

Tread Lightly!'s Tips for Responsible Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Use

KNOW WHAT KINDS OF UAS FLIGHTS ARE PERMITTED

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authority over all airspace. Ensure that you comply with all FAA regulations and guidance for flying UAS, available online at https://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative_programs/section_333/
- UAS may not be flown for commercial, government or business purposes without FAA approval.
- UAS may be flown for recreation or hobby purposes in compliance with the Special Rule for Model Aircraft (Section 336 of Public Law 112-95).
- Model aircraft may not be flown for payment or commercial purposes.
- UAS may be flown by public entities (i.e. federal, state, and local government agencies and public universities) that obtain a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization from the FAA.

KNOW WHERE YOU CAN – AND CAN'T – FLY

- Some agencies have banned or restricted UAS flights taking off from or landing on land under their jurisdiction. Contact the agency that manages the land you want to fly on and find out what their policy is.
- Fly UAS for recreation or hobby purposes no higher than 400 feet above the surface, in compliance with FAA guidance.
- UAS are considered “mechanized” equipment and consequently cannot take off from, or land in, congressionally designated Wilderness Areas.
- UAS, including model aircraft, are not permitted to fly in areas that have “Temporary Flight Restrictions” (TFR) in place, such as wildfires. Check the FAA website for current TFRs <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>

FLY SAFELY

- Take lessons and learn to fly safely.
- Do not fly near manned aircraft.
- Do not fly beyond line of sight of the operator.
- Do not fly over or near populated and noise-sensitive areas, such as campgrounds, trail heads, and visitor centers.

- When flying within five miles of an airport or backcountry runway, contact the airport or control tower.
- Do not fly over or near wildfires without prior permission from fire managers. Unauthorized UAS flights could cause serious injury or death to firefighters on the ground and could have midair collisions with aircraft engaged in wildfire suppression missions.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Do not fly over congressionally designated Wilderness Areas or Primitive Areas as many people seek these places for the opportunities for solitude and quiet that they provide.
- Obey all privacy laws.

PROTECT WILDLIFE

- Do not fly over or near wildlife as this can create stress that may cause significant harm, and even death.