



Remote Controlled Aircraft Permit Instructions

The use of remote controlled aircraft is regulated within State Parks by WAC 352-32-130 (5) which allows for the flying of remote controlled aircraft with written permission of the Director, or designee. Remote controlled aircraft, also known as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), may be permitted on a single occurrence or limited duration bases with written permission from the Director, or designee. The request may be for recreational or commercial purposes and permittees are required to comply with all State and Federal rules and regulations. Persons desiring to utilize a remote controlled aircraft in commercial or educational filming/still photography must obtain a commercial filming/still photography permit in addition to the Remote Control Aircraft permit.

Examples

- Educational
- Hobby/Recreation
- Personal Photography
- Geotechnical Evaluation
- Aerial Survey
- Aerial Inspections

Regulations

The current WAC 352-32-130 (5), which allows for the flying of remote controlled aircraft with written permission of the Director, or designee, reads as:

“Remote controlled aircraft may be flown in any state park area only pursuant to issuance of permit by the director or designee. A remote controlled aircraft is flown in a state park area when the operator is within the state park area while flying the remote controlled aircraft or where the remote controlled aircraft takes off from or lands on the state park area. (a) In granting such permit, the director or designee may specify time, geographic, and elevation restrictions, and any other restrictions necessary to protect the public, park visitors or staff, or park resources. While operating a remote controlled aircraft the operator must be in possession of a copy of the written permission and will produce it upon request by parks staff. Permission granted by the director or designee to fly a remote controlled aircraft may be rescinded at any time for permittee’s failure to comply, to protect the public, park visitors or staff, or park resources. (b) Permit applications must be submitted at least sixty days in advance of the proposed activity to allow for staff review, agency coordination, and to comply with SEPA review requirements. The sixty-day application filing requirement may be waived in extenuating circumstances. (c) The permittee must pay any fees published by state parks for the use of park lands or facilities. The director or designee will determine the need for any fees necessary to cover costs incurred by the agency, as well as the need for any bond, damage deposit, or liability insurance arising from any potential hazards associated with the character of the event. Any such fees, bond, damage deposit, or liability insurance must be provided prior to the issuance of the permit.”

WAC 352-32-130’s permit requirements applies in instances where an individual pilots a remote controlled aircraft from within State Parks’ property (i.e., the pilot, him- or herself is on State Parks Property) or where a remote controlled aircraft takes off or lands on State Parks property.

The use of remote controlled aircraft is also regulated by the Federal Government. The two most relevant rules are Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation (14 CFR) Part 107 and Public Law 112-95, Section 336 *Special Rules for Model Aircraft*.

FAA Requirements

FAA Requirements	Fly for Fun	Fly for Work
Pilot Requirements	No pilot requirements	Must have Remote Pilot Airman Certificate Must be 16 years old



Remote Controlled Aircraft Permit Instructions

Aircraft Requirements	Must be registered if over 0.55 lbs.	Must pass TSA vetting Must be less than 55 lbs. Must be registered if over 0.55 lbs. (online) Must undergo pre-flight check to ensure UAS is in condition for safe operation
Location Requirements	5 miles from airports without prior notification to airport and air traffic control	Class G airspace*
Operating Rules	Must ALWAYS yield right of way to manned aircraft Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight) UAS must be under 55 lbs. Must follow community-based safety guidelines	Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight)* Must fly under 400 feet* Must fly during the day* Must fly at or below 100 mph* Must yield right of way to manned aircraft* Must NOT fly over people* Must NOT fly from a moving vehicle*
Example Applications	Educational or recreational flying only	Flying for commercial use (e.g. providing aerial surveying or photography services) Flying incidental to a business (e.g. doing roof inspections or real estate photography)
Legal or Regulatory Basis	Public Law 112-95, Section 336 – Special Rule for Model Aircraft FAA Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft	Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation (14 CFR) Part 107

You can learn more by visiting the FAA website - https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/

Definitions

- Applicant – An individual or organization who desires to fly a remote controlled aircraft within State Parks for purposes other than commercial or educational filming/still photography.
- Remote Controlled Aircraft – Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including those commonly known as “drones” that fly by using internal combustion, electric motors, elastic tubing, or gravity/wind for propulsion. The flight is controlled by a person on the ground using a hand held radio control transmitter.
- Hobby/Recreational Purpose – Hobby or recreational flying (i.e. flying for fun).
- Commercial Purpose – Flying for non-recreational purposes; as part of or related to commercial activities (i.e. flying for work/business).
- Film and filming – To capture a movie image magnetically or digitally.
- Still photography – To capture a single (non-movie) image with film, magnetic, or digital media to include portraits and scenic photography.
- Permittee – An individual or organization approved by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to fly a remote controlled aircraft within State Parks.

Applying for a Permit

Applications may be obtained on the State Park website or by contacting a park, Region office, or the Headquarters Info Center.

- Any State Park (see State Park Contact List)
- Region Offices:
Eastern Region – (509) 665-4319
Northwest Region – (360) 755-9231
Southwest Region – (360) 725-9770
- State Parks Headquarters Info Center – (360) 902-8500

Application Requirements

Applicants must provide the following information to ensure compliance with Federal regulations:



Remote Controlled Aircraft Permit Instructions

- Identify if request is for hobby/recreational or commercial purposes.
- Provide weight of aircraft.
- If request is for aircraft over 0.55 lbs. include proof of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) registration.
- If request is for work/business include proof of remote pilot airman certification or certificate of waiver per 14 CFR part 107.
- Provide description of flight location and flight plan including, location of pilot, take off/landing location(s), elevation, time of day, and maximum speed. Providing a map that shows the flight plan is preferred.
- Acknowledge compliance with community-based safety guidelines for hobby/recreational use and FAA operation rules for commercial use.

Applicants must provide proof of insurance listing the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission as “ADDITIONALLY INSURED” for a minimum of \$1,000,000 for the period of the requested activity:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

The application is to be returned to the Area Manager for the park of interest along with the permit fee, see fee schedule below. Additional fees may be assessed based on additional impacts to the park, public, and environmental reviews based upon Area Manager’s review and consultation with the Region Manager. Additional fees will be assessed at the time of the approval and must be paid in full to the Area Manager before activity commences.

Application Fee	
Standard	\$25 (A permit fee is not required if the permit request is in addition to a commercial film/still photography permit for which all fees have been paid.)
Potential Additional Fees (Impact Fees)	
<p>Higher impact fees may be assessed depending on degree of disruption of normal park use and activities. Establishment of higher impact fees will be done in consultation with the Region Manager, Stewardship program, and/or Business Development program.</p> <p>Examples of conditions where additional fees may be accessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on park staff • Loss of revenue to park • Impact on park operating costs • Facility use charges • Potential damage to park resources (may require bond or damage deposit) • Archeological impacts • Possible impact review (see below) <p><i>The Discover Pass requirement and all other standard park fees apply.</i></p>	
SEPA Review	\$32.86 / hour (plus any impact fees as determined by review)



Remote Controlled Aircraft Permit Instructions

Archaeological Review	\$41.70 / hour (plus any impact fees as determined by review)
Natural Resources Review	\$43.79 / hour (plus any impact fees as determined by review)
Historic Preservation Review	\$48.33 / hour (plus any impact fees as determined by review)

Application Review & Approval

All applications require agency staff review and approval by the Operations Manager, Director's designee.

- Area Manager will review the application within 10 days. For exceptional circumstances, the timeframe may be extended for environmental. Applicant will be notified of any review that extends the process beyond 10 days.
- Region Manager will review the application within 5 days. For exceptional circumstances, the timeframe may be extended for environmental. Applicant will be notified of any review that extends the process beyond 5 days.
- Operations Manager will review and approval are required for all permit applications. They will review the application and approve/deny within 5 days. Applicant will be notified of any review that extends the process beyond 5 days.

The use of scans (email), faxes, and express mail services are permitted in order to accommodate short turnaround times. To ensure a successful completion of the application, it is important for the applicant to stay in close telephone and/or e-mail contact with the Area Manager or designated staff.

The Area Manager will be responsible to provide the applicant with approved permit or notification of denial. The Area Manager is also responsible to monitor and ensure compliance with the terms, conditions, rules, and restrictions.

No flying of remote controlled aircraft may take place without written approval from the Operations Manager, Washington State Parks.

Applicants may be required to obtain additional permits depending on the location and activities. It is the permittees responsibility to be aware of what additional permits are required.