

Request for Information for Outfitting and Guiding Services on the Tonto National Forest

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the request for information process. The following are answers to some questions you may have as you review the opportunity.

Q. Why do I need a permit to operate on National Forest System lands?

A. A special use authorization (permit) is a legal document which allows for occupancy, use, rights or privileges on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The authorization is granted for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time. A permit is needed:

1. If you need to occupy, use or build on NFS lands for personal or business purposes, whether the duration is temporary or long term.
2. If there is a fee being charged or if income is derived from the use.
3. If an activity on NFS lands involves individuals or organizations with 75 or more participants/spectators.

Q. If my company has a current special use permit with the Forest Service, how will additional activities or service days be applied to my permit?

A. The RFI is a process to determine competitive interest in activities, it is not an opportunity to modify or add additional use to a permit at this time.

Q. If my company has a current special use permit with the Forest Service that includes authorization for the areas covered by this request for information, do I need to submit a request form to continue to be authorized for those areas?

A. Existing priority use permits remain valid, subject to permit terms and conditions. If a business wants additional activities or approved use over what is currently authorized in their permit, they should indicate their interest for additional use through the RFI request form.

Q. If I am a current permit holder do I need to provide detailed information in the application or can I assume the Forest Service knows my operating history and experience?

A. A detailed and complete request form needs to be submitted by all interested parties.

Q. Is there a maximum number of service days allowed per request?

A. No.

Q. What activities are being considered?

A. Please refer to the Request for Information (RFI) for details on activities that are being considered and exclusions.

Q. Can we meet with staff from the Forest Service prior to submitting our request form?

A. No, however you can submit any questions you may have on the RFI process to:
sm.fs.so_ogpermit@usda.gov

Q. What email address should my request form be submitted to?

A. sm.fs.so_ogpermit@usda.gov

Q. When should we hear back regarding this potential opportunity?

A. If the Tonto National Forest decides to move forward with a prospectus, interested parties will be notified of the opportunity to apply for additional use. We expect to determine if a prospectus will be issued by the end of 2025.