

**Denali National Park and Preserve**  
**Commercial Use Authorization Activity Specific Stipulations**  
**Guided Mountaineering**

**1. Annual Reports and Documentation**

The CUA holder must submit the following reports and documentation:

- a) Schedule of climbs and proposed rate schedule. Due prior to advertisement.
- b) Employee Roster. Due 30 days prior to operations.
- c) Operating Plan. Due as part of CUA application.

**2. Staffing, Employment, and Training**

See Guided Mountaineering Supplemental Application.

**3. Resource Protection and Environmental Management**

- The CUA holder must take reasonable and adequate precautions to minimize damage to all natural and cultural resources within the Park.
- The CUA holder's guides and clients must practice Leave No Trace techniques.
- Travel on Snow and Trails. The CUA holder's guides and clients must hike on established trails or snow whenever possible.
- Trash and Litter. The CUA holder must ensure that its guides and clients remove all of their trash and litter from the Park. Guides are encouraged to assist as much as possible in removing any other litter they encounter.
- All solid human waste must be managed in accordance with the most current Denali National Park and Preserve human waste policy.
  - i. Solid human waste must be collected in a CMC or personal receptacle when within one-half mile of glacial landing sites used by aircraft and removed from the Park.
  - ii. On technical climbing routes, solid human waste must be tossed or shoveled away from the route.
- The CUA holder must comply with the guidelines of the US Public Health Service for Food, Potable Water, Human Waste, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases, and Illness Reporting in backcountry operations: ([http://www.nps.gov/public\\_health/info/rms/rm83f.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/public_health/info/rms/rm83f.pdf)).

**4. Specific Operating Standards and Requirements**

**A) Client Screening and Training**

- The CUA holder must ensure clients are prepared to safely participate in scheduled activities.
- The CUA holder must provide its clients with a basic understanding of: National Park Service mission and values (printed material is acceptable), Wilderness values, natural and cultural resource protection, and Leave No Trace principles and practices as they relate to Denali National Park and Preserve.
- The CUA holder must provide education and/or training, before and/or during the trip as appropriate to ensure client safety and education on topics relevant to the undertaking.

**B) Registration Procedures**

- Guided Backcountry Registration forms shall be submitted electronically, via a form provided by the Service, no less than 48 hours before the climb or backcountry trip.
- CUA trip leaders must check-in, in person, at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of scheduled fly-in date with a copy of their CUA permit.
- During check-in, Clean Mountain Cans (CMC) with biodegradable bags are available for checkout.
- Entrance Fees. A Denali National Park entrance fee of \$15 per individual is due for each client. Clients can pay this entrance fee at the Talkeetna Ranger Station or present an Interagency Pass that waives the entrance fee. If a client or guide company wishes to pay this fee in

advance of the climb, they can do so through the Pay.Gov Pre-Paid Entrance Fee form. Pre-paid park entrance fees are fully refundable if a client cancels their trip.

- CUA trip leaders must check out, in person, at the Talkeetna Ranger Station within 24 hours of the expedition's return to Talkeetna.

### **C) Group Size, Restrictions, and Ratios**

#### a) Group Size

- Groups size cannot exceed a total of twelve (12), including guides.
- In Park Management Areas OP2 and D, as defined in the BCMP, the maximum group size will be six (6), including guides.

#### b) Restrictions

- The CUA holder cannot check-in more than one (1) group per day.
- The CUA holder must only have one (1) group in a given Backcountry Unit as described in the BCMP.

#### c) Ratios

- The maximum number of clients per guide is three (3).
- For mountaineering courses, the maximum number of students/clients must be no less than five (5) students/clients and one (1) guide.

### **D) Field Operations and Safety**

#### a) Staffing.

- Each group will have a Lead Guide who will oversee the climb from ranger station check-in to check-out.
- Equipment Standards. Equipment used on climbs and other approved activities must be in good condition and meet current applicable safety standards.

#### b) Caching.

- Caches must be buried at least 1 meter deep.
- Caches must be marked with either an NPS provided cache tag or CUA holder created tag that includes CUA holder name, expedition permit number, Lead Guide's name, air taxi provider and retrieval date on a two- meter wand. Use at least one wand.
- All caches must be removed from the Park during the same operating season in which they were placed.
- Unmarked and improperly buried caches may be removed by the Service.

#### c) Wands.

- Wands may be used on any route.
- The CUA holder must mark the wand with their company initials or name.
- The CUA holder must remove wands when no longer needed or at the end of the operating season, whichever comes first.

#### d) Fixed Lines which are removed at the end of a specific climb (i.e., usually the same day) are allowed on all routes. The CUA holder must notify the South District Ranger or their designee whenever fixed lines have not been retrieved at the end of a climb.

#### e) No client(s) will be left without a guide.

#### f) Roped travel requirement.

- When traveling on glaciers or in other hazardous terrain, guides must travel roped up to a partner (either another guide or a client).
- Guides and clients may un-rope at camps or rest areas on glaciers once the guide has designated a safe area.

#### g) Un-roped travel exceptions.

- Travel conducted on skis. Guides and clients may travel downhill un-roped in glaciated terrain where a fall is unlikely to result in serious injury or death.
- Mountaineering courses and ski mountaineering expeditions.
- When travelling un-roped the Lead Guide must perform the following:

- Prior to un-roped travel, the Lead Guide will conduct a visual and physical inspection of the terrain. Exposure will be managed through terrain selection or belay techniques and will also be assessed in relation to the skills of the skiers

and the surface snow conditions. Terrain assessment includes assessment for exposure to steep slopes, bergshrunds, cliffs, etc.

- Hazardous conditions will be assessed including but not limited to, crevasse hazard, snow condition, avalanche hazard, seracs, rock fall, and weather/visibility. Snowpack instability will be assessed to determine that snowpack is stable and that an avalanche is unlikely prior to traveling un-roped on skis. A hazard avoidance strategy will be implemented to avoid exposure to larger than D1 avalanches and should be based on avalanche problems and terrain use.
- Guides will assess for crevasse hazards. Snow bridges can be assessed with a probe and should be a minimum of 1 meter thick and be at least a 4f snow density to be considered adequate to ski over with variance depending on terrain, temperature, etc. Guides will manage the terrain to avoid crevasses and/or use a rope for belay when crevasse falls are likely.
- Hazards will be identified and discussed in a briefing with the entire team prior to any un-roped travel conducted by clients or guides.
- Clear boundaries will be discussed and identified along with regrouping locations.
- Clients must travel with a guide when un-roped.
- Guides will take into account other skiers/climbers and avoid skiing in a manner or location that is unlikely to create hazardous conditions to others.

h) Solo travel.

- Guides and clients must travel as an organized group.
- Solo travel is prohibited for guides and clients.

i) Helmet Use. At a minimum, where overhead hazards are present, guides and clients must wear protective helmets.

j) Communication Devices.

- Each guide must carry a communication device, which may be either a Family Radio Service (FRS) radio and/or satellite phone, with sufficient extra batteries.
- Guides must be proficient in the use of the communication device that is provided by the CUA holder and be able to demonstrate the ability to make emergency calls.
- At a minimum FRS radios must be able to transmit and receive on FRS channel 1 (462.5625).

**Failure to comply with the requirements outlined above may result in the revocation of the CUA and may impact the opportunity to operate commercially in Alaska units of the NPS in the future.**