groups are sharing facilities with the public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including park trails, roadside pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc.
9. **Props, Models, Sets:** Use of models, props, sets, lighting (LLL ok), and other specialized equipment **is not allowed under this authorization**. Individuals wishing to utilize models, props, sets, lighting, and other specialized equipment may be required to obtain a still photography permit. For more information, please visit this link. [Filming and Still Photography - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/film-permits.htm)
10. **Incidental Props:** Incidental props are authorized under this CUA. Incidental props are handheld objects, or items that a person may be carrying/wearing (e.g. binoculars, photo equipment).
11. **Vehicles:** Impeding traffic or causing unnecessary delays in traffic is prohibited. Vehicles may not stop in the roadway to allow clients to take pictures or load and unload passengers. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5 (a)(2).
12. **Easels:** The use of easels or any multi-legged stabilization device is authorized (except for park administrative and maintenance areas) but may not interfere with the general visiting public or with the free flow of traffic on roads, pull-outs, and trails.
13. **Overnight Camping in Vehicles:** Overnight camping in vehicles **is not allowed along the road, waysides, or pull-outs.** Camping is only allowed in designated campsites.
14. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal of all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit accepted recyclables in bins located throughout the park.
15. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
16. **Behavior and Conduct:** The CUA holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
17. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/instructor will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
18. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit the Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit the annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).
19. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Guided Bicycle Tours

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service.”) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the Outfitter and Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA authorizes guided road-based bicycle tours on hard surfaced and dirt roads, with visits to facilities, services, and walks less than ½ mile from trailheads or roadways. Bikes are not allowed off-road or on trails. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA. Bikepacking is not authorized under this CUA.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must always carry a valid permit upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is expected to comply with all Special Conditions (Attachment D), Superintendent’s Compendium regulations (see link at [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the CUA holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **Group Size Limits:** CUA holders are limited to no more than 30 participants per day, including guides. Participants must be divided into riding groups of 5 people or fewer, including guides, and riding groups must be dispersed with a minimum distance of ½ mile between groups while riding on paved road segments. Guided tours conducted on dirt roads, not on paved road segments, can have a maximum group size of 15 participants, including guides.
6. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
7. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
8. **Signage:** CUA holder must not utilize signage, markers (cones), or flagging to designate routes, campground sites, etc. unless they obtain prior approval in writing from the park Superintendent.
9. **Authorized Locations:** Bicycle tours (including e-bikes) are allowed on any hard-surfaced or dirt road within Big Bend National Park, but are prohibited off-road, and on backcountry and front country trails. For biking itinerary suggestions and information, please go to the following link. [Bicycling - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/biking.htm)
10. **E-Bikes:** E-bikes are allowed in Big Bend National Park where traditional bicycles are allowed. E-bikes are prohibited off road, and on backcountry and front country trails. Except where the use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited.

* The term “e-bike” means a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 hp).
* Justification: For purposes of this section, the term ‘low-speed electric bicycle’ means a two- or three wheeled vehicle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 hp), whose maximum speed on a paved level surface, when powered solely by such a motor while ridden by an operator who weighs 170 pounds, is less than 20 mph. These restrictions are in effect for public safety and resource protection. SC 4.30.

1. **Traffic Flow:** When available, riders must use pullouts to allow faster vehicles to pass. Impeding traffic or causing unnecessary delays in traffic is prohibited.
2. **Applicable Federal and & State Laws:** governing bicycle use include, but are not limited to:

* Bicycles are subject to the same traffic rules and regulations as automobiles, including speed limits, traffic control devices, stop signs, etc.
* Operating a bicycle abreast of another bicycle is prohibited; they must be ridden single file in the park.
* Operating a bicycle while consuming an alcoholic beverage or carrying in hand an open container of an alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
* It is prohibited to operate a bicycle during periods of low visibility, or between sunset and sunrise, without exhibiting on the operator or bicycle a white light reflector that is visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a red light or reflector visible from at least 300 feet to the rear.

1. **Vehicles:** The park does not allow support vehicles to immediately precede or immediately follow bicyclists. However, one vehicle will be allowed to pull off into designated parking areas and pullouts to provide water and relief to participants. Vehicles and/or support vehicles (trailers) must not park across multiple parking spaces. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded.SC 1.5 (a)(2).
2. **Camping:** Camping is authorized in designated front-country campgrounds only – Rio Grande Village, Chisos Basin, and Cottonwood. All campsites must be reserved ahead of time on Recreation.gov. Overnight primitive backcountry camping along dirt roads is not authorized under this permit. Commercial bike-packing is not an authorized CUA activity in Big Bend National Park.
3. **Hiking:** This CUA allows for limited guided hiking. A hiking CUA is required for any guided hike more than ½ mile from any trailhead or paved road.
4. **Equipment:**  The CUA holder is responsible for ensuring that all clients are safely equipped and properly clothed prior to the trip. All guides and clients are required to wear a bicycle helmet that meets the standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission found at: [Bicycle Helmets Business Guidance | CPSC.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov/Business--Manufacturing/Business-Education/Business-Guidance/Bicycle-Helmets). Clients and guides must always wear high visibility clothing or a safety vest while actively biking or resting along a roadway.
5. **Food Storage:** Parkwide, any food and beverages, food product, cooking utensils, food garbage, used food and beverage containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.,) must be stored inside a hard-sided vehicle or in a container that will prevent bears or other wildlife from acquiring the items, when the items are not actually being transported, prepared, consumed, or closely attended and within the immediate reach of the owner day or night. Food storage laws apply while camping and while hiking when bikes are left unattended.
6. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal of all trash associated with holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit accepted recyclables in bins located throughout the park.
7. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
8. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
9. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
10. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit the Annual Report by no later than January 31 for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit an annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).
11. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Boat Tour – Non-Motorized

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “Outfitter” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the Outfitter and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA authorizes canoe/kayak or raft tours with guide service or delivery/outfitting river equipment within Big Bend National Park / Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River boundaries. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA. Camping/hiking are authorized under this CUA if incidental to river trip.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is expected to comply with all Special Conditions (Attachment D), Superintendent’s Compendium regulations (see link at [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the Outfitter or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems.All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital.
5. **Group Size Limits:** Commercial group sizes are limited to 20 people per day, not including guide(s), from Talley to Solis, Boquillas Canyon, and the Lower Canyons. Total group size must not exceed 25 people, including guides and clients. Group sizes are limited to 30 people per day, not including guide(s) in other river areas. Total group size must not exceed 35 people including guides and clients. **Groups larger than the maximum launch limit must split up and launch at least one day apart if on the same itinerary (using the same section of river). (SC 3.3)**

**Examples:**

* An outfitter has a group of 40 clients, plus guides for a SE overnight trip. The group must be split up into two smaller groups and launch at least a day apart. There can not be more than 30 clients or 35 total people, including guides, on the same itinerary (using the same section of the river) per day.
* An outfitter may launch a SE canyon overnight trip with up to 30 clients, and also launch ONE SE boomerang with up to 30 clients, or TWO SE boomerangs (morning/afternoon) not to exceed 30 clients or 35 total people, including guides, for the day.
* An outfitter may launch a SE canyon overnight trip with up to 30 clients, an overnight boomerang with up to 15 clients, and a day boomerang with up to 15 clients, plus guides. Both boomerang trips combined may not exceed the total of 35 people, including guides.
* Groups may NOT converge in the canyon forming group sizes larger than 30 clients, plus guides (a total of 35 people) at any time.

1. **Guide Training Trips:** Are defined as trips where no clients are participating. **Guides must be employed or working in an official capacity for the outfitter.** Guide training trips are allowed on all sections of the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. There is no limit on the number of training trips allowed. However, all CUA holders must:

* Limit the training trip to guides and trainees only – no “friends” or family.
* Limit the total number of guides and trainees to no more than 10 people.
* Contact the CUA Office (bibe\_cua@nps.gov) at least 24 hours before the launch with names of guides and river section for training trip.

1. **Paddleboarding:** This CUA does NOT authorize commercial guided paddleboarding tours and should not be used for transport of clients, gear, etc. on the river.
2. **Boquillas Port of Entry:** Commercial or private river trips are not allowed to utilize the Boquillas Crossing Port of Entry (POE) as a point of ingress or egress for river trips as per our agreement with U.S. Customs. There are no exceptions unless an emergency occurs. SC 3.8(a)(2).
3. **Day Hiking:** Day hiking is an authorized use when associated with a river trip. Hiking must take place in the river corridor, slot canyons, etc. The CUA holder does not need a separate hiking CUA to conduct guided hikes in the river corridor.
4. **Fire:** Wood and charcoal fires are allowed within the river corridor, located at the river’s edge on cobble or sand beaches in areas that are open to camping, and must be contained in fire pans with sides at least 2 inches high. Only dead and down wood, that has been gathered from the river corridor, may be used. No other wood is allowed. All overnight river trips must have a fire pan. Non-floatable wood fire remains may be placed in the main current of the river. All unburned charcoal must be carried out. SC 2.13(a)(1).
5. **Staffing and Employment:** The Service may require the Outfitter to exclude an employee, officer, agent, or other representative from working in any capacity relevant to the activity authorized in the CUA if that person violates conditions of the CUA or this Attachment. An employee, officer, agent, or other representative may also be excluded if the Service determines he/she operates in a manner that is unsafe to Park visitors or Park resources.
6. General Staff Standards - All Outfitter guides who conduct commercial float trips on the Rio Grande within Big Bend National Park and/or Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River must meet the following standards:
7. All commercial guides must possess a valid first aid certificate equivalent to the 40-hour “Emergency Response” or a 36-hour “Wilderness Advanced First Aid” and a current CPR certificate (Adult and Pediatric).
8. More advanced training such as Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, etc., are also accepted. Documentation of current certifications must be carried by each guide. (This requirement is waived for a trainee or guides in a boat without passengers.)
9. Guide Qualifications – Guides must have the knowledge and skills to safely conduct river trips in compliance with all applicable regulations. Guides are required to know and comply with all GENERAL REGULATIONS OF RIVER USE for Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River ([River Use Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/riverregs.htm). No person shall serve as a guide without previous experience on that portion of river in the type of craft utilized.
10. **Behavior and Conduct:** The Outfitter and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
11. **Operating Procedures**

* Orientation – Outfitter will provide an orientation to clients on basic safety rules, resource protection, Big Bend National Park rules and regulations, and the property rights of all landowners in the United States and Mexico along the park boundary and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.
* Life Jackets - USCG approved wearable PFDs are required for each person. They must be properly fitted, in serviceable condition, immediately accessible, and must be worn in Class II or greater whitewater. Type I, II, III, or V PFDs are required in Santa Elena, Mariscal, Boquillas, and the Lower Canyons. Each group must carry an extra Type I, II, III, or V PFD. SC 3.3.
* On a vessel that is underway, children under 13 years of age must wear an appropriate USCG approved life jacket at all times.

1. **Equipment:** The Outfitter will carry all equipment required by the general regulations for river use. All required equipment will be provided with boat rentals by the Outfitter. No equipment may be stored within the boundaries of Big Bend National Park. Please refer to our River Use Regulations for more information. [River Use Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/riverregs.htm)
2. **Human Waste:** All overnight river trips will carry out their solid human waste with a dump station compatible waste system or NPS approved personal waste system. The approved personal waste systems are commercially produced dry chemical bag systems. SC 2.14(b).
3. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The Outfitter is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit accepted recyclables in bins located throughout the park.
4. **Company Logo:** The Outfitter must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles and watercraft so that trips can be identified as belonging to the Outfitter. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
5. **Reports**
6. Reports –All Outfitters are required to submit Monthly Use Reports, an Annual Report, and Incident Reports (if an accident occurs).
7. Monthly Use Reports – River outfitters are required to submit monthly user data using NPS Form 10-660A by the 15th of each month for the previous month’s activity. Outfitters must submit 2025 monthly use reports via the NPS Online System.
8. Annual Use Report - To document visitor use, the outfitter must submit the Annual Report no later than January 31 for the previous year’s activities, which reflects the following information - the number of user days, clients, guides, and trip location. Outfitters must submit the 2026 Annual Report via the NPS Online System.
9. Incident Reports - If an incident results in evacuation from the river, a personal injury requiring more than first aid treatment, property damage more than $100, a tort claim against the United States, etc., the Outfitter must report the incident verbally to the Big Bend Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the Service within seven days at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
10. **Public Health:** The Outfitter will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
11. **Entry Fees:** We recommend that tour operators brief their clients of the requirement for the payment of entrance fees at any open entrance station or visitor center. Clients should have sufficient funds for their entrance fee ($15 per person, an America the Beautiful Pass, or valid receipt for prior entry. Entry fees are required from anyone who is 16 years or older.
12. **Mexico:** This permit does not authorize use of the Mexican side of the river. The exception is for emergencies (for example: to scout rapids, bail out a boat, repack gear, and for other safety reasons). This permit does not authorized camping or hiking into Mexico or Mexican side canyons. If an Outfitter operates in Mexico, they must secure appropriate permits from Mexico.
13. **Regulations:** The Outfitter is responsible for reviewing the Backcountry Regulations and River Use Regulations prior to entry. [Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm) [River Use Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/riverregs.htm)
14. **Authorization Compliance:** The Outfitter and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Environmental Education

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the Outfitter and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The CUA for Environmental Education authorizes interpretive road-based (dirt or paved) tours,

for groups of 1-25 participants (including guides), to include: bird watching, botanizing,

biology/geology courses, non-instructional photography tours, wilderness education/therapy

tours while walking/hiking with an instructor/guide. Visitor transportation (van and vehicles

under 26-passenger capacity) is authorized. Step-On Guide Service, provided by a valid CUA

holder, is authorized. Front-country camping in developed campgrounds is authorized: Rio

Grande Village, Cottonwood, and Chisos Basin. Backpacking is NOT authorized under this CUA.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry valid permit at all times upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Big Bend backcountry regulations ([Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm), Superintendent’s Compendium [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance.
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **The** **Environmental Education Tour CUA may include the following activities:**

* Road-based tours in which CUA holder/guide(s) lead groups in educational and interpretive tours throughout the park, including stops at services, pullouts, waysides, developed areas, and boardwalks.
* Day hiking tours include guided and interpretive day hiking tours on trails throughout the park.
* Step-On Guide Service is defined as a guide who rides in a visitor’s vehicle, tour bus, or other commercial vehicle and acts as a guide for sightseeing tours. The guide must have a valid Big Bend CUA Permit.
* Backpacking and backcountry camping are NOT authorized under this Environmental Education CUA. Special organized groups who wish to backpack and backcountry camp may need a Special Use Permit.

1. **Camping:** Camping is authorized in designated front-country developed campgrounds only – Rio Grande Village, Chisos Basin, and Cottonwood. All campsites must be reserved ahead of time on Recreation.gov. CUA holders must adhere to group size limits for each site and are encouraged to reserve a group campsite for larger groups who want to conduct activities, share meals, etc.
2. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company, such as American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
3. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
4. **Group Size:** Day hiking is limited to a **maximum group size of 30 participants**, including guides. Larger groups must split into two smaller groups and use two different trails- not go a different direction on the same trail. Guides and clients must stay on designated trails.
5. **Group Trip Leaders/Guides:** Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will always remain with the group. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
6. **Vehicles:** Vehicles and/or support vehicles (trailers) must not park across multiple parking spaces. If hiking in the high Chisos, vehicles must be parked in the hiker lot, located near the Basin Campground Entrance, not the main lodge or visitor center parking lot. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5 (a)(2).
7. **Orientations:** For hiking tours, the trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary or the group or individual if an emergency occurs. Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes should be determined based on clients’ abilities and desires.
8. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
9. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
10. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
11. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.
12. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit an annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see CUA webpage).
13. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Backpacking

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA authorizes backcountry hiking (day use) and backcountry camping (backpacking) with guide service or delivering/outfitting backcountry camping equipment within Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. Visitor transport/shuttle is authorized under this CUA. PLEASE NOTE: Issuance of a CUA for this activity does not guarantee the Permittee the availability of campsites nor does is entitle the Permittee to supersede the general public in obtaining campsites.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must always carry a valid permit upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Big Bend backcountry regulations ([Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm), Superintendent’s Compendium [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance.
4. **Permits:**

* Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
* A Backcountry Use Permit is required for overnight backcountry camping. All reservations must be made using the company’s name or owner’s name. Reservations must not be made in the guide’s or client’s names. Many backcountry campsites (both Chisos Mountains Backpacking and Primitive Roadside Campsites) are available for online permitting up to 180 days in advance through [**www.recreation.gov**](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/10028875) or through the recreation.gov call center at 1-877-444-6777.
* The re-selling or transferring of backpacking permits or backcountry campsites to individuals or other guide companies is prohibited. If all clients opt out of a given trip, then the backcountry permit needs to be cancelled by emailing [bibe\_cua@nps.gov](mailto:bibe_cua@nps.gov) within 48 hours of planned trip and any reserved campsites must be cancelled on rec.gov.

1. **Itinerary:** CUA holders who conduct fewer than 5 backpacking trips a year to Big Bend National Park must submit their detailed backpacking itinerary to the park CUA Coordinator for approval at least two weeks prior to the trip. Failure to submit an itinerary may result in suspension of permit. If upon review, the park requests changes be made due to safety concerns or closures, the CUA holder MUST make those changes or the permit may be suspended or revoked.
2. **Guide/Leader Training:** All commercial guides/leaders leading backpacking trips must possess a valid first aid certificate equivalent to the 40-hour “Emergency Response” or a 36-hour “Wilderness Advanced First Aid” and a current CPR certificate (Adult). Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
3. **Group Size:** Backpacking activities are limited to a maximum group size of 15 participants, including guides. In the Chisos Mountains, there are currently two campsites that can accommodate a group this size: it may be necessary to split the group to other campsites. Groups may split into separate campsites; however, the 15-person size limit cannot be exceeded in each site. For desert backpacking, groups over 15 people will also need to split up and backpack into separate, non-adjacent zones.
4. **Group Trip Leaders/Guides:** Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will always remain with the group. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
5. **Guide-to-Client Ratios:** All backpacking trips must maintain a ratio of no fewer than 1 guide for 1-7 clients or 2 guides for 8-13 clients. A staff member participating on a hike in a training capacity may be counted as the second guide-to-client ratio requirement.
6. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park within seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
7. **Desert Backpacking:** Be at least 0.5 mile away from and out of sight from any road and at least 100 yards from any trail, historical structure, archeological site, dry stream bed, or cliff edge. Backpackers will need to hike for at least 30 minutes to reach the minimum distance from a road. There is no camping along or near any park roads. CUA holders must have a valid permit written in person at a Big Bend National Park Visitor Center.
8. **Trails:** Guide(s) and their group (excludes desert camping) must stay on designated trails, avoid using social trails, and avoid creating new social trails to reduce impacts to resources. Specific areas may be closed to off-trail travel if impacts are noted.
9. **Fires:** Ground fires and wood fires are prohibited in Big Bend National Park. Backpackers must use containerized fuel stoves only.
10. **Human Waste:** Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep. Pack out toilet paper. Human waste is unsightly and unsanitary. Carry a digging trowel. Locate latrines 0.25 mile from any water source and well away from camp. Pack out toilet paper.
    1. Campers on the South Rim (SR) and East Rim (ER) campsites in the Chisos Mountains are required to pack out human waste using a waste disposal kit, such as PETT, Cleanwaste, WAG bags, Restop II, or similar commercial products. The contents of the bag are safe for disposal in trash receptacles and landfills, and the bags provide a lightweight, sanitary way to pack out waste.
11. **Food Storage:** All food, water, food products, food trash, unclean cooking utensils and other aromatic items must be stored in a hard-sided vehicle, or where provided, a bear resistant storage locker. If backpacking in the open desert, tend to your food, water, and aromatic items by keeping them packed up and within immediate reach. Consider preparing and eating food a distance from your sleeping area. Keep your campsite clean at all times.
12. **Caching Food/Water:** The caching of food and water by backcountry users is prohibited unless the food and water are stored in a bear-resistant container. Only water may be cached in the Homer Wilson Ranch and Juniper Canyon Trailhead storage containers. Food stored in these boxes are subject to removal by park personnel. SC 2.10(d).
13. **Vehicles:** Vehicles and/or support vehicles (trailers) must not park across multiple parking spaces. If backpacking in the High Chisos, vehicles must be parked in the hiker (Amphitheater) lot, located near the Basin Campground Entrance, not the main lodge and visitor center parking lot. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5(a)(2).
14. **Orientations:** The trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary or the group or individual if an emergency occurs. Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes should be determined based on clients’ abilities and desires.
15. **Day Hiking:** Day hiking is an authorized use when associated with an overnight backcountry trip. The CUA holder does not need a separate hiking CUA in addition to their backpacking CUA.
16. **Site Availability:** Issuance of a CUA for backpacking does not guarantee the Permittee the availability of campsites nor does it entitle the Permittee to supersede the general public in obtaining campsites.
17. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
18. **Behavior and Conduct:** The CUA holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
19. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
20. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit accepted recyclables in bins located throughout the park.
21. **Regulations:** The CUA holder is responsible for reviewing the Backcountry Regulations on the park website prior to entry: [Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm)
22. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit the annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).
23. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Hiking/Walking-frontcountry

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA authorizes guided day hiking on established and maintained trails via paved and dirt roads with visits to facilities, services waysides, and pullouts in Big Bend National Park. Visitor transportation is authorized under this CUA.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry valid permit at all times upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Big Bend backcountry regulations ([Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm), Superintendent’s Compendium [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance.
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **Group Size:** Day hiking is limited to a **maximum group size of 30 participants**, including guides. Larger groups must split into two smaller groups and use two different trails - not go a different direction on the same trail. Guides and clients must stay on designated trails.
6. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
7. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
8. **Group Trip Leaders/Guides:** Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will always remain with the group. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
9. **Authorized Locations:** This CUA allows the holder to conduct guided hiking tours on established trails withing Big Bend National Park. Any “off-trail” hiking itineraries must be pre-approved by the Superintendent.
10. **Human Waste:** Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep. Pack out toilet paper.  
    Human waste is unsightly and unsanitary. Carry a digging trowel.
    1. Hikers on the South Rim (SR) and East Rim (ER) in the Chisos Mountains are strongly encouraged to pack out human waste using a waste disposal kit, such as PETT, Cleanwaste, WAG bags, Restop II, or similar commercial products. The contents of the bag are safe for disposal in trash receptacles and landfills, and the bags provide a lightweight, sanitary way to pack out waste.
11. **Vehicles:** Vehicles and/or support vehicles (trailers) must not park across multiple parking spaces. If hiking in the High Chisos, vehicles must be parked in the hiker lot, located near the Basin Campground Entrance, not the main lodge and visitor center parking lot. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5(a)(2).
12. **Orientations:** The trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary or the group or individual if an emergency occurs. Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes should be determined based on clients’ abilities and desires.
13. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
14. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
15. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.
16. **Area Use:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.
17. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit an annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see CUA webpage).
18. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Guided Motorcycle Tours

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The CUA for guided motorcycle tours authorizes one or more persons traveling by motorcycle to guide tours on paved roadways in Big Bend National Park. CUA holders are authorized to operate on park roads with visits to facilities, services, exhibits, overlooks, and walks on trails less than ½ mile from trailheads or roadways. This CUA does NOT authorize Scooter Tours.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry valid permit at all times upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Big Bend backcountry regulations ([Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm), Superintendent’s Compendium [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors are expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance.
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **Group Size:** Guided motorcycle tours are limited to a **maximum group size of 15 vehicles**, including motorcycles and support vehicles. Guides are included in this number.
6. **Group Trip Leaders/Guides:** Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will remain with the group at all times. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
7. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
8. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
9. **Hiking:** This CUA allows for limited guided hiking. A hiking CUA is required for any guided hike more than ½ mile from any trailhead or paved road.
10. **Equipment:** The CUA holder is responsible for ensuring that all clients are safely equipped and properly clothed prior to the trip. All guides and clients are required to wear a motorcycle helmet that meets standards set by the National Highway Traffic Association found at: [Choose the Right Motorcycle Helmet | NHTSA](https://www.nhtsa.gov/motorcycle-safety/choose-right-motorcycle-helmet). Novelty style helmets are not acceptable.
11. **Street Legal:** Motorcycles must be street legal and meet all state vehicle regulations/requirements. No off-road plates are allowed.
12. **Support Vehicle:** A support vehicle must accompany each tour and be accessible to the needs of the motorcycle riders. All support vehicles must have company identification visible on the side of the vehicle. Support vehicles must not park across multiple parking spaces. All operators must turn off motorcycle/vehicle engines at all times when parked. SC 1.5 (a)(2).
13. **Soundscape:** Park soundscapes are part of a web of natural and cultural resources protected by the National Park Service. In order to minimize the effects of noise in general on wildlife, visitors, the acoustic environment, and other park resources, the CUA holder will:

* Operate motorcycles as quietly as possible
* Turn down radios or use a headset
* Use horns only when necessary for safety
* Avoid excessive acceleration or revving of engine
* Turn your engine off instead of idling
* Be extra sensitive near campgrounds, lodging, and visitor centers

1. **Orientations:** The trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary or the group or individual if an emergency occurs. Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions.
2. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
3. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
4. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Office at [bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov](mailto:bibe_communications_center@nps.gov).
5. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.
6. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities (see link on CUA webpage).
7. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses

Outdoor Skills Education

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization. (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.) This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service. In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The CUA for Outdoor Skills Education authorizes guided outdoor education skills to include: survival skills, boot camp, National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Backpacking and hiking are authorized under this CUA if incidental to the outdoor skills education. Visitor transportation/shuttle is authorized under this CUA.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry valid permit at all times upon entering the park.
2. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Big Bend backcountry regulations ([Backcountry Regulations - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/planyourvisit/bc_regulations.htm), Superintendent’s Compendium [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.
3. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the holder or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance.
4. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
5. **Hiking – Frontcountry:** Day hiking is limited to a maximum group size of 30 participants, including guides. Larger groups must split up into two smaller groups and use two different trails – not go a different direction on the same trail. Guides and clients must stay on designated trails
6. **Hiking Backcountry - Permits:**

* A Backcountry Use Permit is required for overnight backcountry camping. All reservations must be made with the company’s name or owner’s name. Reservations must not be made in the guide’s or client’s names. Many backcountry campsites (both Chisos Mountains backpacking and primitive roadside campsites) are available for online permitting up to 180 days in advance through [**www.recreation.gov**](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/10028875) or through the recreation.gov call center at 1-877-444-6777.
* The re-selling or transferring of backpacking permits to individuals or other guide companies is prohibited. If all clients opt out of a given trip, then the backcountry permit needs to be returned to the Backcountry Office within 72 hours for cancellation.

1. **Itinerary:** CUA holders who conduct fewer than 5 backpacking trips a year in Big Bend National Park must submit their detailed backpacking itinerary to the park CUA Coordinator for approval at least two weeks prior to the trip. Failure to submit an itinerary may result in suspension of permit. If upon review, the park requests changes be made due to safety concerns or closures, the CUA holder MUST make those changes, or the permit may be suspended or revoked.
2. **Trails:** Guide(s) and their group (excludes desert camping) must stay on designated trails, avoid using social trails, and avoid creating new social trails to reduce impacts to resources. Specific areas may be closed to off-trail travel if impacts are noted.
3. **Group Size:**  Backpacking activities are limited to a maximum group size of 15 participants, including guides. In the Chisos Mountains, there are currently two campsites that can accommodate a group this size: it may be necessary to split the group to other campsites. Groups may split into separate campsites; however, the 15-person size limit cannot be exceeded. In the desert (zone camping), groups over 15 people will also need to split up and backpack into separate, non-adjacent zones.
4. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.
5. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).
6. **Group Trip Leaders/Guides:** Each group must have one person identified as the group or trip leader who will remain with the group at all times. If the party is divided into more than one group, each group will have a trip leader. The trip leader will inform the group of all park rules and regulations and has responsibility for the group.
7. **Human Waste:** Bury human waste at least 6 inches deep. Pack out toilet paper.  
   Human waste is unsightly and unsanitary. Carry a digging trowel.
   1. Hikers on the South Rim (SR) and East Rim (ER) in the Chisos Mountains are strongly encouraged to pack out human waste using a waste disposal kit, such as PETT, Cleanwaste, WAG bags, Restop II, or similar commercial products. The contents of the bag are safe for disposal in trash receptacles and landfills, and the bags provide a lightweight, sanitary way to pack out waste.
8. **Vehicles:** Vehicles and/or support vehicles (trailers) must not park across multiple parking spaces. If hiking in the high Chisos, vehicles must be parked in the amphitheater lot (hiker lot), located near the Basin Campground Entrance, not the main lodge or visitor center parking lots. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded.SC 1.5 (a)(2).
9. **Orientations:** The trip leader must provide an orientation to clients for the proposed itinerary and be capable of revising the itinerary or the group or individual if an emergency occurs. Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes should be determined based on clients’ abilities and desires.
10. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.
11. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.
12. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at [bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov](mailto:bibe_communications_center@nps.gov).
13. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.
14. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit an annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).
15. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

**Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River**

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses   
Photography Instruction/Workshops

**INTRODUCTION**  
  
This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization.  (You are hereinafter referred to as “CUA holder” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.)  This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the CUA holder and the Service.  In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.  
  
 **AUTHORIZATION**

The CUA for Photography Instruction/Workshops allows for non-commercial photography instruction/workshops with an instructor/guide, visits to facilities, services, and walks less than 1/2 milefrom trailheads or roadways within Big Bend National Park. Visitor transportation is authorized under this CUA. Commercial Photography requires a Film Permit. Contact the Film Permit Coordinator at bibe\_special\_permits@nps.gov.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must always carry a valid permit upon entering the park.

1. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is expected to comply with all Special Conditions (Attachment D), Superintendent’s Compendium regulations (see link at [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.

1. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the outfitter or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)

1. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.
2. **Group Size Limits:** Art/Photography workshops are limited to no more than 30 participants per day, including instructors. Group size is limited to 15 participants including guides/instructors at a single destination. Multiple groups must be dispersed and may not congregate at a destination.
3. **Guide Training:** All commercial guides must possess a valid CPR/AED/First Aid Certificate from accredited company – American Red Cross/American Heart Association, etc. Documentation of current certification must be carried by each guide AND kept on file with the CUA holder.

1. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).

1. **Authorized Locations:** This CUA allows the holder to conduct road-based (paved or dirt) art/photography workshops in Big Bend National Park. The holder is authorized for incidental stops at visitor centers, wayside exhibits, visitor services, and limited guided hiking from hard surfaced roads. **A hiking CUA is required for any guided hike more than ½ mile from any hard surfaced or dirt road.** Guides and clients may not ask other visitors to move, and areas may not be closed to accommodate photography instruction/workshops. Permitted groups are sharing facilities with the public. This permit does not convey any priority use of any park areas including park trails, roadside pullouts, parking areas, picnic areas, etc.

1. **Nighttime Photography:** For nighttime photography, illumination of park features and landscapes MUST use Low-level Lighting (LLL)– very low levels of light that build up over the course of a long exposure. The light must be barely visible to the naked eye and in no way disturb wildlife or interfere with the enjoyment of other visitors. Waving flashlights around in any way for the purpose of photography is not authorized due to the sensitivity of nighttime resources in Big Bend National Park.

1. **Props, Models, Sets:** Use of models, props, sets, lighting (LLL ok), and other specialized equipment **is not allowed under this authorization**. Individuals wishing to utilize models, props, sets, lighting, and other specialized equipment may be required to obtain a still photography permit. For more information, please visit this link. [Filming and Still Photography - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/film-permits.htm)

1. **Incidental Props:** Incidental props are authorized under this CUA. Incidental props are handheld objects, or items that a person may be carrying/wearing (e.g. binoculars, photo equipment).

1. **Vehicles:** Impeding traffic or causing unnecessary delays in traffic is prohibited. Vehicles may not stop in the roadway to allow clients to take pictures or load and unload passengers. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5 (a)(2).

1. **Tripods:** The use of tripods or any multi-legged stabilization device is authorized (except for park administrative and maintenance areas) but may not interfere with the general visiting public or with the free flow of traffic on roads, pull-outs, and trails.

1. **Overnight Camping in Vehicles:** Overnight camping in vehicles **is not allowed along the road, waysides, or pull-outs.** Camping is only allowed in designated campsites. Nighttime photographers may use vehicle to wait for changes in lighting – for example, from sunset to dark sky for Milky Way photography.

1. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal of all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit accepted recyclables in bins located throughout the park.

1. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.

1. **Behavior and Conduct:** The CUA holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.

1. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/instructor will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.

1. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit the Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit the annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).
2. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.

**Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River**

Park Specific CUA Provisions & Conditions of Specified Uses  
  Transport – Non-Tour

**INTRODUCTION**

This attachment shall serve as a supplement to your Commercial Use Authorization.  (You are hereinafter referred to as “Outfitter” and the National Park Service hereinafter referred to as the “Service”.)  This plan describes operations authorized under the Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) between the Outfitter and the Service.  In the event of any apparent conflict between the terms of the CUA and this Attachment, the terms of the CUA will prevail.  
  
 **AUTHORIZATION**

This CUA authorizes the CUA holder to conduct transport services (non-touring) in Big Bend National Park/Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. A shuttle transportation consists of a drop-off **or** pick-up service for clients on designated roads and at designated parking areas, pullouts, and developed areas where the CUA holder leaves the park after the service has been conducted. Only vehicles with a capacity at or below 15 passengers are authorized for this service. The visitor center is the only authorized parking area.

1. **Park Operations:** Approval for this activity is contingent on the park being open and staffed for required operations. No entry into restricted areas allowed unless authorized in additional park specific stipulations attached to this permit. Permit holder must carry valid permit at all times upon entering the park.

1. **Legal Compliance:** The Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) holder shall exercise this privilege subject to the supervision of the Superintendent and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. It is expressly understood that the CUA holder is expected to comply with all Park Specific Conditions, Superintendent’s Compendium regulations (see link at [Superintendents Compendium - Big Bend National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/superintendents-compendium.htm)), and Federal and State Laws.

1. **Fees:** A CUA does NOT exempt the outfitter or clients from NPS entrance fee requirements, nor does it grant automatic access to areas controlled by reservation systems. All visitors will be expected to pay an entrance fee or show possession of appropriate National Park Service (NPS) America the Beautiful Pass or original valid park entrance receipt for prior entrance. (RM 22A)

1. **Permit:** Guides and/or group leaders must always carry a fully executed Commercial Use Authorization while operating in the park. This includes non-profits operating under a CUA. This will identify the guide as an on-duty employee of an authorized business. Failure to carry all pages is a violation of terms and conditions of this authorization. The first page of the CUA must be a paper/hard copy; the remaining pages may be digital. The CUA holder may asked to present to a ranger at any time upon request.

1. **Authorized Locations:** CUA holders are authorized to operate on designated roads and at designated parking areas, pullouts, and developed areas where CUA holder leaves the park after the service has been conducted.

1. **Group Size:** Only vehicles with a capacity at or below 15 passengers are authorized for this service.

1. **Incidents:** All incidents involving vehicle property damage or personal injury requiring more than basic first aid must be reported verbally to the park Communications Center within 24 hours (432-477-1187). A written report should be provided to the park withing seven days at (bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov).

1. **Company Logo:** The CUA holder must display the company name or logo on all company vehicles so they can be identified as belonging to the CUA holder. Markings must appear (at the very least) on the exterior of the driver’s side door as to be identified when stopping or passing through the entrance stations. Guides must visibly identify the company they work for through a shirt and/or hat, at a minimum.

1. **Vehicles:** Impeding traffic or causing unnecessary delays in traffic is prohibited. Vehicles may not stop in the roadway to allow clients to take pictures or load and unload passengers. The idling of vehicles and buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded. SC 1.5 (a)(2).

1. **Licenses:** A valid state driver’s license is required for vehicle operation within the park. Documentation of current driver’s license must be carried with each driver.

1. **Behavior and Conduct:** The holder and its agents are required to exercise courtesy and consideration in their relations with the public and with NPS employees, volunteers, or other park agents. The holder will review and correct the conduct of any of its employees whose actions or activities are considered by the Service to be inconsistent with the safety, experience, enjoyment, and protection of visitors and public land.

1. **Public Health:** The CUA holder will comply with applicable public health and sanitation standards and codes. The trip leader/guide will promptly report information about any human illness or any unusual contact with wild animals whether employees or guests to the Big Bend Communications Center at bibe\_communications\_center@nps.gov.

1. **Waste Management:** The area authorized for use under this CUA must be left in the same condition it was prior to the activities authorized herein. The holder is responsible for the removal off all trash associated with the holder’s visit to the park and is prohibited from depositing commercial waste generated outside the park into park trash containers. The holder may deposit any recyclables that are acceptable in bins located throughout the park.

1. **Annual Report:** All CUA holders must submit an Annual Report by no later than January 31st for the previous year’s activities. The CUA holder shall submit the annual report using NPS Form 10-660 (see link on CUA webpage).

1. **Authorization Compliance:** The holder and all participants authorized herein must comply with all conditions of this authorization, including all exhibits, amendments, application requirements, and written or verbal directives from the Superintendent. Failure to obtain an authorization to provide commercial services and not having a copy of the CUA available for inspection at any time while in the park are violations of the authorization terms for which a citation may be issued and may subject the commercial operator to penalties as prescribed by law or regulation, including exclusion from doing business in the park. The NPS Commercial Services office will receive a notice of any written warnings or citations issued to holders and these documents will become part of the holder’s park record. See “Suspension, Revocation, Restriction, and Denial of Applications for Commercial Use Authorizations” in CUA Handbook.