



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## **Reference Guide: Commercial Use Permit for Still Photography and Filming**

This reference guide provides information on the permit required to conduct photography or filming for commercial purposes on Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks land (FWP). The size of your crew and the type, timing and location of your proposed activity will determine the availability of the permit and the permit fee. A “crew member” means a photographer, cinematographer, model, or any supporting member of a commercial photography or filming activity. Please note that commercial use on FWP land is a privilege, not a right. Authorization may be denied, amended, or revoked at any time for cause.

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### **Individual Photographer/Videographer**

An individual photographer or videographer operating on their own (e.g. landscape photographer) without the use of a model, crew, client, or prop does not need to obtain a permit. See Fee Rule sheet for definitions to see if you qualify for this exemption.

### **Crews of one to three people**

- A crew of up to three people may obtain an annual permit that authorizes photography or filming at all FWP sites unless posted otherwise. This permit is valid for the calendar year (expiration date: December 31). FWP may waive or adjust the fees for still photography and filming when the sole purpose of the use is to promote FWP land and resources. You will need to complete a Commercial Use Permit Application and mail it and the permit fee to an FWP Regional Office (addresses provided on permit application) or apply in person at a regional office or the FWP site where you wish to conduct use.
- There are terms and conditions for commercial use permits (listed on the permit application). Please review these before you submit your application.
- Note: Upon receipt of your application and fee, FWP will send you a permit. You must have a copy of the permit on your person or readily available for inspection when conducting commercial use.
- Note: There may be times or days that are not conducive to still photography or filming at a site, e.g. a school group or special event is scheduled. FWP recommends that you call the site in advance. You are required to check in with FWP staff upon arrival at a site (before conducting use). This does not apply to un-staffed sites.

### **Crews of four or more people**

- A crew of four or more people may only apply for a permit that is valid at specific locations and time periods (statewide permit is not available). The cost of the permit varies depending on the size of your crew. FWP may adjust the fees upward or downward to accommodate the nature of the activity and to compensate for staffing needs pertaining to the activity. FWP may waive or adjust the fees for still photography and filming when the sole purpose of the use is to promote department land and resources. The crew leader or contact person must complete a Commercial Use Permit Application and mail it to the FWP Regional Office in the area where you propose to conduct commercial use a minimum of 10 days prior to the time period you are requesting.
- The permit holder must possess and maintain a general liability policy that names the State of Montana – FWP as additionally insured. You will need to provide a copy of your policy or an Insurance Certificate with your permit application. The minimum coverage is \$300,000 per occurrence and \$600,000 aggregate.
- There are terms and conditions for commercial use permits (listed on the permit application). Please review these before you submit your application.
- FWP may require a security deposit in advance for some still photography and filming activities.
- Note: Upon authorization of your permit application FWP will send you a permit that specifies the locations and time period the permit is valid and the amount of the permit fee (FWP may require fee payment in advance of issuing the permit). The crew leader or contact person must have a copy of the permit on their person or readily available for inspection when conducting commercial use.
- You must check in with FWP staff upon arrival (before conducting use). This does not apply to un-staffed sites.

## **Permit Fees for Still Photography and Filming**

See the Commercial Use Permit Fee Rule for the current fee schedule.

**For questions regarding commercial use, please contact the following:**

- **Fishing Access Sites: Don Skaar, (406) 444-7409, [dskaar@mt.gov](mailto:dskaar@mt.gov)**
- **Montana State Parks: Pat Doyle, (406) 444-3818, [pdoyle@mt.gov](mailto:pdoyle@mt.gov)**
- **Wildlife Management Areas: Rick Northrup, (406) 444-5633, [rnorthrup@mt.gov](mailto:rnorthrup@mt.gov)**