

**COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION FOR GUIDED SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING OPERATING PLAN –  
EXHIBIT B**

**OVERVIEW**

The CUA authorizes guided cross-country snowshoeing and ski touring trips on low to moderate angle terrain which does not exceed incidental slope angles of 34°.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **Definitions:**

- a. **Low angle trips** are defined as trips that involve terrain with a slope angle less than 20°.
  - b. **Moderate angle trips** are defined as trips that involve terrain with a slope angle between 20° - 34°.
  - c. **Steep angle trips are** defined as trips that involve terrain with a slope angle greater than 34°.
2. Ski lessons, ski schools, technical training, and ski mountaineering activities are not authorized under this CUA. Ski mountaineering is defined for the purposes of this authorization as climbing peaks and ridges above the tree line and/or taking routes that require the use of technical mountaineering equipment (i.e. aids used for protection from falls such as crampons, ice screws, ropes). Mountain passes above the tree line and terrain greater than 34° may be traversed to go from one area to another only if they are *incidental* to the trip (i.e. the pass is not the destination of the trip) AND only when these routes can be safely used without the aid of technical mountaineering equipment as outlined above. Steep angle skiing is not allowed.
3. Skiing and snowshoeing are prohibited on groomed roads associated with oversnow vehicle traffic (i.e., Grand Loop Road), except on designated routes or crossings.
4. CUA holders are encouraged to stay in designated trail corridors.
5. Skiers and snowshoers should maintain separate tracks. Snowshoers should not use ski tracks to avoid creating hazardous conditions for skiers.
6. Maximum group size for day use is 12 people, which must include at least one guide.
7. CUA holders are limited to 3 groups per day. Each group must be dispersed a minimum of 60 minutes apart and may not congregate at a destination.
8. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is closed to off-trail travel, including climbing, between the Chittenden Bridge and Silver Cord Cascade (36 CFR § 1.5).
9. Overnight backcountry use requires an overnight backcountry CUA and is not authorized under this CUA.

**Staffing and Employment**

10. **Moderate angle ski trips** are defined as trips that involve skiing terrain with a slope angle between 20° - 34°.
- a. *At a minimum*, each guide leading a moderate angle ski trip must have completed a Professional Level 1 Avalanche Course or equivalent.
  - b. Each guide and clients are required to be equipped, at a minimum, with a transceiver, clinometer, shovel, and probe.
  - c. At least one guide must have Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification.

Revised 9/2022

11. **Low Angle ski and snowshoeing trips** are defined as trips that involve terrain with a slope angle less than 20°.
  - a. Each guide leading a low angle ski or snowshoe trip must have completed an Avalanche Awareness course. Completion of a Recreational Level 1 or equivalent course is recommended.
  - b. Guides leading low angle front country ski and snowshoeing trips and clients are recommended to be equipped with a transceiver, clinometer, shovel, and probe.
  - c. Each guide must be currently certified in standard first aid and CPR.
  - d. One guide on each trip must have relevant outdoor experience including previous experience on the trails and/or in the area they are guiding.
12. The guide, for any trip within the park, must have a basic knowledge of map reading and must have a topographic map of the area for their trip. It is recommended the guide have a compass and knowledge of compass use.

**Operational Requirements**

13. Guides are required to obtain the following certifications:
  - a. CPR and first aid certification (all guides)
  - b. Avalanche Awareness Course (all guides for snowshoeing trips and low angle skiing)
  - c. Professional Level 1 Avalanche Course or equivalent (all guides for moderate angle ski trips)
  - d. Wilderness first aid or wilderness first responder (required for at least 1 guide on each moderate angle ski trip).
14. All guides must carry a first aid kit suitable for backcountry emergencies and appropriately sized for the group they are guiding.
15. Each guide must carry a reliable emergency communication device which could include a GPS locator beacon, satellite messenger, or satellite phone. While cell phones provide an excellent backup tool for emergency communications (911), they are not always reliable in Yellowstone's backcountry.
16. When multiple guides are leading a trip, they must carry devices that will allow them to communicate with each other.
17. CUA holders are responsible for ensuring that guides and clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes will be determined based on clients' abilities and desires.
18. While in Yellowstone, the CUA holder or guide shall remain with their clients for the duration of the trip.
19. The CUA holder or guide shall provide all clients with an orientation prior to the trip which emphasizes safe practices while skiing and snowshoeing in winter conditions. At a minimum, the orientation should include nature and demands of the trips, safety and emergency procedures, weather conditions, park regulations, wildlife interactions, and Leave No Trace practices.

**I have read and agree to the Skiing/Snowshoeing CUA 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:** \_\_\_\_\_