

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Grand Canyon National Park



Grand Canyon National Park Backcountry Management Plan

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Meeting Objectives

- Focus on Commercial Services
- Clarify proposed changes in Draft EIS
- Answer questions

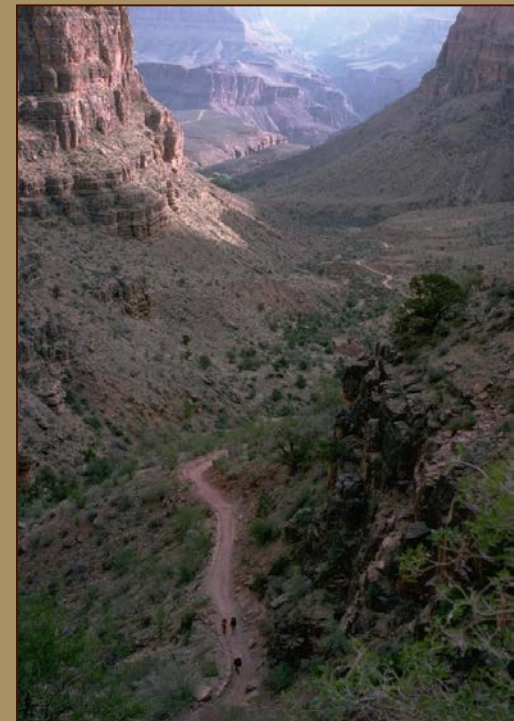


Ground Rules

- Stay focused on commercial services
- Show mutual respect
- Share time so that all can participate
- Comments on the Draft EIS should be submitted in writing (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grcabmp>)

What will be covered today?

- Necessary and appropriate commercial services
- Specifics of the preferred alternative
- Contracts vs. CUAs
- Contracting Process
- What else?



Necessary and Appropriate

- NPS Concession Management Improvement Act of 1998 provides for services that
 - *1) are necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the unit of the National Park System in which they are located*
 - *2) are consistent to the highest degree practicable with the preservation and conservation of the resources and values of the unit*
- Services determined necessary and appropriate are overnight backpacking, day hiking, bicycling, and vehicle tours
- Appendix G of Draft EIS describes the necessary and appropriate analysis

Preferred Alternative

- Authorize commercial backpacking through contracts with additional incidental CUA use
- Each CUA would be allowed up to 3 trips per year
- All CUAs combined would be allowed up to one permit per week and no more than 100 group-nights per year
- CUAs could charter additional trips with concession contract holders
- 100% backcountry permits available 1 year in advance for concession contract holders

Preferred Alternative continued

- Commercial Use
 - Bright Angel – 2 groups/night; 4 group-nights/month can be large
 - Indian Garden – 1.5 groups/night; 3 group-nights/month can be large
 - Cottonwood – 1.5 groups/night; 3 group-nights/month can be large
 - Threshold Zone – 2 groups/night; 3 group-nights/month can be large; 6 group-nights max in any Use Area per month
 - Primitive Zone – 1 group/night; 3 group-nights max in any Use Area per month; no large groups (applies to all users)
- No commercial overnight backpacking in Wild Zone
- Small Group 1-6, Large Group 7-11 (applies to all users)

Contracts vs. CUAs

- Timeframe – 10 years vs. 1-2 years
- A reasonable opportunity to make a profit
- Rates approved by NPS and must be comparable to similar services outside the park
- Franchise fees

Contract Process

- Prospectus Development
- Contract Selection and Award
 - Selection factors
- For more information go to <http://www.nps.gov/commercialservices/>

Next Steps / Timeline

- We want to hear from you!
- Public review and comment ends March 4, 2016
- Analyze and address public comments
- Prepare Final EIS and Record of Decision by end of 2016
- Implementation to begin in 2017
- Contracting process 2-3 years if change to contracts

A wide-angle, high-altitude photograph of the Grand Canyon National Park. The image captures the vast, layered rock formations of the canyon, with a winding river visible in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall scene is bathed in natural light, highlighting the textures and colors of the desert landscape.

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Question and Answer Session

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