

Ranger Districts: Glacier Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest
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Project Name: Winter Outfitter/guide renewals
Implementation date: January 1, 2009
Comments requested by: December 17, 2008
Project Maps: Attached

Comments are requested on two permit renewals.

Project Description Narrative:

Glacier City Snowmobile Tours has applied for **10 -year** permit for snowmachine tours. Their current 5-year permit includes 800 service days for snowmobile tours.

Use Areas	Area Description	Ranger District(s)	Service Days
Turnagain Pass/ Granite Creek/Johnson Pass	Turnagain Pass (west side of the Seward Highway in the motorized area), Granite Creek Trail (route between Granite Creek Rec. Area & Johnson Pass north Trail Head), Johnson Pass Trail	Glacier & Seward	400 priority service days
Twentymile River/ Placer River drainages/Spencer Glacier	Twentymile River & Placer River drainage including Spencer Glacier	Glacier	400 priority service days

Alaska Backcountry Access has applied for a **10-year** permit for various outfitter/guided activities. Their current 1-year permit includes 500 service days. Requested use as follows:

Location	Activity	Service Days	Season of use
Crow Pass Trail	Hiking	20	Summer
Portage Valley: • Byron Glacier Trail • Trail of Blue Ice • Williwaw Nature Trail • Moraine Nature Trail • Portage Pass	Hiking, ski touring, & snowshoeing	100	Year-round
Portage Creek	Packrafting, kayaking, rafting	40	Summer
Twentymile River Drainage	Hiking, ski touring, & snowshoeing	20	Winter
Placer/Skookum Valleys	Hiking, ski touring, & snowshoeing	10	Winter
Turnagain Pass	Hiking, ski touring, & snowshoeing	40	Winter

Commercial bus and van tours at Begich, Boggs Visitor Center and day use sites in Portage Valley, Chugach National Forest. Use of National Forest campgrounds is not authorized by this permit. Charges for this use shall be determined by the Regional Forester, and made or readjusted whenever necessary to place the charges on a basis commensurate with the fair market value of the authorized use. The holder of this permit shall submit an annual final use statement as requested by the authorized officer.

Conducting commercial outfitted/guided kayak supported hiking and camping in western Prince William Sound

Analysis Area Name (number)	Service days
West Port Wells (1)	10
Harriman Fjord/Barry Arm (2)	60
College Fjord (3)	10 (day use)
Ester Island Passage (4)	10
Culross Island Group (9)	10 (day use)
Blackstone Bay (11)	22 core, 8 shoulder**

**Seasonal restrictions apply to use in Blackstone Bay (Analysis Area 11). The core season is June 15 thru August 15. The shoulder season is from May thru June 14, and August 16 thru the end of the summer.

Conducting commercial outfitting/guiding activities on the Seward Ranger District in the form of:

Location	Activity	Service Days	Season of use
Palmer Creek Road*	Day use - mountain biking, and hiking	60	Summer
Johnson Pass	Day use & camping - mountain biking, pack rafting, and hiking	30 (day) 10 (camp)	Summer
Johnson Pass & Center Creek	Day use - ski touring, snowshoeing and hiking	20	Winter
Resurrection Pass	Day use - ski touring, snowshoeing, and hiking	20	Winter

* Mountain biking is permitted for Palmer Creek Road (maintained) and the (unmaintained) road that ends at Swetmann Camp/ Mine area. Mountain biking is not allowed on the alpine hiking trail at the end of the road near Swetmann Camp/Mine area. Also, guides should be aware there are several abandoned mines in the area that can be very dangerous- and should avoid all mine entrances and mine areas.

Concerns/comments are requested by 12/17/2008.