

Tahoe National Forest

US Forest Service
631 Coyote St.
Nevada City, CA 95959



Temporary Outfitter & Guide / Recreation Event Permit Information

Thank you for your interest in providing **Outfitting and Guiding services / Recreation Events** on the Tahoe National Forest.

In order to help you submit a thorough application package, we have compiled a list of commonly asked questions and terms associated with Special Use Authorizations. Please familiarize yourself with these terms and reference this list with questions pertaining to your application form. For further assistance you may contact the ranger district offices.

What is a Special Use Permit?

A Temporary Special Use Permit or Authorization is a short-term activity that takes place on public land and provides a benefit to an individual, group or organization, rather than the public at large. With this in mind, land managers must evaluate the effects of the proposed activity, large scale uses or activities may also require public and collaborative stakeholder scoping. The Forest Service may permit a Special Use providing the activity will not cause derogation of the Forest's environmental or social resources or the primary objectives for which the Forest is managed. Potential resource damage, disruption of normal public use, and effects to previously approved permitted activities will all be evaluated in the analysis process.

Are there fee's associated with Special Use permits?

Yes, Land use fees are required for commercial uses. These fee's cover agency processing costs of special use applications and monitoring costs for special use authorizations. There are two ways to determine the fees:

1. Five percent of adjusted gross receipts for onetime events and 3 percent of adjusted gross receipts for multiple events under a single permit; or
2. Using the minimum fees for recreation events that have been established, but may vary, by National Forest.

There may be other costs for which you are responsible as part of your authorized activity. Liability insurance coverage and a performance bond to ensure protection of the environment and site cleanup may be required. Depending on the size and duration of your activity, costs associated with law enforcement, crowd control, safety issues, and sanitation may also be required.

Are Non-profit organizations, educational institutes and organizations exempt?

Based on the Federal Code of Regulations (36 CFR 251.51) If you charge a participation or membership fee for an activity which takes place on Federal lands, you are required to obtain a Special Use permit. The tax structure of your organization is not relevant to whether or not you need a permit. Some of the largest permitted outfitting and guiding organizations operating on National Forest lands are non-profit and educational organizations providing great public benefits. (*See Commercial Use Definition*)

Permit Terms

Commercial Use or Activity

- Any use or activity on national forest system lands (a) where an entry or participation fee is charged or (b) where the primary purpose is the sale of a good or service and, in either case, regardless of whether the use or activity is intended to produce a profit (36 CFR 251.51).

Outfitting

- Renting on or delivering to national forest system lands for pecuniary remuneration or other gain, any saddle or pack animal, vehicle, boat, camping gear, or similar supplies or equipment. The term "outfitter" includes the holder's employees and agents.

Guiding

- Providing services or assistance (such as supervision, protection, education, training, packing, touring, subsistence, transporting people, or interpretation) for pecuniary remuneration or other gain to individuals or groups on national forest system lands. The term "guide" includes the holder's employees and agents.

Concessionaire

- An individual, organization, company, corporation, or cooperating state or local agency holding a valid special use permit authorizing the provision of commercial recreation services, facilities, or activities on national forest system lands.

Holder

- An individual or entity that holds a special use permit authorizing outfitting or guiding activities on national forest system lands.

Temporary Use

- Short-term, non-renewable outfitting and guiding use that is authorized in increments of 50 service days, up to a maximum of 200 service days in a 180-day period. This type of permit does not commit the Forest Service to authorize future use beyond its 180 day maximum permit timeframe.

Priority Use

- Authorization for up to 10 years, based on the holder's past use and performance and applicable programmatic or project decisions to allocate use. Except as provided in 36 CFR Part 251, Subpart E, authorizations providing for priority use are subject to renewal (FSH 2709.11, sec. 41.53I).

Use Area

- Any geographical configuration, such as a ranger district, wilderness area, Wild and Scenic River, or national forest, that allows for efficient management of temporary and priority use pools.

Permitted Access Route

- Any road or trail that a holder is authorized to use under an outfitting and guiding permit or operating plan for purposes of pedestrian, stock or vehicular access.

Service Day

- An allocation of use constituting a day or any part of a day on national forest system lands for which an outfitter or guide provides services to a client. The total number of service days is calculated by multiplying each service day by the number of clients on the trip.