

Request for Proposals

Winter season Outfitting and Guiding on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest



Providing recreation services and facilities is a key part of the Forest Service's mission. To fulfill this responsibility, the agency relies upon volunteer, organizational, and commercial partners. Partners contribute unique skills, knowledge, equipment, financial resources, and technical capabilities that further enhance services and opportunities to the public. Although many visitors possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and equipment to enjoy National Forests, others may not have the capability or confidence to participate in an activity on their own. Due to the nature of winter activities, there are inherent risks involved including avalanche danger; in prioritizing safety, it becomes even more important for visitors to have opportunities to learn winter-specific skills before going out independently.

By permitting commercial services to operate on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest, this need can be locally met. Outfitter/guide services offer diverse opportunities for the recreating public to experience the dynamic landscape of the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. Outfitters and guides include commercial businesses, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, and educational institutions; these entities facilitate recreational experiences for individuals or groups by providing services, education, training, and/or equipment on National Forest lands.

The USDA Forest Service is requesting interest from businesses and individuals wishing to offer *non-motorized* winter season outfitting and guiding services on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest. Target locations for winter operations include Hoosier Pass and Lincoln Falls, but the District is open to reviewing additional proposals for viable opportunities in other non-Wilderness areas of interest (Buffalo Peaks and Lost Creek Wilderness Areas are not included in this RFP). Proposals that address limited parking capacity by providing shuttle service, weekday offerings, and/or other strategies will be prioritized, particularly when competitive interest exists.

Services that will be considered include but are not limited to activities such as:

- **Avalanche education**
- **Ice climbing instruction**
- **Backcountry skiing and/or touring**
- **Nordic/cross-country skiing and/or snowshoeing**
- **Winter camping and/or survival skills**

Services proposed must meet all criteria outlined in the accompanying submission form.

The purpose of this public notice is to determine whether sufficient competitive interest exists that would warrant issuance of a prospectus. If a prospectus were issued, the Forest Service would review proposals through a competitive bid process and issue a limited number of priority use outfitting and guiding permits under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Special use permits issued in response to this request for proposal will be subject to environmental review and public scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If a permit is issued, fees will be charged according to current directives. The fee is considered land use rent for operating a commercial venture on public lands and serves to cover the costs of administering the permit. Annual permit fees are typically calculated at 3% of gross revenue.

Proposal Requirements

Information Requests:	Submission Format:	Submission Criteria:
<p>Interested respondents may submit questions by email to: Samantha.Eaton@usda.gov</p> <p>Questions regarding this RFP can be submitted until 5:00 pm MST on January 15th, 2022.</p> <p>For specific questions about the Outfitting and Guiding program on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest, proponents may contact Samantha Eaton Jensen at the email address provided above, or by phone at 719-293-3510.</p> <p>For general information on special use permits with the Forest Service, applicants should visit the USFS Special Uses website at: https://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/</p> <p>Additional resources regarding the Special Uses Program on the Pike National Forest can be found at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/passes-permits/?cid=fsm9_032620</p>	<p>The Forest Service asks respondents to submit their proposal either hard copy or electronically.</p> <p>Electronic files must be in a Microsoft Office program or PDF format and can be emailed to: Samantha.Eaton@usda.gov</p> <p>Any page with proprietary or confidential information must be noted with a disclaimer, however applicants should be aware that proposals are broadly subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC § 552).</p> <p>Please mail or hand deliver hard copy proposals by 4:30 pm MST on January 14th, 2022 to:</p> <p>Pike National Forest South Park Ranger District Attn: Samantha Eaton Jensen PO Box 219 / 320 Highway 285 Fairplay, CO 80440</p>	<p>Please provide the following in your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cover letter expressing your interest, including a statement of your technical experience and financial capability to offer the proposed activity. • Proposed Activity details – a complete description of the proposal utilizing the submission form accompanying this document.

This document is not intended as a formal offering for the award of any legal authorization or for participation in future solicitation. The Forest reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to withdraw the request for proposal and/or not issue any related permits or other request for proposals, and to retain use of the ideas or materials submitted in any manner deemed

to be in the best interest of the Forest Service, including but not limited to the undertaking of the prescribed work in a manner other than that which is set forth herein.

The Forest Service will not return materials submitted in connection with this request for proposal. All materials submitted in response to this request for proposal shall become the property of Forest Service. The Forest Service likewise reserves the right, at any time, to change any components, concepts, or approaches of the request for proposal. All costs associated with responding to the request for proposal are the sole responsibility of the respondent and any such costs shall not be reimbursed by the Forest Service.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found [online](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) at (http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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