



File Code: 2720
Date: January 26, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The USDA Forest Service, White River National Forest, is soliciting proposals from interested parties to provide Outfitter and Guide services including bicycle and client delivery services to the top of Vail Pass with an option to provide the service of guiding bike riders on the paved bicycle path adjacent to I-70 for the Dillon and Eagle / Holy Cross Ranger Districts. The Forest intends to authorize more than one special use permit and allocate up to a maximum cumulative total of 18,500 service days to selected applicants and retain approximately 1,500 service days for use in a priority use pool as a result of this offering.

This offering will allow individuals or organizations to provide transport of clients and bicycle deliveries to Vail Pass and to conduct outfitter and guide services on National Forest System lands only within the areas and along the paved bicycle routes described in this prospectus.

Some potential applicants desiring to provide commercial transport, bicycle delivery and outfitting and guiding services on Vail Pass have been authorized to provide these services on an annual basis for several years on the White River National Forest. This demonstration of competitive interest requires the issuance of a prospectus and evaluation of proposals to determine how the available permits will be allocated among competing applicants. Prospective applicants should also understand that capacity limits can restrict a business's ability to grow and expand in the future. Opportunities for a business to expand under a special use permit will be dependent not only on the resource capacity, but also on the patterns and trends of both the outfitted and non-outfitted public and other natural resource issues in the future.

The Dillon Ranger District completed a District-wide outfitter / guide resource capacity analysis which assigned a maximum number of commercial parties per day that one could expect to encounter on each road or trail. Subsequently, in 2014, an outfitter and guide needs assessment was completed for the Vail Pass – Ten Mile Trail. Conclusions included:

- Though there is no reason to suggest that visitor use crowding or conflict would preclude the allocation of additional client service days to outfitter-guides, caution is in order.
- Allocation of additional client service days or issuance of new permits should not increase the number of groups an average participant expects to encounter during their visit.



- Bicycle-dependent activities have a higher need for services of outfitters and guides in comparison to hiking and skiing activities.
- Biking and shuttle service outfitter-guides have a moderate potential to enhance visitor experience and safety, reduce environmental impacts, and / or contribute to local economies.
- The demand for bicycle rental and shuttle service is demonstrated by the services that have been provided by local companies for the last several years.

The Forest Service manages for a wide variety of both commercial and non-commercial recreational uses. This prospectus is a means to allocate some commercial bicycle delivery services to Vail Pass in order to provide opportunities to the public who may not have a bicycle available and/or means of getting to Vail Pass. It will also provide for services to Vail Pass from a variety of locations and will foster business competition and provide for economic development in adjacent communities. It is not anticipated that any non-commercial use by the public in the area would be adversely impacted by these services.

This prospectus is intended to solicit proposals from interested parties who intend to provide commercial bicycle delivery and outfitter-guide services on a recurring basis on Vail Pass. Bicycle delivery services must be provided and bicycle guiding may be proposed. The objective in permitting this activity on National Forest System lands is to answer a public need, to provide for the health and safety of bike path users, to protect the natural resources, support the economy of local communities, and to provide a quality recreation experience for the public

Permits awarded by this prospectus may be authorized through a two-year priority special use permit which is considered as probationary, or a 10-year priority special use permit, depending upon the selected applicant's permit history. Probationary, 2-year priority permits may be converted to full priority permits and extended for an additional 8-year term after receipt of an acceptable performance evaluation after the probationary period. When the 8-year permit expires, a new permit may be issued for an additional 10 years without competition when the holder has performed satisfactorily. The decision whether to issue a new permit to a holder is at the sole discretion of the Authorized Officer.

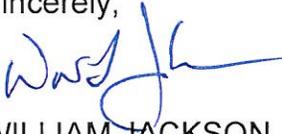
The Authorized Officer for these permits will be the respective District Ranger (Dillon RD, or Eagle/ Holy Cross RD) and any permit authorizing use in both directions, as explained in this prospectus, will be delegated to the Dillon District Ranger.

There are a number of requirements for insurance, operations, and maintenance with which an applicant must comply. Permits will not be issued if, in the judgment of the Forest Service, a highly qualified pool of applicants is not available. The Forest Service reserves the right to reject any or all applications if the applications do not best serve the needs of the public.

Any oral statement by any representative of the USDA Forest Service which modifies the conditions of this prospectus is an expression of opinion only and confers no special rights upon any applicant. In the event that a contradiction exists between this prospectus and the special use permit, the special use permit governs.

To obtain a copy of the prospectus and application submittal procedures, please visit the White River National Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver> and navigate to Passes and Permits / Event and Commercial Permits / Outfitters and Guides / Vail Pass Bicycle Delivery Prospectus. Applications must be postmarked or received no later than 4:30 p.m., Mountain Time, on Friday, April 1, 2016. For additional information, please contact Ken Waugh at 970-262-3446 or kwaugh@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM JACKSON
District Ranger