

Special Use Permit Information

Outfitter and Guide Businesses or Organized Tours

Want to Hire a Professional Outfitter and Guide?

A number of companies have been authorized by the USDA Forest Service to provide outfitter and guide services to the public on National Forest system lands along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Call the Ranger Station nearest to [where you wish to explore](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/>) to find out which companies to contact.

Want to be an Outfitter and Guide on the Lewis and Clark Trail?

A special use permit is required to conduct a commercial business or lead an institutional group on National Forest System lands and/or to use Forest Service facilities. What kind of permit; where to obtain it, and how to apply varies by trail location, by State, and type of service offered.

- ***Van and Bus Tour Short Stop Special Use Permit***

The entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail covers many linear miles and traverses numerous National Forests. See [where the trail crosses National Forest lands](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/>) and what facilities are available for your use.

If you operate a tour business that takes customers on bus or van tours along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail route **AND** you use National Forest facilities, you may need a “short stop” special use permit.

For example:

You operate a bus company that's driving the Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis, Missouri, to Ft. Clatsop, Oregon. When you reach Montana, your tour company proceeds along the 1805 route to [Lemhi Pass](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lemhi.html) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lemhi.html>) and stops to have a one-hour lunch break using the [Sacajawea Memorial Picnic Area](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lemhi.html) (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lemhi.html>, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest), continues on U.S. Highway 12 into Idaho to [Lolo Pass Visitor Center](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lolo_visitor.html) (http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lolo_visitor.html, Clearwater National Forest) stops for a one-hour tour of the Visitor Center, proceeds on, stopping at the [DeVoto Grove](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lolo_hwy12.html) (http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/lolo_hwy12.html) and then takes a walk up the Wendover Ridge Trail, you normally would need a special use permit from three Forest Service offices.

To reduce the number of offices you would need to contact, the Northern Region of the Forest Service has established a “one stop shop” permit process. If you think you may need a “short stop” special use permit from the Forest Service, contact the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center at 406-727-8733.

- ***Commercial Outfitter and Guide Temporary Special Use Permit***

If you are a commercial guide or operate a tour business that provides guided trips on portions of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail off the major highways or county roads and on National Forest system lands, you need a temporary special use permit. In Idaho, you may also need a license from the Idaho State Licensing Board. Visit www.ioga.org for more information on outfitting in Idaho.

Several companies and guides currently under special use permit offer various services for trail visitors. There may not be a demonstrated need or demand for additional service providers. Therefore, you may or may not be issued a permit. [Contact the local Forest Office \(http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/\)](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lewisclark/lcic/grasslands/) where you wish to conduct tours to see if permits are available.

- ***Non-Commercial Outfitter and Guide Temporary Special Use Permit***
If you are a school, university, church, or non-profit organization and you wish to lead tours on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail on National Forest lands, you may need a special use permit. If you think you may need a “short stop” special use permit from the Forest Service, contact the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center at 406-727-8733.