



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Zion National Park
Springdale, UT 84767



C38 (ZION)

December 3, 2019

Dear Commercial Use Authorization Applicants,

The Zion Commercial Services Office is excited to announce the 2020 Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Application Package for Zion National Park (ZION). We appreciate your continued efforts to connect park visitors to the natural and cultural resources of ZION.

The park continues to address a wide range of issues associated with growing visitation and changing use patterns which include visitor health and safety concerns, diminished quality of visitor experiences, natural and cultural resource impacts, heavy strain on park facilities and park operations, as well as effects to and from adjacent communities. In doing so, an evaluation of commercial services in relation to ZION's existing park management plans and future management objectives (Per National Park Service Management Policies 2006 section 8.1.2) will continue to inform determinations of appropriate commercial use.

Important information about CUA Program updates:

Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours:

Commercially guided bicycle tour group size limits for ZION will be modified for the 2021 CUA Operating Season (beginning January 1, 2021). The modified group size will consist of a maximum 16 guests (four groups of four) plus guides (not to exceed 18 total riders including participants and guides). Commercially guided bicycle tour authorized operating times will also be modified for the 2021 CUA Operating Season. The modified operational times will allow for guided bicycle tours to occur only between sunrise and 10:00 am and from 3:00 pm to sunset. Although not required for the 2020 operation season, the Zion Commercial Services Office encourages commercially guided bicycle tour CUA holders to implement these changes for the 2020 operating season when possible.

Electric Bicycles (e-bikes): The use of certain e-bikes in the national parks has been approved for the general public by the National Park Service (NPS) through Director's Order 3376. It should be noted that Sec. 6 of Secretarial Order #3376 Effect of the Order states; "To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provisions of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control." It should also be noted that ZION will continue to ensure CUA program compliance with 54 USC 101925 Commercial Use Authorizations. As such, ZION will temporarily authorize Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours to use Class 1 e-bikes for the 2020 operating season in order to evaluate their use commercially. Information on whether authorization of commercially guided e-bike tours as a commercial service will continue into the 2021 operating season will be provided prior to that operating season.

Class 1 e-bikes are defined as having an electric motor that provides supplementary power to assist the pedaling of the e-bike by the rider. The rider must be pedaling to engage the electric assist. No throttle device may be present. The motor ceases to provide power when the e-bike reaches 20 mph.

Guided Interpretive Hiking Tours (Level II):

Guided Interpretive Hiking Tours (Level II) will be discontinued after December 31, 2020. Guided Interpretive Hiking Tours (Level III – up to 15 people) will continue. Limited guided interpretive hiking opportunities for larger groups will be available through a Road-based Tour CUA after this time. Authorized trails for the Road-based Tour CUA will include the use of the Pa'rus Trail (including designated river access areas), the Grotto Trail (from the Zion Lodge to shuttle stop 6 only), the Kayenta Trail, and the Lower Emerald Pools Trail. Group splitting into groups of no more than 15 people per authorized trail, including guide, will be required as a condition of the Road Based Tour CUA. Although not required for the 2020 operating season, the Zion Commercial Services Office encourages providers of Guided Interpretive Hiking Tours (Level II) to implement these changes for the 2020 operation season when possible.

Implementation of a Road Based Tour CUA:

The National Park Service (NPS) is standardizing road-based commercial tour CUA requirements and fees agency-wide. ZION does not anticipate implementation of the Road-based Tour CUA prior to January 1, 2021. Updates will be provided as available.

Commercially Guided Motorcycle Tours:

For the 2021 operating season, ZION will implement a maximum commercial motorcycle group limit of 16 participants plus guides (support vehicle not included). Continued monitoring of this activity's compliance with the Zion National Park's 2010 Soundscape Management Plan will occur during 2020. Although not required for the 2020 operating season, the Zion Commercial Services Office encourages commercially guided motorcycle tour CUA holders to implement a maximum group size of 16 when possible.

2020 CUA Application Package:

ZION is now accepting applications for 2020 CUAs. Important information on the 2020 application process can be found below:

- The 2020 application package is now available at: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/getinvolved/commercial-use-authorization.htm>
- The 2020 application fee for all CUA permits in Zion is \$300.00 per permit. The NPS assesses the Application fee to recover all administrative costs associated with processing applications and managing of the CUA program. Periodically this fee is reviewed and adjusted. A 2019 cost review showed that the previously used sliding scale of \$200 to \$500.00 was not adequately covering the costs incurred by the park to administer the CUA program as required by 54 USC 101925.
- The 2020 application window will close on April 1, 2020. ***Applications received or postmarked after April 1, 2020, will not be accepted*** and the applicant will not be eligible to operate in Zion National Park in 2020.
- Applications must be submitted ***at least three weeks*** in advance to receive consideration. Additional processing time will be added for incomplete applications. Severely incomplete packages will be denied and may affect eligibility to operate in the park. A detailed checklist has been included with the application.
- All application materials should be submitted electronically to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov. All other electronic correspondence or inquiries should also be sent to this email address. Phone inquiries should be directed to (435) 772-0231.
- Returning applicants must ensure that 2019 annual reports are submitted to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov no later than February 1, 2020. Annual reports must be submitted for each CUA held (organizations holding multiple CUAs must submit a separate annual report for each). If a CUA was issued, but no business occurred, an annual report must still be submitted documenting zero trips and zero revenue.

- Permittees are required to carry General Liability Insurance. 'Professional Liability Insurance' or other alternatives to 'General Liability Insurance' will not be accepted. Insurance requirements are specified in the Attachment B Form (General Authorization Provisions) under condition #4. Applications not meeting insurance requirements may be denied or receive delayed processing.
- National Park Service policy states that commercial permit operators cannot require clients to sign a waiver of liability statement, insurance disclaimer, or indemnification agreement. The 2020 Zion CUA Application checklist contains important information about Visitor Acknowledgement of Risk (VAR) requirements. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review VAR requirements before submitting applications. Applications not meeting VAR requirements may be denied or receive delayed processing.
- All applicants are encouraged to carefully read the Activity/Service specific Operating Plan as program updates occur annually.
- Commercial Filming for advertising purposes: As a reminder, all commercial filming requires a Special Use Permit. The permittee must apply for and be issued a Special Use Permit BEFORE any filming takes place within the park for advertising (commercial) purposes. More information can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/commercial-filming-and-photography.htm>
- You may use the NPS' Secure File Transfer portal to send information containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII). The NPS Secure File Transfer allows NPS employees, contractors, volunteers and partners to securely send and receive files containing PII outside of the NPS network. Sending a file using the NPS Secure File Transfer is just like sending an email. You will need to create an account/password. The portal may be accessed at <https://secure.nps.gov/>

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Zion National park will be holding its third annual "All CUA Holders Meeting" at the Zion Nature Center located adjacent to the South Campground. We strongly encourage permit administrators and guides to attend. CUA program updates, park updates, and important guide resources will be discussed.

For new applicants, welcome and thank you for joining in our efforts to provide meaningful visitor experiences in Zion National Park. For those of you returning, welcome back and thank you for your continued contributions to that effort. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Doug Dawson, Concessions Management Specialist at (435) 772-0231 or at zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.

Sincerely,


Jeff Bradybaugh
Superintendent