United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Red Rock Ranger District
P. O. Box 20429
Sedona, AZ 86341
Phone: (928) 282-4119
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File Code: 2720 (153)
Date: January 26, 2011

Dear Prospectus Applicant:

The Red Rock Ranger District has completed its review of the applications received in response to the Prospectus for Metaphysical Outfitting and Guiding. The prospectus stated that the District would issue up to four permits, for up to 4,000 trips per year, for metaphysical uses. A total of nine applications were received.

An independent, neutral panel of Forest Service employees reviewed the applications, rated them based on responses to evaluation criteria, and made a recommendation to the District. The District recreation and special uses staff have reviewed this recommendation and concurred.

It is my decision to award permits to the following applicants, for the following use allocations:

Sedona Metaphysical and Spiritual Association (SMSA)	1,500 trips/year
Sedona Private Guides	1,000 trips/year
Sedona Red Rock Tours	300 trips/year
Sedona Spiritual Journeys	200 trips/year
SpiritQuest Sedona Retreats	1,000 trips/year

I have decided to issue a fifth permit because there was a prominent divide between the top five applicants and the other four. Because the total use requested across these five applicants does not significantly exceed the offering, authorizing this additional permit is a reasonable choice as it ultimately results in better service to the public.

It is also part of my decision that the two companies that also are SMSA members – Sedona Private Guides and Sedona Red Rock Tours – may not operate under both permits. They shall operate under their own permits, but not SMSA's.

The total number of trips requested across all successful applicants was 4,205 – which is 200 trips over the prospectus offering. I have decided to award applicants the maximum allocations requested, with the following exceptions:

- Sedona Red Rock Tours was rounded down to 300, from 305.
- SMSA's maximum allocation was reduced 200 trips/year, which should not represent a significant impact to the group as it is mitigated by the removal of two companies from operating under SMSA's permit, as stated above.

The specific trails and locations requested must be analyzed for resource impacts. Once this analysis is complete, a final list of locations for each applicant will be approved and an outfitter/guide permit issued. Permits will be issued for an initial term of two years and subsequently extended for another eight, upon satisfactory performance.

Applicants have the right to appeal this decision under 36 CFR 251 *(Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System Lands).* Appellants must follow the following procedures, as described in 36 CFR 251:

- Appeals must be in writing and meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 251.90.
- Appeals must be post-marked or received with 45 days of the date on this letter. This date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal under this rule.
- Appeals must be sent to the Forest Supervisor, Coconino National Forest, 1824 S. Thompson St., Flagstaff, AZ 86001. Appeals must be labeled "Attn: Red Rock Metaphysical Prospectus Appeal."
- Appeals may be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
- A copy of the appeal must also be sent simultaneously to me, the Deciding Officer, at P.O. Box 20429, Sedona, AZ 86341. Please write "Attn: Red Rock Metaphysical Prospectus Appeal" on the envelope.

I appreciate the time and effort you put in to applying to this opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Rowe at 928-203-2915 or jrowe@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

HEATHER C. PROVENCIO
District Ranger