

**Olympic National Park
Film / Photography Permit Application
Requirements in Brief**

- **Film permit fees consist of a non-refundable application fee (always \$100), a location fee (see chart below), and a cost-recovery fee.**
- The cost recovery fee for small projects (10 hours or less per day, 10 people or less, few or no props) is \$300 per day, due before activity begins.
- Cost recovery fees for larger projects are actual expenses billed after activity concludes. Cost recovery fees for a complex project requiring two monitors for 12 hours per day would be approximately \$700 / day. This fee covers permit environmental compliance review, permit preparation, monitoring, and administration expenses.
- Fees must be paid by check or cash.
- Larger projects may also require a performance bond (for potential damage and clean up), which will be returned after activity concludes or may be applied to outstanding cost recovery fees.
- An insurance certificate from a U.S. provider for \$1,000,000 general liability naming the United States of America as Additional Insured will be required.
- The following may increase permit processing time to ten days or more: Use of designated Wilderness areas, off-road sub-alpine areas, generators, special effects, closed areas.
- Only educational filming or photography is permitted within designated Wilderness. Non-wilderness areas are generally those areas within 100 feet of a minor road or 200 feet of a primary road.
- Depiction of activities which are prohibited by law or regulation will not be permitted.
- Restriction of visitor access will not be permitted.
- Questions? Call Loretta Commet, Film Permit Coordinator, 360-565-3090.
- Mail application with application fee to: Fee Program Office, 600 E. Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362

Location Fees:

Motion Pictures/Videos		Commercial Still Photography	
1 - 2 people	\$0-\$150/day (inquire)	1 - 2 people	\$0-\$50/day (inquire)
3 - 10 people	\$150/day	3 - 10 people	\$50/day
11 - 30 people	\$250/day	11 - 30 people	\$150/day
31 - 49 people	\$500/day	Over 30 people	\$250/day
Over 50 people	\$750/day		

FILMING GUIDELINES
FILMING / PHOTOGRAPHY AT
OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

“The service...shall promote and regulate the use of...national parks...[its] purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (16 U.S.C. 1)

It is the policy of the National Park Service (NPS) to allow filming and photography when and where possible, while adhering to this mandate. Therefore, when reviewing filming applications, the primary concerns of the NPS are potential impacts to park resources and disruption of visitor use.

Olympic National Park is recognized worldwide as an area set aside and administered with preservation at the core. In order to preserve and protect resources and to assure the enjoyment of those resources by the public, the following guidelines are established by the superintendent of Olympic National Park as they relate to filming and photographic activities within the park boundaries.

Generally, permits are not required for:

- visitors using cameras and/or recording devices for their own personal use.
- still photography involving one or two people, no props, sets, or special effects.
- sound technicians, and film or video crews at breaking news events. In these cases, the superintendent is still required to protect park resources and the rights and safety of park visitors.
- NPS filming or photography, Department of the Interior Audiovisual Center filming or filming/photography done pursuant to a cooperative agreement or contract.

A request for a filming or photography permit may be denied if:

- in the opinion of the superintendent or his/her designee, the filming activity requested represents a potential for harm or impact on the park’s natural, cultural, wilderness or recreational resources, may create health or safety risks, or disrupt visitor use and enjoyment;
- it is determined that supervisory requirements for the proposed project will place unreasonable burdens on park staff, regardless of the applicant’s willingness to pay supervisory costs;

- the permittee fails to obtain insurance / bonding, or does not agree to pay assessed cost recovery;
- the proposed filming or photography would conflict with visitors' normal use of the park;
- the request includes entry into areas closed to the general visiting public or includes prohibited activities.

Filming / Photography Permits

To apply for a permit, please complete an Olympic National Park filming application form and submit it to the Film Permit Coordinator (contact information on last page of these guidelines) allowing sufficient time for evaluation by the park staff before the start date of the proposed activity. Enclose a check or money order for \$100.00 to cover non-refundable application administrative costs.

Simple requests can be processed in two weeks. Requests that involve multiple locations, complex logistics, or coordination with other NPS divisions or visitor activities will require a minimum of four weeks to process. A minimum of four weeks is also required to process permits for projects that need additional environmental compliance or include use of designated Wilderness areas.

Requests will be evaluated on the basis of the information in the application.

Therefore, you are encouraged to attach maps, diagrams, script pages, or storyboards to assist the park staff in evaluating your request. The National Park Service cannot censor content. Submission of script and storyboards is voluntary.

In compliance with the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, the applicant must submit their social security number or Federal Tax ID number on the application for permit.

Site Scouting- It is highly recommended that any potential permittee schedule a pre-shoot scouting trip to the park. The completed permit will detail the activities and locations to be authorized. Activities or locations not specified in the permit will not be allowed.

Potential permittees should be aware that over 95% of Olympic National Park is federally designated Wilderness. Only educational filming is permitted within designated Wilderness areas, and application review will take four weeks or more.

Areas of **non-Wilderness** include:

...lands north of Lake Crescent, south of the Queets road, the north shore of Lake Quinalt, areas east of the North Fork Quinalt road and north

of the Graves Creek Road, and park lands west of the Staircase road. Waterways outside designated wilderness include the stretches of park rivers adjacent to roads (except the Dosewallips River which is within designated Wilderness), and the park's large lakes (Lake Crescent, Lake Ozette, Lake Mills). Portions of the shorelines of many of these waterways are designated Wilderness. In addition, developed areas such as campgrounds and lodges, private inholdings and the narrow land corridor at Kalaloch are not within designated Wilderness. Major road corridors with 200 foot buffers extending from the centerline and minor road corridors with 100 foot buffers lie outside of the wilderness boundary.

Cost and Fees- All costs incurred by the NPS in conjunction with the permitted filming activity will be reimbursed by the permittee. A total cost estimate will be calculated and provided once the Film Permit Coordinator has received all applicable information.

\$ 100 Application Fee A \$100 non-refundable application fee must accompany each filming application.

Location Fees

Motion Pictures/Videos		Commercial Still Photography	
1 - 2 people - inquire	\$0-\$150/day	1 – 2 people	\$0-\$50/day
3 - 10 people	\$150/day	3 - 10 people	\$50/day
11 - 30 people	\$250/day	11 - 30 people	\$150/day
31 - 49 people	\$500/day	Over 30 people	\$250/day
Over 50 people	\$750/day		

Management Cost Recovery Fee

The cost recovery fee for small projects (10 hours or less per day, 10 people or less, few or no props) is \$300 per day, due before activity begins.

Cost recovery fees for larger projects are actual expenses billed after activity concludes. (Cost recovery fees for a complex project requiring two NPS monitors for 12 hours per day would be approximately \$700 / day.)

This fees covers:

- (1) **Monitoring-** Filming activities authorized by permit usually require continuous, on-site monitoring by the NPS to assure full compliance with all conditions of the permit. Monitor costs range from \$22 to \$55 per hour, depending on staff availability.
- (2) **Administrative Time** This fee covers additional administrative time needed beyond the maximum three hours covered by the \$100 application fee.

- (3) **Delays/Cancellations** Should the applicant or permittee fail to provide 36 hours of advance notification of any schedule changes, the applicant or permittee is responsible for paying all costs incurred, including those due to cancellation, moving, or rescheduling of the project. Such charge will, at a minimum, be the equivalent of two hours overtime for each employee assigned. Approval of such schedule changes are dependent upon staff availability.

Insurance- General liability insurance must be carried by the permittee naming the **United States of America, National Park Service, Olympic National Park** as an **additional insured**. Short-term policies must show coverage on an “occurrence” basis. Required commercial liability for video or film production companies is generally one million dollars (\$1,000,000). All insurance certificates must be issued by an insurance company operating in the United States. The Film Permit Coordinator must receive the **original** insurance certificate no later than two days before the scheduled activity.

Performance Bonds- Larger projects will require the permittee to post a performance bond. The purpose of the bond is to insure that the resource is left in as good condition as it was prior to the filming, and to cover restoration costs (as needed). The amount of the bond will be determined according to the scope and potential for damage by the activity. At the conclusion of the permit, the bond will be returned to the permittee after final costs are deducted and cost recovery fees have been paid. The performance bond can be in the form of a money order or cashiers check.

Sharing the Park- A filming or photography permit does not give exclusive rights to the permittee or allow the permittee to restrict visitors from any location. Locations that attract a large number of visitors will be avoided. Normal visitor use patterns will not be interrupted for longer than five minutes, and only as specified in the approved permit. Filming or photography permit activities may not occur simultaneously with other permitted activities unless authorized by the NPS, or unduly conflict with scheduled park activities such as interpretive presentations. Visitors will be allowed to observe filming activities.

Restrictions and Conditions- will be enumerated in the permit. The following activities are restricted and must be approved on a case by case basis: (1) use of children or animals, (2) discharge of blank ammunition and all black powder weapons, (3) mechanical, chemical, or pyrotechnic special effects, (4) stunts, (5) amplified music or sound, (6) placing of large set dressings, (7) filming or photography inside interiors of government administrative work areas, (8) film equipment or activities on roadways, (9) access to closed areas or access to areas during non-visitor use hours.

The NPS monitor on duty will not allow activities not specified in the permit.

Please note that the permit does not include authority to film or photograph park visitors unless agreed to by the visitor and a signed written release is obtained by the permittee.

Closures- Permit activities may be restricted based on weather or seasonal conditions (fire danger, standing water after rain, wildlife nesting season, etc.) Additional closures, use limits and/or restricted activities are listed in the Superintendent's Compendium, which is available upon request.

Prohibited Activities- Activities having the potential to damage or significantly impact or alter park resources are prohibited. The following is a partial list of prohibited activities: (1) altering, damaging, or removing vegetation, (2) vehicle use off established roads and parking areas, (3) use of insecticides, herbicides, and pesticides, (4) loud noises that exceed 60 decibels or have the potential to negatively impact park resources or visitors experience, (5) smoking in buildings or in vegetated areas, (6) use of fragile vegetation areas, except on trails or already disturbed areas (as determined by the NPS), (7) writing on or discoloring any natural feature or structure, (8) flying aircraft except below FAA recommended minimum altitude (usually 2,000 feet) or landing of aircraft.

Photographic licenses such as, but not limited to, the superimposing of pictures which depict activities in conflict with the mission and goals of park management are prohibited. Staged activities by on-screen talent that would be considered dangerous if performed by the general public is also prohibited. Activities that are illegal in the park, such as hunting and off-road travel, are not to be depicted.

Termination of Permit- All filming or photography permits issued by the National Park Service are "revocable" on 24 hours notice, or WITHOUT NOTICE if the terms of the permit are violated. Deliberate infractions of the terms of the filming permit or the deliberate making of false or misleading statements concerning intended actions in order to obtain a permit are causes for immediate termination of the permit and cause for possible prosecution. Permits will be revoked if damage to resources or facilities is threatened, or if there is a clear danger to public health or safety.

Mail completed application with check or money order, made payable to National Park Service for \$100.00, to:

**Film Permit Coordinator
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362**

For questions or additional information, call (360) 565-3090.