



DEVELOPMENT TITLE: Summit Mountain Guides, Cirque of the Unclimbables Trip Proposal

PROPONENT:

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PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATE: 15 days between July 20-Aug 5, 2018; weather dependent

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

Summit Mountain Guides (SMG) is proposing a remote wilderness experience and adventure tourism guided trip in Nahʔą Dehé (Nahanni) National Park Reserve (NNPR), specifically at the Cirque of the Unclimbables (see site maps below). The trip will include climbing the Lotus Flower Tower and is proposed for a maximum 15 day period from July 20-Aug 5, 2018; exact timing of the trip will depend on weather. Maximum group size will be 4 people: 2 guides and 2 clients.

SMG will hire a float plane or helicopter to deposit/pick up the group at Glacier Lake or Fairy Meadows, using a charter company that has been issued a NNPR business licence. If commencing at Glacier Lake, the group will hike to Fairy Meadows to camp, a distance of approximately 5 km, one way. From Fairy Meadows, they will use the standard approach and descent routes for the Lotus Flower Tower formation and may return to Glacier Lake for their pick-up. Camping may take place at the established campsite at Glacier Lake (facilities include a shelter/cabin, bear-proof food lockers, and a privy) and will take place at Fairy Meadows (facilities include a 6-barrel outhouse and established informal campsites under the overhangs of erratics and in the meadows).

The Cirque of the Unclimbables is a world-class big-wall climbing area and represents a "pristine" backcountry experience. The natural environment is representative of high-altitude northern regions with thin soil and sensitive high alpine/tundra vegetation. No species at risk are known to use the project area. There is a buried precontact archaeological site at the Cirque, located by the barrel outhouse, and three historic sites have been identified along the north shore of Glacier Lake.

The group will follow a leave-no-trace camping/wilderness use ethic and will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Parks Canada Best Management Practice for Commercially Guided Eco-tourism Activities in Nahanni and Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserves of Canada*. The requested visitation by SMG is included in the current capacity allotment of no more than 12 campers per night (based on capacity of 3 campsites, with 4 people per site) at the Cirque and



42 total (including campers) day visitors x 77 days in the season for an annual total potential of 3234 visitor days.

Site Maps

