



## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Zion National Park Springdale, UT 84767



November 23, 2022

Dear Commercial Use Authorization Applicants,

The Zion Commercial Services Office is excited to announce the 2023 Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) Application Package for Zion National Park (ZION). We appreciate your continued efforts to connect park visitors to the natural and cultural resources of ZION.

The park continues to address a wide range of issues associated with growing visitation and changing use patterns which include visitor health and safety concerns, diminished quality of visitor experiences, natural and cultural resource impacts, heavy strain on park facilities and park operations, as well as effects to and from adjacent communities. In doing so, an evaluation of commercial services in relation to ZION's existing park management plans and future management objectives (Per National Park Service Management Policies 2006 section 8.1.2) will continue to inform determinations of appropriate commercial use.

#### **Important information about CUA Program updates:**

##### **Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours:**

Condition # 3 – Unauthorized Use Defined:

Clarification in permit language on biking/hiking tours – The Commercially Guided Bicycle Tours authorization does not permit guided hiking on park trails. You may package, price, and sell multi-adventure tours, for multi-days, or even the same day, but biking and hiking must be separate activities. (i.e., riding a bike to the trailhead to lead a guided hike is not permitted).

Condition # 4 – Guide Requirements:

Commercial Use Form: (formerly known as Attachment "E") **New for 2023**. Guided Bicycle Tours will now be required to submit park use data as Interpretive Guided Hiking and Photography Workshops have been required to do for many years. The Park will collect bicycle use data to inform future determinations of bicycle (including e-bikes) use in the park. Guides are required to fill-out the online Commercial Use Form prior to entering the park.

##### **Guided Interpretive Hiking Tours (Level II):**

Condition # 5 - Speed Limits, parking, and vehicle requirements:

**Parking:** The Human History Museum comfort station and bus parking area are now open for Level II CUA holders; the established parking area at the RV Oversize lot near the Zion Canyon Visitor Center will also remain available.

## Guided Interpretive Hiking Level III and Photography/Painting Workshops

Condition # 2 – Authorized Area: Angels Landing Pilot

The Angels Landing pilot permit program for commercial users will transition to a first-come first-served permit system starting February 01, 2023. From January 1 through January 31, 2023, CUA holders will continue using the 2022 permit system processes by submitting itineraries for hiking dates in January 2023 only. Starting Feb. 1, 2023, the new first-come first-served permit system will be activated and utilized for obtaining Angels Landing permits. Each CUA holder will be required to have a commercial account in Recreation.gov to obtain permits. Commercial users with an existing Recreation.gov account may utilize their current account (see [FAQs](#)).

Starting February 1, 2023, commercial activities to Angels Landing will be limited to Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday ONLY. Permits will be issued through recreation.gov, with the CUA holder paying the \$6.00 reservation permit application fee (up to 6 permits) per reservation and \$3.00 per-person use fee.

### High Season

Twenty four (24) permits per day will be available on a first come, first serve basis during high season (March through November). Maximum group size is limited to 6 guests plus one guide. Two groups per CUA holder per day is permissible in high season. Each group must be accompanied by a guide and each group must be separated on the trail by a minimum of 15 minutes.

### Low Season

Eight (8) permits per day will be available on a first come, first serve basis during low season (December through February). Maximum group size is limited to 6 guests plus one guide and is limited to one (1) group per CUA holder per day during low season.

A CUA holder may guide individuals or groups (up to 6 people) that have obtained public lottery permits for Angels Landing **and have independently approached a guiding service**. Guides or CUA holders may not enter the public lottery on behalf of commercial clients. Entering the public lottery or advising and/or soliciting clients to enter the public lottery for commercially guided services is a violation of this CUA.

[FAQs](#), and more information are available by visiting the Zion National Park Commercial Use Authorization webpage: [Commercial Use Authorization - Zion National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

This is a pilot program; it is expected that changes will be ongoing as we continue to monitor and adapt the system in the second year of this program. Conditions are subject to change during the 2023 operating year. Notice of change will be given in writing.

### **2023 CUA Application Package:**

ZION is now accepting applications for 2023 CUAs. Important information on the 2023 application process can be found on the Zion commercial use authorization website at: [Commercial Use Authorization - Zion National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

For new applicants, welcome and thank you for joining in our efforts to provide meaningful visitor experiences in Zion National Park. For those of you returning, welcome back and thank you for your continued contributions to that effort. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Larry Walter, Concessions Management Specialist at (435) 772-0210 or at [zion\\_commercialservices@nps.gov](mailto:zion_commercialservices@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Bradybaugh  
Superintendent