Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** I noticed a new limitation on the ice climbing season that would restrict our operations to Dec 1 - March 31. I was wondering what the rationale for this limitation is. As you may very well know, the North Zone of SNF has one of the longer ice climbing seasons in the country with great ice climbing sometimes as soon as early October on Carter Mountain and good ice well through mid-to-late April in the upper Clarks Fork as well as Carter Mountain. In fact, the early season is one of the best times to climb as there is very little snow, making for less overhead hazard and the ice quality is often best as these climbs just form (depending on the particular climb of course). I also wanted to point out that our current ice climbing TUP is November 15-April 30. I'll grant that 1 Dec-Mar 31 might make sense as a typical South Fork season but for Carter and the Clarks Fork the best seasons to climb are often late October/early November and April. If at all possible, we would appreciate the start and end dates being changed to reflect the historical patterns of reliable ice climbing conditions rather than a more arbitrary set of dates.

**Answer:** The errata clarifies the ice climbing season of Dec 1 - March 31 for the South Zone (compartments 34 and 35). As for the North Zone, dates for seasons will be established through the NEPA process, and then will be a part of the discussion/negotiation with the selected permittee before the permit is issued.

**Question:** Can we drop the paperwork off in person at your office on or before May 2nd? Are digital copies sent over sufficient?

**Answer:** Yes, on or before COB May 2nd. As found in the “Instructions for Submitting Applications” section of the prospectus, it instructs “...proposals for a recreation special use permit to provide outfitting and guiding services will be accepted by mailing or delivering one hard copy and one electronic copy (on a thumb drive)”.

**Question:** The new information you have emailed and posted on the Shoshone’s prospectus website is in regards to the new usage that the North and South Zones are offering?

**Answer:** Yes, the information serves as clarifications related to the new services the Shoshone is offering in the prospectus.

**Question:** What is the authorization number listed on appendix 6?

**Answer:** This is the number a permittee would receive once issued a permit. If you do not have a permit with the Shoshone NF, you can leave it blank, or “N/A”.

**Question:** Is the Wind River RD open to allowing opportunities to offer Guided Fat Bike Tours in the Deception Creek- Fall Creek area that is groomed by D.A.R.T. from Dubois, WY? This is only opened to Non-Motorized Winter Travel, such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and fat biking, so thus there will be no conflicts with motorized use.

**Answer:** The prospectus is advertising mountain biking services in compartments 37 and 38 (Washakie RD) for the South Zone, and road and mountain biking in the Clarks Fork RD for the North Zone, and not...
advertising Fat Biking services. Please refer to Table 1: User Stipulations in the prospectus, Appendix 12: Visitor Service Days (VSD) Allocation Tables, and the maps found in Appendix 1.

Question: Do you want me to print out two sets of financials and put one with each operating plan? I have a summer operating plan and a winter operating plan.

Answer: Yes. The separate documentation will address the specific financials for each operating plan.

Question: I have a question about the prospectus evaluation criteria. In the "Good Standing and Performance History" section it asks to provide evidence of company-initiated meetings and communications with agencies to prevent and resolve issues that result in mutual agreements. What would an example of this look like? We've held temporary use permits for the past 4 years and as far as I'm aware we haven't been evaluated. We have not received any non-compliance or citations so what is the best way for us to provide evidence of good standing and performance?

Answer: Evidence of company-initiated meetings and communications could be emails and letters that may have been exchanged if an issue was identified and resolved. Yes, you are correct, there is not an evaluation process required for temporary permit holders, as per Forest Service policy (Handbook 2709.14 - RECREATION SPECIAL USES HANDBOOK CHAPTER 50 - OUTFITTING AND GUIDING AND OTHER CONCESSION SERVICES, “Do not conduct performance evaluations for holders of temporary use permits”). However, please provide a general statement addressing your permit compliance, and either contact your permit administrator asking for documentation validating your statement which can be included in the application or supplement the statement with the contact information of your permit administrator who can provide more information if needed.

Question: We just realized that the Sport Climbing on Compartments 37 and 38 is non-wilderness and Day Use only. Does this mean we would not be permitted to base camp at large or in Forest Service campgrounds? Or would we still be allowed to basecamp in a Campground or at Large?

Answer: Overnight use will not be allowed for commercial day-use activities on the Forest. Appendix 6, North Zone and South Zone Operating Plans, clearly state guidelines addressing overnight use for day-use commercial services.

Question: Can you tell me what companies, if any, holds existing use permits for DAY HIKING in the North Fork area?

Answer: Contact the special use permit administrator at the Wapiti Ranger District at (307) 527-6921.

Question: Leave No Trace informed me that the earliest I can get LNT training is May 3rd, 2022 and would let me know if someone canceled. I have everything else ready to submit. Is there any way I can turn that doc in a week late?

Answer: As stated in the “Application Package Requirements” section in the prospectus, “A Leave No Trace certificate of training along with a written commitment to obtain a “Leave No Trace Master Educator” certification within two years of any potential permit award. Provide proof of prior training for Forest Service review if applicable. (Criteria 2)”. If you are committed in acquiring a LNT certificate but falls outside of the application deadline, please identify the date of the LNT course on the application. If you are awarded a special use permit, you must have a certificate by the time the permit is issued.