



## **Special Park Conditions**

### **Activity: Wildlife Viewing – Vehicle Tours**

#### **A. Authorized Services**

1. The commercial activity authorized by this permit is Interpretive and Interactive Vehicle Tours. Activities allowed under the Interpretive and Interactive vehicle tour include tours along park roadways, short guided interpretive walks limited to half mile from trailheads and overlooks, roadside wildlife viewing, picture taking (photo tours), and historical tours.
2. Participants must remain on established trails and walkways and must use only designated routes within a half mile of the trailheads, especially in tundra areas to minimize impacts to the fragile tundra environment.
3. Participants, driver, and guide will be in a single vehicle that is owned or leased by the permit holder and clearly labeled with company name on the vehicle. Multi-vehicle caravans or personal vehicles are not authorized.
4. Trailhead drop-off services are not authorized under this permit.

#### **B. Tour Leader Certification**

1. Driver must possess proper state driver's license in accordance with size of vehicle and number of passengers.
2. Tour leaders must:
  - a. Be familiar with the park, know and obey park regulations and area closures, and assure compliance with regulations and area closures from participants.
  - b. Understand the hazards involved and prepare participants for conditions and situations which may be encountered.
  - c. Assure that all members of the group are properly clothed and equipped for the trip.
3. A written list of leaders, with description of basic qualifications, must be provided to the park prior to beginning operations. Copies of all certifications must be on file at the base of operations and may be requested by the Superintendent at any time.
4. Be currently certified in standard first aid and CPR and carry a basic first aid kit.
5. Guides are required to take the Online Awareness course on Leave No Trace. It is free. [Leave No Trace: Take Action to Protect the Outdoors - Overview \(Int.org\)](#)

#### **C. Conduct of Tour**

1. Maximum Vehicle capacity is 15 passengers.
2. Vehicle will not be permitted to idle for long periods of time. Drivers must turn off engines when making stops.
3. Drivers shall follow all traffic control device while in the park.
4. All vehicles shall have proper and current vehicle registration, vehicle licensing, and vehicle insurance.
5. Vehicle shall be maintained so that the vehicles are safe and comply with the law.
6. Vehicle will not be permitted to stop or park upon a road except in the event of an accident.
7. Vehicle shall be parked in a designated pull-off or parking area.
8. Operating a vehicle at a speed more than the speed limit is prohibited.
9. Each operator and passenger occupying any seating position of a motor vehicle in a park area must have the safety belt or child restraint system properly always fastened when the vehicle is in motion.
10. All groups must honor the rights of others and always conduct themselves in a professional manner.
11. A Rocky Mountain National Park Ranger will be permitted to accompany the tour at least once per season to evaluate the interpretive program.
12. The tour leader is responsible for adhering to Leave No Trace practices at all times while in the park.
13. All groups must have a ratio of qualified leaders to participants sufficient to permit a safe and meaningful experience. Total group size should be limited to 15 persons.

14. Photographic activities authorized in this permit will be conducted with the least possible impact to wildlife. Participants will not be permitted to employ techniques of calling, baiting, flushing or any other means of artificially attracting wildlife. No harassment of wildlife will be permitted. Flash photography of wildlife is not permitted.
15. Recommended distances for wildlife photography and viewing: Small groups (1-3 individuals) no closer than 25 yards and for larger groups (4 or more individuals) need to increase that distance. These distances may be too close if wildlife becomes aware that your group is in their comfort zone such as moving away, changing their behavior, or focusing all their attention on you.

#### **D. General Provisions for All Permits**

##### **1. Guide Passes and Entrance Fees for Clients**

- a. Guide Passes are to be used solely by the Permittee and designated employees to conduct official business under a Commercial Use Authorization/Special Use Permit or Concessions Contract and are not for personal use. **Guides must carry this pass at all times while in the park.**
  - b. Guide Passes must be kept with guides at all times in the park, to be presented as requested to park staff to confirm appropriate use and entry to the park. Permittee is responsible for ensuring that its guides comply with this requirement. ID is required.
  - c. Guides are required to present the guide card at the entrance stations along with their driver's license when entering the park to show that they are on official business. The guides are required to inform the entrance station staff on clients entering for the trips for example which vehicle, number of clients, etc.
  - d. Clients of the Permittee are not admitted free entrance to the park. The clients' options are:
    - i. Buy an entrance pass – pay when they enter with the Permittee
    - ii. Have a Current Entrance Receipt
    - iii. Have a Current Pass (Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass, Interagency Annual Pass, Senior, or Access Pass) (pass is valid & in the name of the client)
2. CUA Permit Holders and their clients are not authorized to use the fast pass lane for any commercial activities in the park. All CUA Permit Holders (i.e. guides) and clients must enter via a staffed entrance kiosk. Use of the fast pass lane by a CUA Permit Holder may result in revocation of their CUA permit.
  3. Frontcountry camping is available on a first-come, first-serve basis at Longs Peak Campground and by advanced reservation at Moraine Park, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen, and Timber Creek Campgrounds. Normal camping fees and regulations, including length of stay, will apply to the Permittee and its participants.
  4. Prior to initiating each trip, guides are encouraged to contact Park Headquarters (970) 586-1206 for information on current conditions.
  5. Proof of adequate general liability and automobile insurance coverage must be provided to the park prior to operating under this permit.
    - a. Commercial General Comprehensive Liability coverage is required in the amount of \$500,000 per person per accident.
    - b. Commercial Vehicle Insurance coverage is required for all owned, non-owned, and hired vehicles used by the Permittee who transport clients.
    - c. Minimum limits for Commercial Vehicle Insurance are 15 or fewer passengers, \$1,500,000 and 16 or more passengers, \$5,000,000. Rocky Mountain National Park must be listed as additional insurer.
  6. All incidents involving overdue parties or accidents involving property damage or personal injury must be reported to park dispatch at (970) 586-1203 within 24 hours of incident and to the Commercial Services Office.
  7. All advertisements/brochures which make reference to Rocky Mountain National Park must be approved by the Superintendent prior to publication, distribution, or broadcasting. All such publications must include a statement that the operator is authorized by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, to conduct services in Rocky Mountain National Park.
  8. Prior to engaging in any commercial filming or still photography using model(s) (posed or on camera talent), set(s), or prop(s) that are not a part of the location's natural or cultural resources or administrative

facilities consultation with the Commercial Services Office is required. This activity may be subject to a separate permit.

9. Violation of park regulations or the terms of this permit may result in the suspension of privileges granted by this permit and could lead to appropriate fines or citations, as well as non-renewal.