

## **Frequently Asked Questions Commercial Use Authorizations**

### **1. What is a Commercial Use Authorization?**

A Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) is a form of National Park Service (NPS) written authorization. Information about CUAs can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter 1, Section 5.3, Business Operations, Commercial Use Authorization. The goal of this program is to ensure that businesses are operated in a way that promotes visitor safety and protects natural and cultural resources.

### **2 Are there fees involved with this program? If so, how much and what are they used for?**

Yes. The application fee is \$150 for a one-year authorization. By regulation, the application fee must be based upon the actual costs that are incurred by the NPS to administratively conduct the program.

### **3. Am I required to have insurance for my business?**

Yes. You must provide a current Certificate of Insurance (ACCORD Form) to verify that your business has adequate comprehensive general liability coverage and automobile coverage.

### **4. What is a DOT number? And do I need one?**

A US Dot number is required by federal and state regulations for your operation for transportation of equipment where one, or combination of vehicles (vehicle and trailer), with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating or actual weight is greater than, pounds AND/OR transportation of passengers by bus, shuttles or vans from point to point, where one or more vehicles are designed to transport more than 8 passengers.

- a. Some companies may need Interstate DOT number(s) while others may only need Intrastate DOT number(s).
- b. This is now required on the new Commercial Use Authorization application form.

### **5. What else does the permit program require of my business?**

Businesses that have been issued a CUA are required to communicate Riverway protection and safety messages to their customers. This will include information on water safety, weather conditions, natural and cultural resource protection, and NPS rules and regulations. Businesses are also required to report Visitor Use Statistics **monthly**. This information is used to help the NPS understand the commercial use of the river.

6. **Why do I have to provide visitor use statistics information to the NPS?** This is required as a condition of obtaining the permit. The Riverway is required to submit this information to the National Park Service Washington Office each month. The Washington Office reports these numbers to Congress to support funding requests for projects through the Riverway. The number of visitors we show each month can impact the budget for the park, which in turn impacts the resources.
  
7. **Why do I have to provide information on gross receipts?** This information is required in order to determine whether or not the Park Superintendent can approve your CUA. If gross income is over \$100,000 per year, the CUA must be sent to our Regional Director in Omaha, NE for final approval. Gross income will be required only for those portions of your business that are under the CUA. For example: If you have a campground, we do not need the receipts from your campground portion of the business.
  
8. **Are tubers required to have PFD's?** Children less than 13 years of age are required to wear an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD while using an inner tube when the tube is underway. Persons 13 years and older must be offered a PFD when using an inner tube, but they are not required to take it.
  
9. **How does the NPS contribute to my business?** The NPS promotes authorized businesses by listing them on the Riverway website. The NPS also provides training and materials to businesses including CPR classes, an orientation to the Riverway, and a Resource Guide that includes a handout with resource protection and safety messages, a complete set of Riverway publications (section maps, fishing regulations, etc.) and much more information.