

**COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION FOR GUIDED, OVERNIGHT  
BACKCOUNTRY TRIPS OPERATING PLAN – EXHIBIT B**

**OVERVIEW**

This CUA authorizes guided overnight backcountry trips with the appropriate backcountry camping permit.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 1) CUA holders and their guides must adhere to all Yellowstone backcountry regulations. Regulations may be found <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>.
- 2) CUA holders are limited to three groups per CUA holder each day. Maximum group size is 12, including guides. Multiple groups in the same area must be dispersed and not congregate. Multiple groups are not permitted to congregate in a single campsite if the overall group size exceeds the campsite size limit. Groups must be equipped to camp, cook, and travel independently.
- 3) CUA holders are encouraged to stay on designated trails. Specific areas may be closed to off-trail travel as needed to protect park resources.
- 4) CUA holders may use only designated backcountry campsites for which they are permitted. CUA holders may not exceed campsite limitations for the number of people allowed at a campsite.
- 5) Each group must include at least one guide. One guide on each trip must have relevant experience backcountry hiking and camping, including previous experience on the trails they are guiding.
- 6) It is required that all guides and trip participants view the Beyond Roads End video, which can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>.
- 7) The guide for any trip within the park must have a basic knowledge of map reading and must have a topographic map for the area of their trip. It is recommended the guide have a compass and/or GPS and be trained in their use.
- 8) While in Yellowstone's backcountry, the CUA holder or guide shall remain with their clients for the duration of the trip.
- 9) Each guide must carry a minimum of one can of bear spray and be trained in its use. Bear spray for clients is recommended.
- 10) All guides must carry a first aid kit suitable for backcountry emergencies and containing adequate supplies for the group size they are guiding.
- 11) Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes will be determined based on clients' abilities and desires.
- 12) A Backcountry Use Permit is required for overnight backcountry use and is available through the Central Backcountry Office, which can be reached at 307-344-2160 or yell\_backcountry\_office@nps.gov.
- 13) There will be fees charged for backcountry permits. For the most up-to-date information on fees, please visit the backcountry website at: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>.
- 14) Backcountry permit reservation procedures, terms, and conditions are reviewed and revised annually. CUA holders must abide by the nightly and annual campsite occupancy limits for commercial users. Having a CUA does not guarantee backcountry campsites will be available.
- 15) Day hiking is an authorized use when associated with an overnight backcountry trip. An Environmental Education CUA must be obtained to conduct day hiking trips not associated with an overnight backcountry trip.
- 16) Skiing and snowshoeing is not covered under an overnight backcountry CUA. Any business offering winter

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overnight backcountry trips must obtain a skiing and snowshoeing CUA in addition to the overnight backcountry CUA.

- 17) For further backcountry guidelines and regulations, please refer to the information provided in "Beyond Road's End" available under Additional Resources or at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountryhiking.htm>.

**I have read and agree to the Overnight Backcountry conditions. I hereby confirm that myself, all guides, and all relevant employees will be trained in the requirements of this CUA, the Yellowstone CUA Special Park Conditions, and this Operating Plan.**

**CUA Holder's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_