



Fact Sheet: Commercial Filming

Commercial filming is any filming that involves the digital or film recording of a visual image or sound recording by a person, business, or other entity for a market audience. This includes recordings such as those used for a documentary, television or feature film, advertisement, or similar projects. This does not include filming intended to be used exclusively for a specific news story or item for broadcast or publication.

Commercial filming on general state land in Alaska, which includes state uplands, shorelands, tidelands, and freshwater bodies, requires an authorization from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW). There are three different types of authorization for commercial filming depending on the duration and scope of the production or filming activity.

What type of authorization do I need?

- Day use of state land

Day-use commercial filming on state land without use of overnight camps or storage of equipment or personal belongings overnight requires Day Use Registration. This includes filming on state land during the day then returning to private property, leases issued by DNR for commercial purposes, federal, native, Mental Health Trust, State Parks, or other lands not managed by DNR DMLW at night.

 - **Authorization needed:** Commercial Recreation Day Use Registration
 - **How to apply:** Register online or download the form for printing at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/lands/permitting/commercial-recreation-day-use-registration/>
 - **Fee:** Registration fee is \$80
 - **Authorization term:** issued on a calendar year basis
- Overnight use up to 14 days in one location

A Commercial Recreation Permit is required for any commercial filming activity using temporary camps that remain overnight for up to 14 days in one location. Prior to the 14th day, camps authorized under this permit must be relocated at least two miles for at least 96 hours (4 days). This authorization is for low-impact activities that include use of short-term (portable) camps.

 - **Authorization needed:** Commercial Recreation Permit
 - **How to apply:** Contact any of the regional offices listed at the end of this fact sheet or download the application at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>
 - **Fee:** Six months or less is \$1,200 or six months or more \$2,400
 - **Authorization term:** issued on a calendar year basis
- Overnight use in one location longer than 14 days
- A Land Use Permit is required for commercial filming using a temporary camp remaining in place on state lands for more than 14 days, any set construction, or activities that may cause more than de minimis impacts to state lands.
 - **Authorization needed:** Land Use Permit
 - **How to apply:** The application can be obtained from any of the regional offices or can be downloaded at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/forms/>
 - **Fee:**
 - Application fee of \$400
 - Annual Permit Fee will be assessed based on the application submitted. For a detailed list of all fees, see [11 AAC 05.180](#) and [Director's Fee Order No. 3](#).
 - **Authorization Term:** Up to five years
 - **Miscellaneous:**
 - May require two-week public notice/agency review
 - Requires bonding and liability insurance

Other considerations:

- A business license is required for engaging in a business in the State of Alaska, including commercial filming.
- Permits are revocable at will by the State of Alaska and are non-transferrable.
- DNR may require applicant to supply a description and maps of the film activity or production
- Other authorizations may be needed from other federal, state, or municipal agencies.
- Filming of illegal or trespass activities on state lands for the purposes of commercial broadcast is prohibited unless filmed in the context of a law enforcement action.
- In addition to obtaining authorization from DNR, the filming activity must comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

For additional information please contact one of the Regional Offices

Anchorage/Southcentral
Public Information Center
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1360
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Phone: (907) 269-8400
Fax: (907) 269-8901
dnr.pic@alaska.gov

Juneau/Southeast
Regional Land Office
P.O. Box 111020
400 Willoughby Avenue, 4th Floor
Juneau, AK 99811-1020
Phone: (907) 465-3400
Fax: (907) 465-3886
sero@alaska.gov

Fairbanks/Northern
Public Information Center
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
Phone: (907) 451-2705
Fax: (907) 451-2706
fbx-pic@alaska.gov

Statewide TTY – 711 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973