



Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COMMERCIAL FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS

What is considered commercial filming?

- Use of any motion picture, videotaping, sound-recording, or any other type of moving image or audio recording equipment on National Forest System (NFS) lands that involves the advertisement of a product or service, the creation of a product for sale, or the use of actors, models, sets or props. However, this does not include broadcasting breaking news.

What is considered commercial still photography?

The use of photographic equipment to capture still images on film, digital format, and other similar technologies on NFS lands that:

- Takes place at a location where members of the public are generally not allowed or where additional administrative costs are likely, or
- Uses models, sets, or props that are not a part of the site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities.

When is a permit required?

- A permit is required for **all commercial filming** activities on National Forest System lands except those involving breaking news.
- A permit is required for **all still photography** activities on National Forest System lands that involve the use of models, sets or props that are not a part of the natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities of the site where the activity is occurring.
- A permit **may** be required for still photography activities not involving models, sets, or props when the Forest Service incurs additional administrative costs as a direct result of the activity or when the activity takes place at a location where members of the public are generally not allowed.



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How do I apply?

- Complete a **SF-299 Application** and a **Photography & Filming Request supplemental application** for submittal to the Forest Service District office where the activity is proposed.
- **The complete application package must be submitted a minimum of 10 working days prior to the proposed filming date.**
- Contact the Forest Service in the area where you wish to conduct your activity. This contact will determine whether your activity meets the following pre-application screening requirements applicable to all special uses:
 1. The proposed use is consistent with federal, state, and local laws, regulations, orders, and policies that apply to national forests and grasslands;
 2. The proposed use is consistent or can be made consistent with the Forest Plan that established standards and guidelines for management of the land where the activity will take place;
 3. The proposed use will not create a serious and substantial risk to public health or safety;
 4. The proposed use will not create an exclusive or perpetual right of use or occupancy;
 5. The proposed use will not unreasonably conflict or interfere with administrative use by the Forest Service, other authorized existing uses, or uses of adjacent non-NFS lands;
 6. The proponent must not owe any fees to the Forest Service from a prior or existing special-use authorization;
 7. The proposed use does not involve gambling or providing of sexually-oriented commercial services, even if permitted under state law;
 8. The proposed use does not involve military or paramilitary training or exercise, unless such training is federally funded;
 9. The proposed use does not involve disposal of solid waste or disposal of radioactive or to the hazardous substances.
- If you meet the initial screening requirements, the Forest Service administrator will provide guidance on what information will be required to complete your proposal. If your proposed event does not meet the screening requirements you will be notified that the proposal, as submitted, is denied.



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A proposal that passes the initial screening proceeds to second level screening. Your proposal will be accepted as an application if it meets all of the following:

1. The proposed use would be consistent or compatible with the purposes for which the lands are managed; and
 2. The proposed use would be in the public interest; and
 3. The proponent is qualified; and
 4. The proponent can demonstrate technical or financial capability to undertake the use and fully comply with the terms and conditions of the perm; and
 5. There is someone authorized by the proponent to sign a permit or there is someone will t accept the responsibility of the terms and conditions of the permit. Upon satisfactory passing of this screen the Forest Service will process your request.
- The proposed activity must not cause unacceptable resource damage.
 - The proposed activity must not unreasonable disrupt the public’s use and enjoyment of the site where the activity would occur.

Is there a fee?

Yes, the land use rent is based upon the following criteria:

- The number of days the filming/photography activity or similar project takes place on National Forest System lands; and
- The size of the film crew present on National Forest.
- Traffic control needs, special effects, land surface disturbance, etc

Current Land Use Fee Schedule

Commercial Still Photography

Persons on Site	Minimum Fee Per Day Per Location
1-3 persons	\$75/day
4-10	\$100/day
11-30 persons	\$150/day
31-49	\$250/day
50+	\$300/day



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Motion Picture & Video

Daily Rate No. of People	Daily Rate Location	Each Staging Area
1-10 persons	\$150/day	\$75
11-30 persons	\$250/day	\$125
31-60 persons	\$450/day	\$225
60+ persons	\$600/day	\$300

Additional fees may apply depending upon the complexity and requirements of the shoot.

Do I need insurance?

- Generally, insurance is required for commercial operations on National Forest System lands, but some filming projects may only involve very small crews with no interaction with the public. The authorized officer may waive insurance requirements under very limited circumstances.
- To protect the user and the federal government from losses for which the permittee may be liable, the Forest Service requires permit holders to carry commercial general liability insurance naming the U.S. Government as additionally insured and providing a 30-day written notice prior to cancellation. Insurance limits begin at \$300,000 combined single limit for lower risk operations involving smaller group sizes. Increased insurance limits may be required based on the amount of use, the risks involved, the protection of users, and the possible liability of the U.S Government.

All proposals should be made through the specific Administrative Unit upon which the activity is proposed.

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests Administrative Units:

- Grand Valley Ranger District - (970) 242-8211
- Gunnison Ranger District - (970) 642-4400
- Norwood Ranger District - (970) 327-4261
- Ouray Ranger District - (970) 240-5300
- Paonia Ranger District - (970) 527-4131