



Commercial Use Authorization—Appendix C Backcountry Camping

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. The following provisions apply to CUAs for Backcountry Camping Trips:

1. 15 people per party (maximum), including guides. Groups larger than 15 people must split up and camp at least one mile apart.
2. Unless an area is closed to backcountry camping (see section (B) below), backcountry camping is permitted 2 miles from the nearest paved road, day use road, or developed area. Roadside camping in these backcountry locations is permitted in previously disturbed areas. The superintendent reserves the right to close any area to commercial activities if conditions warrant.
3. All backcountry camps must be 200 yards from the nearest water source.
4. Leave No Trace principles and ethics are in effect for backcountry campers. Group leaders must be trained in Leave No Trace camping principles.
5. Group leaders and guides must currently be certified in Wilderness First Responder/First Responder for all guided backcountry hikes. Group leaders will provide initial response to emergency medical incidents.
6. Off-road vehicular travel is prohibited. Keep all vehicles and trailers on established roadways and shoulders. Maximum speed limit for all dirt roads is 25MPH.
7. All natural and cultural features are protected by law and must not be disturbed. All cultural or archaeological sites will not be damaged, destroyed, rearranged or otherwise molested. Non-native or exotic species of plants or animals will not be introduced to the park by any proposed activities.
8. Groups will notify the Death Valley National Park permits office of all proposed trips and any proposed changes to trip itineraries. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of a commercial use authorization as well as other associated permits.
9. Group leaders and guides are required to ensure that participants pay their park entry fees at the individual rate (currently \$10.00 per person, valid for 7 consecutive days). Holders of a commercial use authorization will be held responsible for assuring that entry fees are paid by all participants.

10. CUA does not imply exclusive use of any area in the Park. All campgrounds and other park facilities are available for use on a first-come, first-served basis.

B. Closures:

The following areas are closed to backcountry camping.

- **Dirt Roads and rights-of-way:** Titus Canyon Road, West Side Road, Wildrose Road, Aguerberry Point Road, Cottonwood Canyon Road (first 8 miles), Racetrack Road (From Teakettle Junction to Homestake Dry Camp, including the Racetrack playa),
- **Short, maintained roads** such as Keane Wonder Mine, Mosaic Canyon, Grotto Canyon, Natural Bridge and Devil’s Golf Course.

Mining Areas: All mining areas are closed, including those without an installed closure.

Other Geographic Areas: Anywhere on the floor of Death Valley from Ashford Mill to 2 miles north of Stovepipe Wells, on the active shifting sand dunes of Eureka Dunes, anywhere in the park below sea level.

The following areas are closed to all entry, except when accompanied by National Park Service personnel: Copper Canyon, Devils Hole, Titus Canyon Cave, Lower Vine Ranch, American Borate Company mines near Ryan, Timbisha-Shoshone tribal areas near Texas Springs Campground, Crystal Cave, Skidoo Stamp Mill, all mines including those without an installed closure, and any facilities or buildings used for the storage, treatment, or transmission of electricity, gas, telephone, waste disposal or domestic water.

- C. The area(s) authorized for use under this permit must be left in substantially the same condition as it was prior to the conduct of the activity.
- D. The CUA operator is responsible for notifying the Park of any accident that results in an injury requiring the care of a physician.
- E. Commercial use authorizations issued by Death Valley National Park are only valid for planned and approved activities within Death Valley National Park and are not transferable to other National Park Service units.

II. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following requirements must be met in order for authorization of the Vision Quest-Type Backcountry Camping CUA’s to be issued from Death Valley National Park (hereinafter “Park”).

	Requirement	Checklist
A.	The Applicant must present the Park with an outline of the client orientation. At a minimum, the orientation will cover: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Death Valley National Park mission. 2. Leave No Trace practices to be followed while conducting activities within the Park. 	Outline is attached and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mission <input type="checkbox"/> LNT

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	Requirement	Checklist
	3. Overview of safety hazards associated with a visit to the Park.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards
B.	Guides must be certified in Wilderness First Responder/First Responder for all guided backcountry camping.	<input type="checkbox"/> Responder Certificates Attached
	<i>NOTE: Include copies of current LNT documentation and Wilderness First Responder or First Responder certification of guides who will be providing services in Death Valley National Park with your application packet. If you hire additional guides for Death Valley after receiving a permit for your activity, forward their certificates to the CUA office or your permit for guiding may be revoked.</i>	
C.	<p>Applicant must present the Park with a Standard Operating Plan. All Operating Plans will be reviewed by NPS for approval. The operations plan will be evaluated for compatibility with the guidelines for commercial services, interpretation, and resource protection at Death Valley National Park. CUA's will not be issued and trips must not begin until the Operating Plan has been approved.</p> <p>The Operating Plan, at a minimum, should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of services to be provided. 2. Beginning and ending dates of service. 3. Average and maximum size of group(s) for each type of activity planned. 4. Qualifications roster of individuals guiding in the Park. 5. Outline of Environmental education information that will be provided to your clients. 6. Safety and/or sanitation precautions/procedures that apply to your service. 7. Resource protection measures including LNT. 8. Explanation of the procedures to be taken in case of accidents or other emergencies. 9. Identify why it is important that these activities occur within Death Valley National Park and not on public lands elsewhere. 	<p>Operating Plan is attached and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Service Explanations <input type="checkbox"/> Service Dates <input type="checkbox"/> Group Size by Type <input type="checkbox"/> Guide Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Environment Outline <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Relevance to Park
D.	Copy of the rate schedule for services that the entity proposes to offer through the CUA.	<input type="checkbox"/> Rate Schedule Attached
E.	Current Certificate of Liability Insurance and Workers' Compensation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance
F.	Application processing fee: \$210.00 made payable to the National Park Service as a check or money order in US funds.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210 check or money order
G.	Visitor's Acknowledgement of Risks Form - If the Applicant uses an acknowledgement of risk form, the language must follow the NPS format and it must be approved by the Park. The NPS format for this type of document is included as Exhibit 1. Waivers of liability may not be used.	<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Risk Form

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