

FILM PERMITS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission



Welcome to Washington State Parks.

Washington's 124 state parks provide top-notch scenic and historic landscapes in the Pacific Northwest. From Ice Age flood-era scablands to coastal lighthouses and military forts, Washington State Parks has the perfect location for your film, documentary, video or photo shoot.

Here is a quick summary of what you will need to film or take photos in Washington state parks:

Permitting

You'll need a permit for commercial or educational film, still photography and drone photography in Washington state parks.

Once you submit your application, State Parks will conduct an environmental review to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), federal and local laws and regulations.

The Washington State Legislature modeled the SEPA law of 1971 on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. SEPA ensures all state agencies follow environmental laws and consider environmental factors before they issue activity permits.

The application process, including SEPA review, takes time. Submit applications directly to the park manager at least 60 days before your shoot to allow for consultation and coordination with local governments, public notice, SEPA review and agency preparations.

Commercial Filming and Professional Photography

If you take photos, video or film with the intent of selling the product, that is commercial use. The base commercial use permit application fee is \$100. You'll also need an insurance binder. State Parks will charge other fees based on potential impact to park staff, need for law enforcement and lost revenue. Additional insurance and/or a bond may be required for potential damage to park resources.

Educational Filming and Photography

Washington State Parks encourages film and photography students to use state parks for school projects. These projects must meet formal education requirements, and the student must earn credit from an accredited institution. Students must not sell or use the products for commercial purposes.

Students don't pay application fees for qualified educational projects, but State Parks may assess fees or restrictions for activities that could affect the park, the public, or the environment based on SEPA and staff review. Students need an insurance binder; qualified school insurance is accepted.

Use of Drones

Some state parks allow drone use with additional permissions from the agency. These applications take longer to process. Applicants will want to apply more than 60 days in advance.

Contacts and Resources

For application packets, please call the State Parks Regional Office in the area where you want to film. If you don't know the region of your preferred park, please visit

www.parks.state.wa.us/836/Parks-by-Region:

- Eastern Washington (509) 665-4319
- Northwest Washington (360) 755-9231
- Southwest Washington (360) 725-9770
- Headquarters Information Center (360) 902-9770

You may inquire in person at any Washington state park or visit www.parks.wa.gov/209/Filming-photography-permits.

For additional filming opportunities within Washington, please visit Washington Filmworks. www.washingtonfilmworks.org/

For more information regarding state permitting requirements, contact the Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA)

www.oria.wa.gov/site/alias_oria/368/Home.aspx

