

Grand Canyon National Park Backcountry Access

- 1) Day hiking and overnight backpacking activities in the proposed wilderness backcountry areas of Grand Canyon National Park should remain concession free. Any consideration of concessions activity must follow National Environmental Protection Act policy, with open public scoping and the exploration of a range of alternatives, including a no change alternative. Additionally, GCNP must conduct an open public needs assessment to establish a verifiable and justifiable need for such services, and define the boundaries of such services if it can indeed be established that such services are appropriate in the wilderness backcountry. If concessions services are defined under NEPA as necessary and appropriate, such services will not be granted a fixed allocation of backcountry use.
- 2) Permit distribution must be a model for fair and equitable access to the proposed wilderness backcountry areas of Grand Canyon National Park. Permits must be distributed on a first come first serve basis, with no preference given to any pre-release waiting list. GCNP backcountry permits should offer a “neutral” first day, with all first day applications pooled and permits distributed at random from this pool
- 3) Incidental Business permits providing guided overnight backpacking services may provide those services to individuals who have received a permit to backpack in the park. IBP’s may not obtain permits for clients, either identified or as yet to be identified. IBP’s may not break permits into separate events. IBP’s may not seek out additional participants to join a permit.
- 4) Grand Canyon Field Institute overnight backpacking activities in the proposed wilderness backcountry areas of Grand Canyon National Park shall be capped at the level of activity in the 2001 season.