

National Park Service Annual Financial Report (AFR) Short Form User's Guide

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION		2
	1.1 1.2	TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	2 2
2	A	FR WEB SUBMISSION ACCOUNT	3
	2.1 2.2	REQUEST AN ACCOUNT ONLINE	3 5
3	D	OWNLOADING THE AFR USER GUIDE AND FORMS	6
4 Sl		ACRO SETTINGS MUST BE CHANGED BEFORE STARTING TO COMPLETE THE NPS AFR FORM	7
5	W	VORKING ON THE AFR IN MICROSOFT EXCEL – GENERAL INFORMATION	10
	5.1 5.2	CELL FORMAT GUIDANCE	
6	C	OMPLETING THE NPS AFR SHORT FORM	12
	6.1 6.2 6.3	EXPLAINING PRORATION ON CONCESSIONER INFO PAGE	15
7	S	UBMITTING THE NPS AFR SHORT FORM	17
	7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5	CREATING AND SAVING PREPARED DATA FILE. PRINTING HARD COPIES OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	18 19 20
8	W	VRAP I'P	22

1 Introduction

This manual will guide you through the process of completing the Annual Financial Report (AFR) Short Form for the National Park Service (NPS). You are encouraged to read through this Guide before you start to complete your electronic AFR. The Guide provides general information on correctly completing the form, as well as guidance for changing the security level setting in your Excel program, so that the macros in the files will work.

NPS Concession Program (NPSCP) has used a **Microsoft Windows**[®] based application, **Microsoft Excel**[®] (Excel), to develop the electronic AFR Forms. This document assumes you are familiar with basic uses of Microsoft Windows. If you are not, please consult an individual within your organization or park that is familiar with Microsoft Windows. The *AFR Excel Guide*, available on the AFR website, is an additional resource available for those who are unfamiliar with Excel

NPSCP has designed the AFR Forms in Excel so that concessioners can easily enter and submit financial reporting data to the National Park Service. If you are familiar with Excel, you will find that the application is much more than an ordinary spreadsheet; it is highly automated and controlled, facilitating efficient and accurate data entry and submission. Once you have entered your financial reporting data, you will be able to electronically save and submit the AFR data to NPS from within the Excel application. You will also be able to print paper copies of the AFR spreadsheet to save for your own records.

There is no need for you to complete the AFR Short Form in one sitting. Excel allows you to save your work in progress and pick it up again at any time.

1.1 Technical Requirements

To complete the AFR Short Form you will need a licensed copy of **Microsoft Excel**® 2000 or later. Your computer will also need to meet the following minimum requirements in order to support Excel:

Component	Requirement
Computer & processor	Intel Pentium 233-MHz or faster processor
Memory	128 megabytes (MB) of RAM
Hard disk	150 MB of available hard-disk space
Screen Resolution	800×600 pixels or higher
Operating System	Microsoft Windows® 2000 with Service Pack 3, Windows XP or later
Internet Connection	Internet functionality requires dial-up or broadband Internet access

The electronic AFR process is not compatible with Mac computers. If you have a Mac computer, please contact your park for permission to file a paper copy of the AFR and for a copy of the AFR form.

1.2 Questions and Support

If you have questions related to completing the AFR form or on the use of the electronic version, please do not hesitate to contact the park individual responsible for concession matters. The *AFR Excel Guide*, "10 easy steps to completing and AFR" and "Frequently Asked Questions" documents on the AFR website, www.nps.gov/commercialservices/tools_afr.htm, can answer many common questions. You can also email questions to afr_submission@nps.gov, which will put you in touch with someone from the Washington office.

2 AFR Web Submission Account

It is necessary to create an account online to submit your completed AFR forms. It is recommended you request your account before you complete your AFR forms. After you submit your request for an account online, NPSCP personnel will have to activate your account; the process of activating your account may take several days.

Before you can request an account online, you will need to know your individual ConcID (Concessioner Identification). Every concession operation has its own unique ConcID that is used to track their concession information in the National Park Service System, it is actually part of your contract or permit number.

- If you have a <u>concession contract</u>, look at the cover sheet to find your contract number; it should look similar to this example: CC-ACAD019-06. The middle 7 characters are your ConcID; in this example the ConcID would be ACAD019.
- If you have a <u>concession permit</u>, your permit number should be in the upper left hand corner of your permit and should look like the example given above: CP-ACAD019-06. Your ConcID would also be the middle 7 characters of your permit number: ACAD019.

If you have a problem identifying your ConcID, please contact your park, they will be able to help you.

2.1 Request an account online

Go to the NPS Concession AFR webpage at http://www.nps.gov/commercialservices/tools_afr.htm. Once the website opens, click "Request an Account".



(Alternately, you can go to http://home.nps.gov/afr/ and click "Request an Account"; both websites will take you to the same place.)

Once the "Request an Account" page opens, you need to provide some information. First, make sure "Concession" is selected for User Type. In the top field type your ConcID (after typing your ConcID, click to add the ConcID), then provide the remaining information: Company Name, First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Phone Number, Password (password should have at least 6 characters), then click "Submit".

Note: If you are responsible for submitting AFRs for multiple ConcIDs, enter each additional ConcID in the first field one at a time, click the add button after each ConcID, when all of the ConcIDs have been added, then complete the rest of the information and click "Submit".

REPORTING (AFR) Request An Account Please complete the following form to request an account. All fie afr_submission@nps.gov. ○ Concession ○ Park/Region User Type 3 Please enter a ConcID in the field ConcID above. Press the Add button to add another ConcID. acad 4 ACAD001 - Acadia Corporation ACAD014 - Carriages In The Park, Inc. ConcID ACAD010 - National Park Tours & Transportation, Inc. ACAD011 - Oli's Trolley **Request An Account** Please complete the following form to request an account. All fie afr_submission@nps.gov. Concession O Park/Region User Type 3 ACAD001 Acadia Corporation 👗 ConcID Acadia Corporation Company Name Joe First Name Smith Last Name ioe@acadia.com Email Address 123-444-5678 Phone Number Password •••••• Confirm Password

Write down your password and keep in a safe place; you will need to know it for all future submittals.

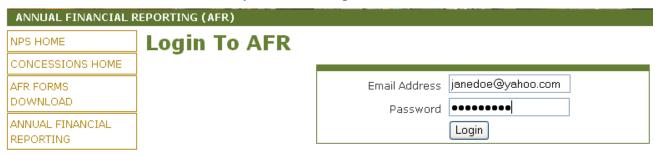
If your ConcID is not on the list, or has the wrong company name, please email afr submission@nps.gov for assistance.

Once the System Admin (NPSCP Personnel) activates your account, the system will automatically send an email to the email address listed on the account, verifying that your account has been activated. If you do not receive an email (check your spam box first), please send an email to afr submission@nps.gov. You will not be able to submit your AFR Form until your account is activated.

Submit

2.2 Changing Account Information

Once an AFR account has been created, it remains in the system; you can use the same account year after year. However, sometimes it may be necessary to update an account; for example if a new person becomes responsible for submitting the AFR or if your phone number changes. First, login to the AFR website (http://home.nps.gov/afr/) with your email and password.



Then click "User Profile" on the left side of the menu. Enter your new information in the boxes, then click "Submit" to complete the update.



If you no longer have the password for your AFR account, send an email to afr_submission@nps.gov. You will receive an email back with a temporary password. Login with your email and the temporary password, then proceed with the above steps to change your password and update your information.

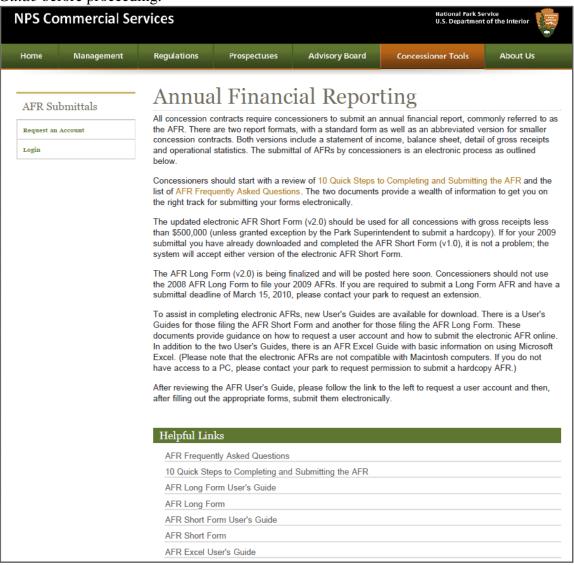
3 Downloading the AFR User Guide and Forms

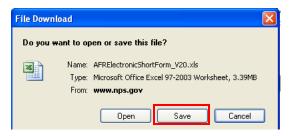
You can download the following on http://www.nps.gov/commercialservices/tools_afr.htm:

- AFR Electronic Long Form
- AFR Electronic Short Form
- Supplemental Schedules
- AFR User's Guides
- AFR Excel Guide
- Frequently Asked Questions
- 10 Quick Steps to Completing and Submitting the Electronic AFR

Click on the green file name to download the file; a box will open asking if you want to save or open the file, choose save. Do not choose "open" or the AFR forms will not work correctly.

Save the files you need to a folder where you can easily access them. If you are unfamiliar with how to download and save documents from the website using Microsoft Excel, please refer to the *AFR Excel Guide* before proceeding.





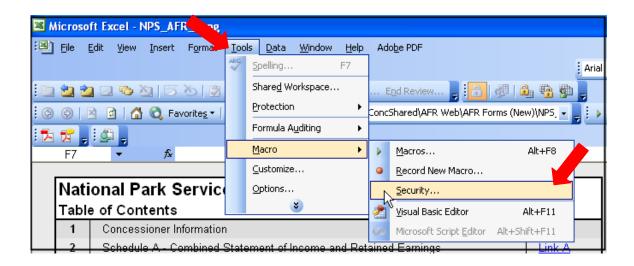
4 Macro Settings MUST BE CHANGED Before Starting to Complete the NPS AFR Short Form

If you are unfamiliar with the basic uses of Excel, you are encouraged to review the *AFR Excel Guide* before proceeding with this section.

After you have downloaded and saved the AFR form to your computer and are ready to start filling in your AFR, **BEFORE** you open the NPS AFR Short Form, you need to change the Excel security settings first to enable the macros built in to the form.

How to Change Excel Security Settings for <u>Excel 2003</u>:

To change the security settings, you need to open Excel and select "**Tools**" from the menu, select "**Macro**" then "**Security**" from the dropdown menu.



Note the level the macros are set now so you can return your setting to the original position after completing your AFR. Then, change the Security Settings to "Low" and click "OK".

When you open the NPS AFR Short Form a Security Box may appear warning you that 'Macros may contain viruses.' However, the macros contained within the NPS AFR Short and Long Forms enhance the worksheets and do <u>not</u> contain viruses – this is simply a standard warning issued by Microsoft Excel for any file that contains advanced coding. To proceed, select the 'Enable Macros' button. Once macros have been enabled, the worksheet will continue to open.

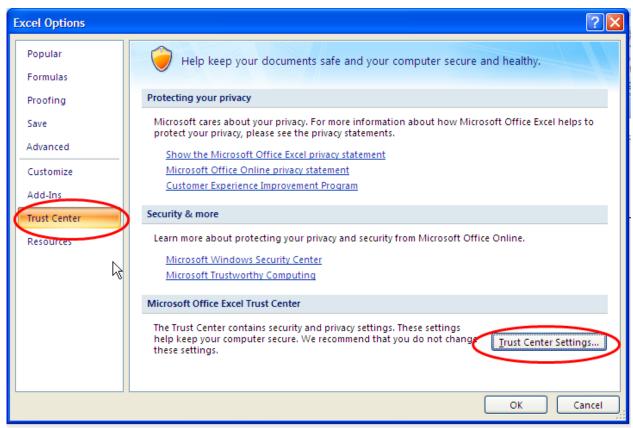
How to Change Excel Security Settings for Excel 2007:

If you are using Microsoft Excel 2007, there are two settings that must be changed in order for the electronic AFR to work; Macro settings and ActiveX settings.

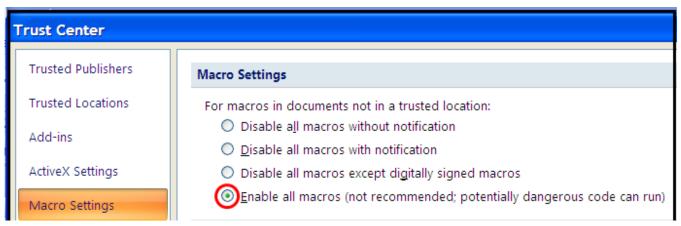
First, click the Microsoft Office Button , and then click Excel Options.



Then, click Trust Center, click Trust Center Settings, and then click Macro Settings.



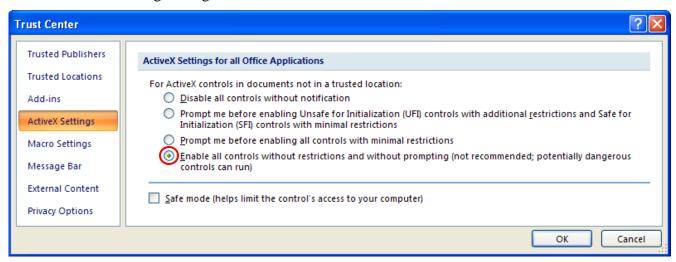
Click the option "**Enable all macros**;" selecting this option to allow all macros to run. Even though the message for this option states that it is not recommended, and that potentially dangerous code can run, this option <u>must</u> be selected for the electronic AFR process to work. After you finish working on your AFR, you can return your macro settings to their original setting to keep your computer protected.



Then click ActiveX Settings.

Select Enable all controls without restrictions and without prompting (not recommended, potentially dangerous controls can run) to enable all ActiveX controls in documents with minimal restrictions. Again, this option <u>must</u> be selected for the electronic AFR process to work. You may return the ActiveX settings to their original position after you complete the AFR.

Click on OK and OK again to get back to the Excel screen.



You are now ready to open the NPS AFR Short Form and begin filling it out.

5 Working on the AFR in Microsoft Excel – General Information

5.1 Cell Format Guidance

Cells that are designed to accept dollar amounts only allow whole dollar amounts. When entering your data, please round cents to the nearest dollar.

Cells that are designed to accept percentages only allow valid percentages. Please enter a percentage between 0 - 100. You do not need to type the '%' symbol as it will already be provided within the cell.

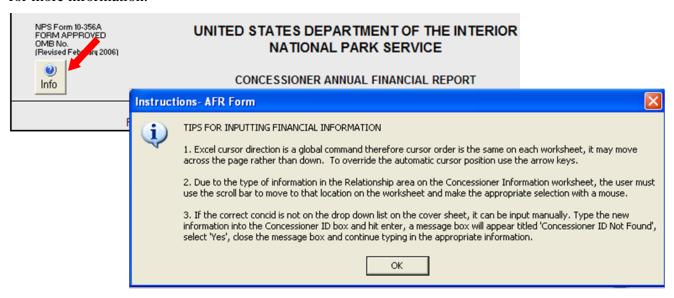
You should format dates as mm/dd/yyyy in any cells that require the entry of a calendar date. Where mm = month, dd = day and yyyy = four digit calendar year.

Some cells do not require data entry; they contain formulas that calculate a value based on data you entered into prior cells. These cells are shaded either tan or light grey. You *cannot* alter these cells.

If you are unfamiliar with Excel and need more guidance on cell formatting, see the *AFR Excel Guide*, page 17.

5.2 Info Button

You will notice that some of the AFR schedules include an "Info" button located in the top left corner of the page. When you click on this button it will provide additional information and guidance for completing the schedule. Clicking the Info button is an easy way to check if your macros are set correctly; if they are not, nothing will pop up when you click this button. Refer to the previous section for more information.



POP-Up Boxes

Most fields within the AFR Short Form include pop-up boxes that will appear once you have selected a cell. These pop-up boxes offer helpful instructions for completing the data entry associated with the cell.

Occasionally the pop-up boxes will cover the cell into which you are trying to

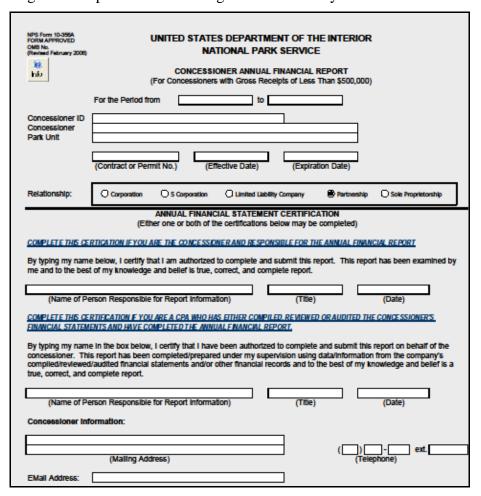
Line 1. Lodging sales to visitors for the rental of hotel and motel type accommodations. enter information. If this happens, simply click on the box and drag it to another spot on the screen. Once you have moved the box, it will remain in the same spot until you move to the next schedule.

6 Completing the NPS AFR Short Form

Once you have opened the 'Short Form', you will see different tabs near the bottom of the window. Each tab represents a separate Schedule on the Short Form. Before starting to fill out the AFR form, ensure that the 'Concessioner Info' tab is selected. If it is not selected, click on the tab titled 'Concessioner Info' at the bottom of the screen



Begin to complete the form using the mouse or keyboard to select the desired cell.



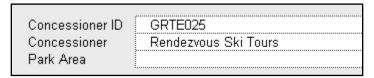
The 'Concessioner Info' sheet is unique because it includes a drop down box that contains Concessioner IDs. A small arrow box will appear when you select the 'Concessioner ID' cell. Click on the arrow and a drop down menu will appear.

	For the Period from 01/01/200)2 to 12		
Park Area	ACAD001 ACAD001 - Acadia Corporation ACAD008 - Kentucky Carriage & Livery, Inc ACAD010 - National Park Tours ACAD011 - Oli's Trolley ACAD012 - Edward Winterberg ACAD013 - Carriages in the Park, Inc. AMIS002 - Lake Amistad Resort and Marina			
	AMIS003 - Rough Canyon Marina, 1144			

You can use the arrows on the right of the menu to scroll to your Concessioner ID and Name. Once you have found the correct ID and Name, select the information by simply clicking on the line.

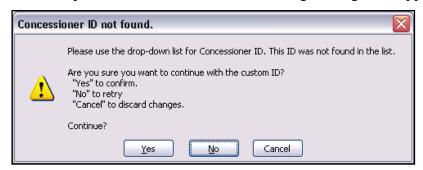


Excel will automatically fill the 'Concessioner ID,' 'Concessioner' and 'Contract or Permit No.' cells with the information you selected. If these cells do not fill automatically, your macros are not set correctly. See pages 7-9 for information on macro settings.



It is important that the information in the <u>Concessioner ID</u> cell and the <u>Concessioner</u> cell appear exactly the way it looks in the box above. The only information that should be in the cell for <u>Concessioner ID</u> is the concid. If for some reason when you select your concid from the drop-down box both the concid and the Concessioner name appear in the <u>Concessioner ID</u> cell, the AFR will not be able to be submitted because the macros are not set correctly. Please refer to pages 7-9 of this guide to reset your macros.

If your Concessioner ID is not listed in the drop down menu, you can enter the information manually. Simply click on the 'Concessioner ID' cell and begin typing your ID. Once you have entered your ID and attempt to move to the next cell a warning message will appear.



If you correctly entered your Concessioner ID number and would like to continue entering information, simply click the 'Yes.' Otherwise, click 'No' to return to the cell to select an ID from the drop down menu. Concessioners need to verify contract/permit information is correct, if not then make appropriate changes.

Once you have completed the 'Concessioner Info' tab, you may continue to the next spreadsheets using the mouse to click on the desired tab at the bottom of the screen.



Don't forget to save periodically, either by clicking the Save icon or using Ctrl+S on your keyboard. For more help with saving, please see the *AFR Excel Guide*, page 9.

6.1 Explaining Proration on Concessioner Info Page

Proration of revenues and/or expenses may be necessary for concessioners who have operations both inside and outside a National Park. The Annual Financial Report should only reflect the operations *inside* the park; therefore if records are not kept which separate actual revenues and expenses inside and outside the park, a logical method must be used to allocate the revenues/expenses.

The Short Form provides a section for explaining your proration method based on the most common methods used. If you prorated revenues and/or expenses, first check the box.

PRORATION OF REVENUES AND/OR EXPENSES							
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,							
If expenses and/or revenues are prorated as a portion of the entire operation, check this box.							
Select One:							
Expenses and/or revenues are prorated based on percentage of sales incurred in the park. W							
Total days of operation							
Miles traveled in the park							
Total miles traveled							
If you prorated revenues/expenses based on another method, please explain below:							
[]							

Then, there is a choice of three options: proration based on percentage of sales, proration based on time, or proration based on miles. If none of these options applies to the method you used, explain your method in the blank box. Otherwise, use your mouse to click on the appropriate option.

For the first option, if you prorated expenses based on the percentage of sales that occurred in the park, simply enter the percentage as a whole number.

For the second option, use the drop-down box to choose Expenses, Revenues or Revenues and Expenses (depending on what was prorated), then enter the number of days spent in the park and the number of total days of operations. The proration percentage will automatically calculate.

For the third option, use the drop-down box to choose Expenses, Revenues or Revenues and Expenses (depending on what was prorated), then enter the number of miles traveled in the park and the number of total miles traveled (this usually applies to river runners.) The proration percentage will automatically calculate.

6.2 Special Guidance for Schedule B

Schedule B includes sections for Cost of Sales, Operating Expenses, General and Administrative Expenses, and Fixed Expenses. It is important to distinguish between these different types of expenses in order to get an accurate picture of your business' expenses.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales is the amount of money your business spends on items that are sold to the customer. For example, if bottled beverages are sold as part of a concessions operation, then the cost of purchasing those beverages is the cost of sales.

One common mistake is to include operating expenses in cost of sales. For example, if a concessioner operates bus tours within a park, they might mistakenly include fuel costs in their cost of sales. However, since they sell tours, not fuel, fuel costs would fall under operating expenses. *Only concessioners who sell fuel to customers should include fuel costs in cost of sales*.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses are expenses directly related to providing the goods or services sold. Continuing the example of a tour bus concession, operating costs might include the cost of purchasing fuel, wages to employees who work on the tour buses, and the cost of renting the buses.

General and Administrative Expenses

General and Administrative expenses (sometimes referred to as 'overhead') are other costs associated with the general operation of a business. These might include the costs of having an office and paying administrative employees, the costs of retaining a CPA or lawyer, and bank charges.

Fixed Expenses

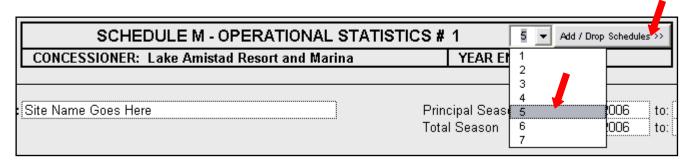
Fixed expenses are costs of having a business, whether or not it earns money in a given year. For example, even if no customers come into your store to buy products, you still have to pay rent and insurance, which would be considered fixed expenses.

6.3 Special Guidance for Schedule M

By default, the AFR Short Form includes one 'Schedule M - Operational Statistics'. Some concessioners may need to complete multiple instances of this Schedule. To insert additional Schedules, click on the drop-down menu arrow, located in the top right corner of the Schedule.



A menu will appear that gives you the option of inserting up to seven copies of the Schedule. Select the number of Schedules you would like inserted and then click the 'Add/Drop Schedules' button to complete the process.



First, select the number of Schedules you would like to insert, and then click the Add/Drop Schedules button.

Once the Schedules have been successfully inserted, additional tabs will appear at the bottom of the screen. Any time the user elects to complete more than one Schedule M, a tab titled 'M-total' is inserted. This tab provides a summary of all Schedules M completed, and does *not* require any user input.



Users can reduce the number of Schedules M at any time. If you decide additional Schedules M are unnecessary, select the tab 'M1' and use the drop down menu, located in the top right corner of the Schedule, to select the appropriate number of Schedules M. Click the 'Add/Drop Schedules' button to complete the process. Before the additional Schedules are deleted, a warning box will appear verifying you wish to proceed. To delete the additional Schedule M, click 'OK,' to discontinue the process, click 'Cancel'.



Once all of the Schedules have been completed and saved, select the 'SUBMIT' tab. Continue to Section 7, *Submitting the NPS AFR Short Form*, of this guide to learn about how to submit your form.



7 Submitting the NPS AFR Short Form

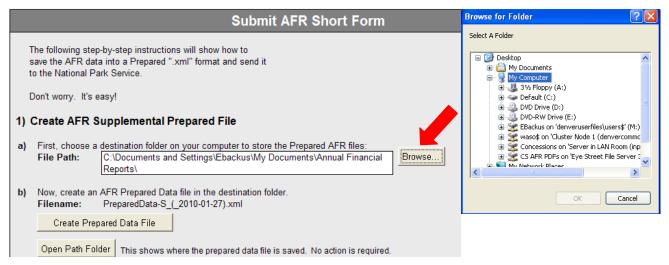
The NPS AFR Short Form should be submitted via NPS AFR website using the internet. Once you have finished entering all data in each worksheet of the NPS AFR Short Form, select the 'Submit' tab at the bottom of the form.

Submitting your AFR forms via the NPS AFR website is a simple process that can be completed using your web browser. Before you begin ensure that your computer is connected to the internet and that you have an activated AFR Web submission account. If you have not set up your account, please see pages 3-5 of this guide. Also, be sure to do a "quick save" to ensure all of your work has been saved.

7.1 Creating and Saving Prepared Data File.

Step 1: Selecting a Location to Save the Prepared Datafile

In order to submit financial reporting data to NPS, you will need to prepare your data to be sent to NPS. When the AFR information is submitted, the actual data that was input into the form is the only information that is sent, the entire form is not submitted. Therefore a new file with only the AFR data needs to be created for the submission process to work. This new file is called the Prepared Data File. Begin this process by selecting the **'Submit'** tab, then clicking the **'Browse'** button.



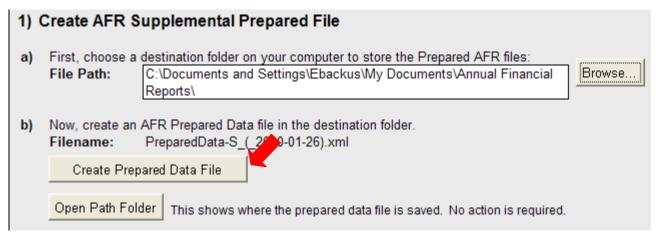
A small menu will appear in the top left corner of your screen (if it does not, your macros are not set correctly). Select the folder where you saved your AFR.

- For those who saved their AFR in a folder of their choice, click on the appropriate folder and then click '**OK**,' to select a location to save the Prepared Data File.
- For those who followed the saving instructions in pages 9-11 of the AFR Excel Guide, select the 'My Documents' folder by clicking on the + symbol. Then click on the 'Annual Financial Reports' folder and click 'OK' to select a location to save the Prepared Data File.

It is important to note that the Prepared Data File is separate from the Excel file you have been using to enter your AFR information; it is a special extract that is automatically generated in a required format.

Step 2: Creating the Prepared Data File

Once you have selected a location to save the Prepared Data File, click the 'Create Prepared Data File' button.



If the Prepared Data File was successfully created, the following message will appear:

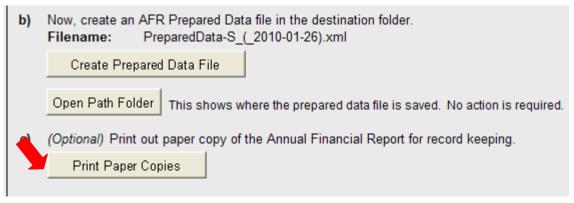
Your Prepared Data File has now been created and saved. This is the file you will upload to the AFR website. The



filename will look like "PreparedData-S_(BUFF009_2009-07-23).xml". Make a note of this filename so you will easily be able to locate the correct file when you upload to the AFR website.

7.2 Printing Hard Copies of the Annual Financial Report

You can use the **'Print Paper Copies'** button to print hard copies of the Annual Financial Report. Printing and maintaining a hard copy of the AFR Short Form is suggested in the event that NPS should have questions about your data. The print button is located at the bottom of spreadsheet named **'Submit.'** Simply click the **'Print Paper Copies'** button.



Once you have clicked the 'Print Paper Copies' button, the print menu will appear. Choose how many copies of the report you would like to print and click the 'OK' button.

For more help with printing, see the AFR Excel Guide.

Now you are done with this section and are ready to upload to the AFR website.

7.3 Accessing NPS AFR Website

There are 3 ways to access the AFR Website:

- 1. Click on the blue link at the bottom of the submit page in your AFR
- 2. Use your web browser to access the NPS AFR website using this link http://home.nps.gov/afr/
- 3. Click on the "Login" link from the Concessions AFR webpage where you downloaded your forms.

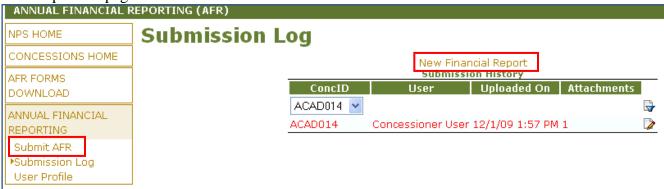


In the menu on the left side, click "Login." You must have received an email notification from the NPS letting you know your account has been activated before you can submit your AFR files. Enter your email address and password to login; see below.

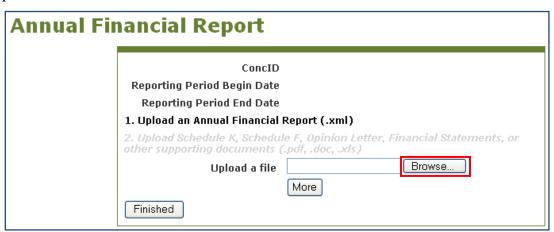


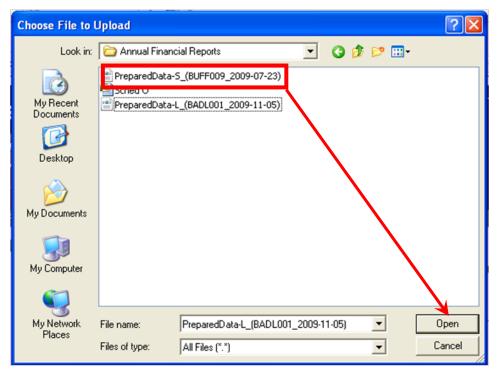
7.4 Uploading the AFR Report and Supplemental Files

1. Once you login, you will see a screen that shows your previous AFR Submissions. To upload the AFR Prepared Data file and other files you generated previously, click either "New Financial Report" at the top of the page or "Submit AFR" on the left.



2. To upload your AFR, click the "**Browse**" button and navigate to the folder where you saved your AFR Prepared Data file.



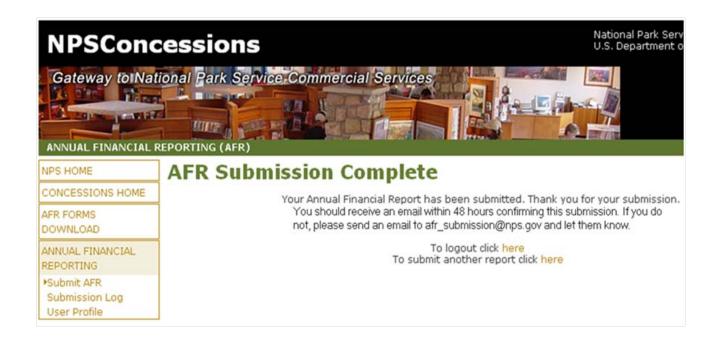


3. Open the folder, select the prepared data file [looks like "PreparedData-S_(BUFF009_2009-07-23).xml"], and click "Open."

4. If there are additional files that you would like to upload, click the "**More**" button. If you are ready to send the AFR to the NPS, skip to step 5. When you click the "**More**" button, information about the first file you uploaded will appear and the text "Upload Schedule K, Schedule F, Opinion Letter, Financial Statements, or other supporting documents" will show in bold. To upload another document, click "**Browse**" again and repeat step 3. Repeat these steps for each additional document you need to upload, then move on to step 5.

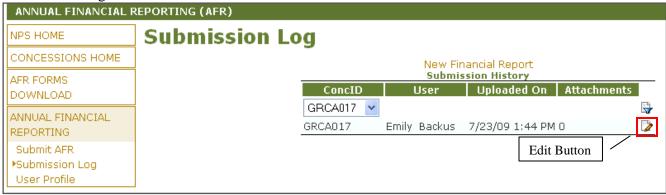
ConcID	NACC004					
Reporting Period Begin Date	Jan 1, 2008					
Reporting Period End Date	Dec 31, 2008					
1. Upload an Annual Financia	nl Report (.xml)					
2. Upload Schedule K, Schedule F, Opinion Letter, Financial Statements, or other supporting documents (.pdf, .doc, .xls) Upload complete: N:\CPC\Accounting\AFRs\08 web AFRs\08 web AFRs\Submitted Long Forms\PreparedData-L_(NACC004_2009-08-14)						
Upload a file		Browse				
	More					
Finished						

5. After adding each document that you need to upload, click the "**Finished**" button to complete the upload. If the upload was successful you should see the message: "AFR Submission Complete." You will also receive an email verifying that your AFR has been received. If you do not receive one within 48 hours, please contact the Administrator at <u>afr_submission@nps.gov</u>.



7.5 Submitting Additional Files After the AFR Upload is Complete

The AFR website allows you to upload additional files after your AFR has been uploaded, which can be helpful if you've forgotten to submit something or the NPS requests additional supporting information. To do so, first login to the AFR website as detailed in section 7.3 above. You will see the Submission Log:



Click on the Edit button to the right of the Annual Financial Report that corresponds with the additional documents you are uploading. The same uploading screen will appear as when you originally uploaded your AFR. Follow steps 4 and 5 above to complete the upload of the additional files.

8 Wrap Up

Once you have saved and submitted your completed AFR Short Form, it is recommended you create a backup file of your data. You can use either data diskettes or CDs to archive your Short Form. Generally, you simply insert either the diskette or CD and save the AFR Short Form and supporting documents to the new location.

The National Park Service is committed to the development of a streamlined AFR reporting process. Your feedback is an important part of this effort. If you encounter difficulties in completing the AFR Short Form, or would like to provide feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the park individual responsible for concession matters. If necessary, the regional or Washington office will also be available.