



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks  
40001 State Road 9336  
Homestead, Florida 33034

In Reply Refer to:  
C3827

10/03/18

Dear Commercial Operator:

We are pleased to announce that applications for Commercial Use Authorizations (CUAs) in Everglades National Park are now being accepted for the 2019 term, which will run from January 1 through December 31, 2019.

Over the past year, I have met many of you individually and during a number of group meetings hosted by several organizations in the east and west coasts of the state. I am very grateful for the time many of you have taken to help me understand your business and challenges in an effort to make sure we can move forward implementing the park's commercial operator program in a manner that recognizes the importance of our partnership. One of the most important things that I discovered during these meetings is that we have not enjoyed true mutual understanding and communication in the past. This is something that the park's team and I will continue to put effort into, and I know you are committed to the same; thank you.

In consideration of your suggestions, we have decided to make a smaller increase in the CUA fee than had been planned previously. In compliance with Public Law 105-391, Section 418, which requires the National Park Service (NPS) to collect fees at an amount at least sufficient to recover the agency's costs in managing the CUA program, we will be increasing the 2019 rate to a flat fee of \$550 for all CUA applications. There will be no additional percentages charged on top of the flat fee. This change helps us get closer to our goals of providing better aids to navigation, continuing the ability of law enforcement officers to respond, and maintaining facilities on land and on water.

In order to help further close the gap in our efforts to build and sustain a solid CUA program moving forward, CUA application fees for the following season, calendar year 2020, will be set at a flat fee of \$850. We will stay at that number for the foreseeable future as we work to strengthen our program, as well as our relationship of mutual trust with you as partners.

I want to also acknowledge that many of you expressed concern about the ongoing recreational fee proposals, specifically with your patrons being required to pay an entrance fee. While the proposal review process is not yet complete, I want to assure you that in the event we implement recreation fee changes, we will make every effort to make it as simple as possible before we go to implementation. More information on recreational fees will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

CUA application materials and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available at [go.nps.gov/evercua](http://go.nps.gov/evercua). For processing of CUA applications, please allow up to 30 days from receipt of all application materials and application payment. For questions regarding the application process or the commercial use authorization program, please contact the CUA Manager at 305-242-7744 or [everdrto\\_cua@nps.gov](mailto:everdrto_cua@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Pedro M. Ramos  
Superintendent