



Fact Sheet: Commercial Recreation Registration

What is Commercial Recreation?

Commercial recreation is the use of state-owned land for business or financial gain, for recreational activities including, but not limited to, hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, biking, skiing, horseback riding, mushing, ATV/snowmachine tours, photography, or filming. Commercial recreation operators include both those providing guided experiences as well as those providing transportation in the field in support of these activities whether guided or unguided.

Businesses such as boat rental companies, food vendors, and tackle shops that provide support to a recreation activity but are not part of the recreational use of state-land are **not** considered conductors of commercial recreation.

A business license is required to conduct business in the State of Alaska. Licenses can be acquired through the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.

What is Commercial Recreation Registration?

Commercial Recreation Registration provides the authorization required for commercial recreation activities occurring on state-owned lands for day-use purposes only, while a permit is needed for structures and overnight activities.

How much does it cost?

The registration fee is \$80 per calendar year, plus \$4 per each visitor day.

A visitor day is each day that you are present with each client on state-owned land. Each client represents a separate visitor day if multiple clients are present at any time during a calendar day.

Who needs to register?

All commercial recreation businesses that use state-owned uplands for day-use activities.

If you have an authorization such as a Lease, Land Use Permit, or Commercial Recreation Permit that requires the payment of Visitor Day Use Fees, you may not need to register.

If your activity continues overnight or you have structures or equipment that remain overnight on state-owned land, a permit is required for authorization.

Do Water-Based Commercial Recreation Businesses need to register?

No. Commercial Recreation Registration is not required by commercial operators that exclusively operate on state-owned water. Water-based businesses that only use state-owned lands to access state-owned waters or for incidental use (portaging, pit-stops, etc.) do not need to register or pay the Visitor Day Use Fee. Commercial Recreation operators who are only crossing state-owned tide and submerged lands to access private uplands do not need to register.

When do I register?

Commercial recreation operators need to register at least 30 days before they begin their day-use of state-owned land each calendar year.

How do I register?

You can register on-line at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/commrec/> or print off a registration form to complete and mail to DNR. You may also visit or contact a DNR Public Information Center in Juneau, Fairbanks, or Anchorage to register or obtain a hardcopy (paper) form.

You will be asked to provide information such as where and when you will be operating, what activities will be occurring, your type of access, estimated number of clients and group size, and which Game Management Unit(s) you will be operating in.

What if I do not know how many clients I will have in a given year?

Provide your best estimate of the number of clients you may have. At the end of the year, you will be required to pay Visitor Day Use Fees based on the actual number of clients.

How do I determine which Game Management Unit(s) I am operating in?

Alaska Mapper is an online tool that can be used to determine which Game Management Unit you will be operating in, as well as land ownership, and can be found at

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mapper/>. Maps of the game management units can be found online at http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/commrec/gmu_maps.cfm or in one of the DNR Public Information Centers.

Do I receive a permit or any additional rights by registering?

No. Registration is neither a permit nor a disposal of an interest in land, does not establish a preference right to any land use authorization or disposal, nor does registering grant any exclusive use for an individual or business. Registering your commercial recreation day-use does not preclude you from needing to obtain any other necessary

authorizations from DNR or other agencies.

What happens if I do not register?

By not registering you are operating in trespass and will be treated as such.

Where can I look up the regulations?

[11 AAC 96.018](#) sets the registration requirements.

[11 AAC 96.250](#) has applicable definitions.

[11 AAC 05.180\(d\)\(1\)\(G\)](#) sets the fees.

You can find these regulations on-line at

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/aac.asp>.

For additional information please contact one of the Regional Offices:

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