Dear Commercial Use Authorization Applicants,

The Zion Commercial Services Office is excited to announce the 2022 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 were modified for the 2021 CUA Operating Season (beginning January 1, 2021). The modified group size consists of a maximum 16 guests plus guides (not to exceed 18 total riders including participants and guides). The group size limit established in 2021 will remain the same in 2022.

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 Secretary 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 continue to temporarily authorize Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours to use Class 1 e-bikes for the 2022 operating season in order to evaluate their use commercially. Information on whether continued authorization of commercially guided e-bike tours into the 2023 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):

Authorized trails for the Level II CUAs will continue to 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 Level II CUA.

Commercially Guided Motorcycle Tours:

For the 2022 operating season, ZION will continue with the maximum commercial motorcycle group limit of 16 participants plus guides (support vehicle not included), as established in 2021. Continued monitoring of this activity’s compliance with the Zion National Park’s 2010 Soundscape Management Plan will occur during 2022.

Angels Landing Pilot

Zion will be beginning a pilot program for visitor use management on the Angels Landing trail. The parks' goal is to improve visitor experience and reduce congestion on this narrow, spectacular hike. Beginning March 19th all hikers will be required to have a permit to hike from Scout Lookout to Angels Landing. Each CUA holder will be required to set up a commercial account in Recreation.gov. For CUA holders that have booked trips in advance, CUA holders must notify the park (by submitting an itinerary) of their requested dates and times for reservations by April 1st to be used any time from March 19th-November 28th. Permits will then be issued through recreation.gov, with the CUA holder paying the $3 per-person fee.

A CUA holder may also guide any visitors who have already obtained a reservation (i.e. a group of 4 persons with 4 reservations would not need to have obtained a reservation for their guide). Guides or CUA holders may not enter the lottery on behalf of commercial clients nor to make additional reservations available for commercial clients.

This is a pilot program, and it is expected that changes will be ongoing as we monitor and adapt the system. We look forward to working with you to refine and improve this managed access program and to improve the visitor experience on this iconic hike.

2022 CUA Application Package:

ZION is now accepting applications for 2022 CUAs. Important information on the 2022 application process can be found below:

- The 2022 application package is now available at: https://www.nps.gov/zion/getinvolved/commercial-use-authorization.htm
- The 2022 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.
- The 2022 application window will close on April 1, 2022. Applications received or postmarked after April 1, 2022, will not be accepted and the applicant will not be eligible to operate in Zion National Park in 2022.
- 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) 772-0210.
Returning applicants must ensure that 2021 annual reports are submitted to zion_commercialservices@nps.gov no later than January 31, 2022. 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 A 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 2022 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.

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 Larry Walter, Concessions Management Specialist at (435) 772-0210 or at zion_commercialservices@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY BRADYBAUGH

Digitally signed by JEFFREY BRADYBAUGH
Date: 2021.11.12 14:55:55 -07'00'

Jeff Bradybaugh
Superintendent