Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** I received the Solicitation of Interest – Results and Upcoming Prospectus Letter. What does this mean and what are the next steps?

**Answer:** The solicitation of interest process is now complete. We are now focusing our efforts on the prospectus process for activities with competitive interest. Applications will be accepted through issuance of the Prospectus seeking specific activities in specific locations on the Forest. We are anticipating the Prospectus to be published in March 2022. Everyone who responded to the Solicitation of Interest will be placed on the notification list. The Prospectus will be published on the Forest Service website.

**Question:** Will you be sending an email out once the prospectus process opens? Also, do you have an anticipated deadline for the prospectus? Once again, completing a detailed prospectus during our busy summer season is not realistic. I'm hoping you have a deadline of 12/31/2022 or later.

**Answer:** Everyone who responded to the Solicitation will be notified about the prospectus via email. It will also be advertised on the Shoshone NF website. The due date for submissions is May 2, 2022.

**Question:** Do you have any idea what the requirements will be? When I applied for a North Platte BLM SRP a couple of years ago (I successfully was awarded the last permit) the BLM required financials, a business plan, outfitter experience documentation, etc. It was quite intensive. If there are similar requirements, I can begin gathering that data. Also, I've requested multiple compartments. Will I have to apply for each compartment, or can I do one application for all compartments and separate specifics need for each compartment?

**Answer:** Please refer to the Prospectus and Appendices for all the requirements and instructions for submitting a complete proposal. Each activity will require a separate proposal.

**Question:** If I received an email regarding the Solicitation of Interest results but not a secondary notice from Shoshone (at least not since 2020) does that mean my company is not being considered for the prospectus for priority use on Shoshone NF lands? Currently there are no priority use outfitters in the Clarks Fork District offering the services we provide. The demand for these activities is greater than ever in this area, which is evident from the use we’ve conducted under previously held temporary use permits in the Clarks Fork Ranger District. Please advise if we are eligible to submit an application for the upcoming prospectus.

**Answer:** The services requested were found to have competitive interest and are included in the prospectus. Those that submitted proposals for the Solicitation of Interest are also eligible to apply via the prospectus.

**Question:** When will we see the prospectus?

**Answer:** The prospectus will be published in early March and submissions will be due by May 2, 2022. Questions can be submitted to Paul Rau at paul.rau@usda.gov until April 10, 2022. Everyone who responded to the Solicitation of Interest will be notified by email. Additionally, the prospectus will be published on the Shoshone National Forest website (https://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone)
**Question:** Will the people and businesses that responded to the Solicitation of Interest have any priority when it comes to the upcoming Prospectus? And do you have the FS web address of the specific webpage where the Prospectus will be published?

**Answer:** Everybody who responds to the prospectus, whether or not they responded to the Solicitation of Interest, will all be evaluated in the same manner. You will find the prospectus on the Shoshone National Forest webpage (https://www.fs.usda.gov/shoshone)

**Question:** Do only those who submitted solicitation responses now have the opportunity to apply for a special-use permit through the prospectus?

**Answer:** No, anyone can apply through the prospectus process.

**Question:** Can we slightly alter our initial applications we submitted through the solicitation process?

**Answer:** Yes, you will need to submit a complete application package. Previous submissions will not be used in the prospectus process.

**Question:** What does "advertise" mean?

**Answer:** The prospectus opportunity will be posted on the Shoshone National Forest webpage as well as announced through a press release and posts to social media. Additionally, emails will be sent out to interested parties.

**Question:** Will the application for special-use permits look the same as it looks currently, or will this process be different in its approach?

**Answer:** Please refer to the Prospectus and Appendices for all the requirements and instructions for submitting a complete proposal. Each activity will require a separate proposal.

**Question:** Have you established if this prospectus will be for the Shoshone National Forest near Dubois, Lander or both? Secondly, am I reading correctly that you are accepting applications now with further documentation required later, or no applications until after advertising the prospectus?

**Answer:** The prospectus will be for the entire Forest (Lander, Dubois, and Cody). We will accept applications once the prospectus is published on March 1, 2022. Submissions are due by May 2, 2022.

**Question:** Does everyone have to re-apply, i.e. like a currently priority use permit holder, or will it just be new operations? Also, will the number of days you ask for help or hurt your application?

**Answer:** For those who already hold a priority use permit do not need to re-apply unless they would like to add new areas or services to their permit. There is no guarantee they’ll be awarded additional days for the new areas or the service. Please refer to Appendix 12 Visitor Service Day Allocation Table in regard to available service days. You can request any number of available service days that you will realistically use in your operation.
**Question:** What are the next steps for us moving forward with activities that are going through the competitive process?

**Answer:** Thoroughly review all of the documents in the prospectus and submit a complete and detailed application package by the May 2, 2022 due date.

**Question:** Will fishing be included in the prospectus that is coming out for the areas I'm looking at?

**Answer:** Please refer to Appendix 12 Visitor Service Day Allocation Table to determine what services are being advertised in this prospectus.

**Question:** Is the northern zone everything from the Greybull and South Fork to the north and South Zone Dubois and south? If I were to get a fishing permit would that allow us to hike into the backcountry to fish or would I need a hiking and a fishing permit?

**Answer:** We are looking at advertising day-use fishing services in the South Zone in specific compartments (Wind River and Washakie RDs). Please refer to Appendix 1 for maps that demonstrate boundaries. If a permit has fishing days, the visitor days would be solely for day use fishing; which is walk in, fish, walk back out at the end of the day.

**Question:** When you say "....many of the proposed services we received from the Solicitation may be advertised...", does this mean I can advertise that we are/can offer those services?

**Answer:** Advertising in the context of that statement means that those services may be available to apply for through the prospectus. A business can’t advertise services until they are authorized through the permitting process.

**Question:** I want to know more about the application process about applying for a commercial use permit for our organization hoping to run commercial services in the backcountry and if we are eligible for the review and permitting you are doing now. My son is also a certified avalanche instructor and would like to hold avalanche awareness training.

**Answer:** Please refer to the Prospectus and Appendices for all the requirements and instructions for submitting a complete proposal. Each activity will require a separate proposal.

**Question:** For the past couple of years, we've been operating under a Temporary Use Permit. What do we need to do to be added to the list and apply?

**Answer:** All current permit holders have been added to the interested party list. Additionally, everyone that responded to the Solicitation of Interest has also been included on the notification list.

**Question:** I was wondering if you could explain how the prospectus works - this is our first time being part of one.

**Answer:** Many of the proposed services we received from the Solicitation may be offered on the prospectus, such as avalanche education, backpacking, day hiking, fishing, floating, ice climbing, sport climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, summer motorized tours (ATV/UTV/OHV Guided Tours), shuttle services, skiing, and trail running. We are aiming to have the prospectus published on the Forest...
Service website March 1, 2022. Everyone who responded to the Solicitation of Interest will be placed on the notification list. The prospectus will give you an opportunity to adjust your response from the solicitation if you need to. In addition, we will be asking for more information and documents, such as a business plan and an operating plan, of which templates will be available when we advertise the prospectus. Please refer to the Prospectus and Appendices for all the requirements and instructions for submitting a complete proposal. Each activity will require a separate proposal.