



Request for Information

Outfitting and Guiding opportunities on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



Figure 1. Photo collage of various scenic views on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Introduction

Providing recreation opportunities is a core Forest Service mission, supported by partnerships with volunteers and commercial providers who bring skills and resources that expand public opportunities. On the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWC), outfitting and guiding services help visitors access activities safely and connect with the forest's diverse landscapes.

The [EXPLORE Act](#), signed into law on January 4, 2025, modernizes outfitting and guiding on federal lands by streamlining permits, standardizing fees, affirms climbing as an appropriate use, and increasing flexibility for service days and activities. While implementation details are forthcoming, these changes aim to make permitting more efficient and responsive to demand.

In alignment with the goals of the EXPLORE Act and our commitment to modernizing special use management on the UWC, we are issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather input that will help shape future opportunities and ensure services align with visitor needs and resource protection and Forest Service objectives.

Please note: This RFI is for planning and market research purposes only and is not part of the temporary permit open season process. Participation in this RFI does not replace or guarantee approval during the Forest's established open seasons. All outfitting and guiding companies must still submit formal applications through the appropriate open season process to be considered for permits.

Purpose and Need

The Forest is collecting this information to;

- Identify exact proposed use data from current and future permittees.
- Determine demand and transition recurring temporary permits into priority use permits where appropriate.
 - If demand exceeds limits – the Forest may begin development of a prospectus.
- Ensure services align with visitor needs, resource protection, and Forest Service objectives.

Request

Respondents are encouraged to provide:

- Desired activity type(s)
- Desired operating areas (Ranger Districts, routes, sites, etc.)
 - For forest maps, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/uinta-wasatch-cache/maps-guides>.
- Season of use (months of operation)
- Maximum service days per activity
- Experience related to the desired activity

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

- Mountaineering*
- Angling
- Hiking/Backpacking
- Backcountry Skiing, Snowshoeing, or Snowboarding
- Snowmobiling
- Education/Training

**As mentioned earlier, specific guidance on climbing activities under the EXPLORE Act will be provided soon.*

Any special use permits issued pursuant to this request shall be subject to environmental review and public scoping in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Submission

The Forest Service asks interested parties to submit their information either hard copy or electronic file. The electronic file must be in a Microsoft Office program or a PDF. Responses must be submitted utilizing Attachment 1 - Interest Response. **Submissions must be received by close of business Friday, May 15, 2026.**

Questions

Interested respondents may submit questions to sm.fs.uwc_info@usda.gov. For general information on special use permits with the Forest Service, respondents should visit the USFS Special Uses website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/specialuses/>.

Restrictions/Limitations

While this opportunity is open to a variety of activities, certain limitations apply. At this time, the UWC will not be accepting any additional applications for vendor operations, including services such as sauna trailers or equipment rentals, located in Forest Service parking lots, day use areas, or other developed sites. Additionally, although this RFI invites interest in multiple areas across the forest, not all locations will have the capacity to support new permits.

Below is a list of District-specific activities and services not under consideration at this time.

- Evanston Mountainview Ranger District
 - The District welcomes RFI submissions for High Uintas Wilderness (HUW), including stock-use proposals. Please note that we are currently at capacity for HUW permits. Although new permits cannot be issued at this time, we are actively exploring options to expand future capacity. Receiving RFI responses will help us assess public demand and support potential changes
- Logan Ranger District
 - Cave tours at Logan Cave
 - Watercraft rentals
- Ogden Ranger District
 - Watercraft rentals
 - Commercial dog walking
- Pleasant Grove Ranger District
 - Use of SR92/Alpine Loop Road for “safari”-type vehicle tours
 - Motorized summer OHV/ATV/UTV/Motorcycle tours on trails
- Salt Lake Ranger District
 - Commercial dog walking
 - Hunting
- Spanish Fork Ranger District
 - Summer OHV

Other restrictions include but are not limited to gambling, adult entertainment, livestock use, federally illegal drugs, and associated activities. For a full understanding of restrictions please review [US Code of Federal Regulations](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=39e024582d845c5d11b8c3f2dc5c953d&node=pt36.2.251&rgn=div5%23sp36.2.251.b), US 36 § 251. (<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=39e024582d845c5d11b8c3f2dc5c953d&node=pt36.2.251&rgn=div5%23sp36.2.251.b>)

Outfitting and guiding permits include required fees. These may cover permit administration (including any cost-recovery activities), assigned-site fees when applicable, and an annual use fee based on either a percentage of gross revenue or a flat rate. For reference, the 2026 minimum annual fee on the UWC National Forest is \$130 per permit. Future adjustments may occur under recent legislation such as the EXPLORE Act.

Notice

This document is not intended as a formal offering for the award of any legal authorization. Participation in this request is voluntary, and the Forest may not provide a response to individuals who submit information through this RFI. Data collected in response to this request is for internal use only and may be used to gauge public and outfitter guide desires and needs to improve the Forest’s outfitter guide program. Respondents should not assume they will receive any preference in connection with future solicitations.

The Forest Service reserves the right to withdraw or discontinue the RFI in whole or in part and use the ideas or materials submitted in response to this RFI in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the Forest Service. The Forest Service likewise reserves the right, at any time, to change any components, concepts or approaches of the RFI. All costs associated with responding to the RFI are the sole responsibility of the respondent and any such costs shall not be reimbursed by the Forest Service.

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