



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

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### **National Park Service announces cancellation of the solicitation of proposals for gift shop services on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** - Intermountain Regional Director Michael Snyder today announced the cancellation of the solicitation that invited proposals for a concession contract to provide gift shop services, currently provided by Verkamp's, Inc., on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. This prospectus was issued on July 23, 2007 and proposals were due on October 22, 2007.

This prospectus was issued under the authority of the National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998, 16 U.S.C. §5951-5966, 112 Stat. 3503, Public Law 105-391, as implemented by Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51. These regulations provide for the cancellation of a solicitation for a concession contract if the National Park Service (NPS) finds it to be in the public interest.

The incumbent concessioner, Verkamp's, Inc., did not submit a proposal for this business opportunity. Verkamp's, Inc. has agreed to accept payment from the NPS to eliminate the remaining possessory interest in their buildings under the Contract. Possessory interest is the compensable value the concessioner has in real property improvements within Grand Canyon National Park. In light of this information, the NPS has decided to cancel this solicitation.

Using the Park's General Management Plan and other policies, the NPS will revisit whether to continue having a concessioner operate this retail location on the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park. The NPS is considering a variety of uses for the facility at this point in time, focusing on the needs of visitors to that area of the park. Verkamp's, Inc. will continue to operate through September of 2008.

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Verkamp's, Inc. has been a long-time concessioner on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Its founder started selling souvenirs in a tent on the rim of the Canyon in 1905. The store, which was constructed in 1906, has been operated by three generations of Verkamp family members who have provided a wide range of gift items to a century's worth of visitors to the Grand Canyon. Verkamp's is especially respected for its expertise in and commitment to the sale of Native American handcrafts.

Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Steve Martin said:

“The Verkamp family’s contribution to Grand Canyon National Park cannot be overstated. They have provided a service to millions of Park visitors and residents over the last 102 years through their retail operation. The family has worked hard to build and maintain an ongoing relationship with Native American artists throughout the region, whose high quality handcrafts have been provided with an excellent sales venue. Family members were always considered more than just business people - they have been part of the fabric that has weaved this community together to help make this wonderful place what it is today. We will miss their presence in the Park, but will always remember their professionalism and the service they provided to Park visitors and the community.”

For additional information, please contact Grand Canyon National Park Chief of Concessions Rebecca Rhea at 928-638-7709.

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