



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 7458
Fort Smith, Montana 59035



Dear Park Visitor,

Thank you for your interest in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The Act to establish a National Park Service (Organic Act) was passed in 1916 and codified into law through Title 16 of the United States Code, 16 USC. As such, the NPS is tasked (16 USC § 1) with the duty to *"...promote and regulate the use of the... national parks... which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."* Due to increasing demand of NPS resources, and in an effort to provide for consistency in the management of these resources from one NPS unit to another, the agency has established a method of identifying what a special park use is and how to apply for such a use.

A special park use activity is one that provides a benefit to an individual, group or organization rather than the public at large; requires written authorization and some degree of management control from the NPS in order to protect park resources and the public interest; is not prohibited by law or regulation; is neither initiated, sponsored nor conducted by the NPS; does not include any activity managed under the Concessions Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, or the National Park Omnibus Management Act of 1998; or any recreation use covered by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

A few examples of a special park use are: conducting a wedding ceremony within a park; conducting commercial filming or still photography within a park; trespassing cattle through a park; demonstrating (First Amendment, U.S. Constitution) within a park; establishing a water ski slalom course; etc. Permits may be issued on a either a

short term or long term basis. A short term permit is defined as being anything less than 5 years where as a long term permit would be for more than 5 years. The NPS has the authority to review permits each year.

If you would like to apply for a special park use permit, download the appropriate application, complete the form and mail it in with the associated, non-refundable application fee. This fee is to cover the administrative cost associated with administering special park use applications. In some cases, your permit may also require the payment of cost recovery charges and proof of liability insurance naming the United States as also insured.

If you have any questions regarding Special Park Uses and/or permits, please contact me at (406) 666-3316.

Thank you for your interest in Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linden Schlenker".

Linden Schlenker

Chief Ranger