

National Wildlife Refuge System – Alaska  
Special Use Permit Application Guidance  
**For Commercial Filming/Photography**

The following guidance should be followed in completing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Special Use Application and Permit* (FWS Form 3-1383) for commercial audio-visual productions. A special use permit may not be required for bona fide news media photographers covering news events. Please contact the appropriate refuge headquarters office if you have any questions about completing the application form.

**Block 1.** Please indicate the name of the national wildlife refuge in Alaska on which you propose to conduct your commercial activity.

**Block 2.** Enter the date of the application.

**Block 3.** Indicate the starting and ending dates for the period when the activity on the refuge will be conducted.

**Block 4.** Please complete the applicant information as requested. The applicant must be an individual who is legally responsible for the company's activities and for compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

**Block 5.** Check the box for "Commercial Filming," and indicate the specific type of activity in Block 6.

**Block 6.** Describe in detail your proposed activity, including the following information, where applicable (add additional sheets as necessary):

- a) Submit a map showing the location of the proposed activities. Indicate the locations of any proposed camps. Note: If the area of use is designated wilderness, or will occur on Native or state selected lands, please see additional information below.
- b) Indicate the specific dates, weather permitting, that the filming activity is expected to occur on the Refuge.
- c) Identify the methods of access into the Refuge, including the names of air and/or water taxi operations to be used. Note: All transportation providers must hold an individual permit to operate on the Refuge.
- d) Will fuel caches be needed on the refuge? If so, describe locations, amount of fuel to be stored, and containers to be used. Note: Fuel storage on the refuge

must comply with the *Region 7 Fuel Storage Policy* (contact the refuge for more information).

- e) Provide the names of all individuals associated with the filming production who will be participating in the field, and indicate the functions they will perform.

**Block 7.** Click on this button to print the application form.

**Block 8.** Sign and date the application and submit it to the appropriate refuge office. If the application is approved, the refuge office will provide a list of special permit conditions, which you must sign and return to the refuge office. You will then receive a signed special use permit authorizing your activity.

### **Fees and Bonds**

You must submit a \$100 administration fee along with your completed and signed application, prior to permit issuance. No additional fees are required, however, a bond or deposit may be required to ensure full compliance with permit conditions.

### **Additional information**

**Alaska Native and State Selected Lands:** In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 2650.1, if the proposed activity would occur on Refuge lands that have been selected by an Alaska Native Corporation, the applicant is required to obtain a signed statement from each appropriate Native Corporation documenting their views on the proposed activity, prior to the special use permit being issued. On State selected lands, permission must be obtained from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for any activities that involve construction of permanent facilities, or the removal of minerals or materials. If you are not familiar with the land status of your proposed use area, please contact the refuge office well in advance (at least six weeks) of your activity so the appropriate contacts can be made.

**Wilderness Areas:** The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits commercial enterprises within designated wilderness areas. We generally prohibit commercial photography in wilderness areas unless we determine it is necessary to provide educational information about wilderness uses and values and does not degrade the wilderness character of the area (610 FW 2.12). In cases where we allow such photography in wilderness as a commercial service, permittees will be limited to access methods and equipment that are allowed for the general public, including those uses allowed under section 1110 (a) of ANILCA, such as snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes, and nonmotorized surface transportation. Contact the refuge office if you have questions regarding allowed activities in wilderness.