



Permits for Commercial Recreation Activity on State Owned Land

Which State Owned Land?

This information focuses on land managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water. This agency is the primary manager of Alaska's landholdings which include 89 million acres of uplands and 65 million acres of shorelands and tide/submerged lands. After fulfilling all statehood land transfers, that will eventually total 106 million acres.

Part of the Division of Mining, Land and Water's responsibility is to make land available for Alaskans to use for recreational and commercial purposes. This is often accomplished through the issuance of a permit.

Who Needs a Permit?

Some temporary uses of state land do not require a permit. These uses are called "generally allowed" and include such things as hiking; snow machining; horseback riding; harvesting of berries or wild plants for personal, non-commercial use; landing a small aircraft; recreational goldpanning; travel using a highway vehicle with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a pickup truck, or using a recreational-type vehicle (snowmachine, four-wheeler, etc.) with a curb weight of 1,500 pounds, if use does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion; personal use of temporary camp that will be moved at least two (2) miles every 14 days or *more frequently if use is occurring in a special use area in which a shorter camp term has been established*; and (i) entry for commercial recreation purposes on a day-use basis with no overnight camps or unoccupied facilities that remain overnight, and (ii) entry by an air or water taxi services dropping off clients for guided or unguided recreation, as long as the use has been registered as required by 11 AAC 96.018.

For a list of "[Generally Allowed Uses](#)," and information on special use areas, contact the Department of Natural Resources, Public Information Center or one of the Division of Mining, Land and Water regional offices.

Temporary uses of state land other than those that are "generally allowed" require a permit from the Division of Mining, Land and Water. Examples of temporary uses that typically require a permit are seasonal commercial docks and mooring buoys, log transfer sites, portable repeaters, equipment staging areas, cross-country movement of heavy equipment and the harvest of state resources for commercial purposes.

Definitions

Permit. A permit authorizes the temporary use of state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water. A permit allows for the establishment of temporary structures that can be removed from a site within 48 hours. A permit does not grant a long-term property interest, and is revocable.

For the purposes of this publication, the following information focuses on permits for temporary camps and floating facilities used in conjunction with commercial recreation activities.

- **Commercial recreation permit.** This permit is required of any commercial recreation business using temporary camps that will be moved every 14 days. On or before the 14th day, camps authorized under this permit must be relocated at least 2 miles.
- **Land use permit.** This permit is required of any commercial recreation business planning to use: (i) a temporary camp remaining in place either in an upland or shoreland location for more than 14 days. (*Shorelands are those lands located below the ordinary high water mark of fresh waterbodies (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, etc.)*) or (ii) a floating facility for any length of time on tide/submerged lands.

How long will it take to get a permit?

Commercial recreation permit. This type of permit is specifically designed to provide quick authorization for those conducting a low impact recreational activity on state owned land. A commercial recreation permit can be issued the same day as the completed permit form and appropriate land use fee are received by the Division.

Land use permit. The processing of a land use permit application begins with a minimum 30-day review. After completion of any required reviews, the Division evaluates the comments received during the review period, and determines whether the issuance of a permit would be in the best interest of the state. Permit issuance may take in excess of 60 days. It is always best to give the Division as much lead time as possible.

What forms do I need to fill out?

Commercial recreation permit - a commercial recreation permit form.

Land use permit - a land use permit application, required supplementals specific to type of use, a coastal zone questionnaire if the area is within the coastal zone, a 1:63,360 scale USGS map identifying the location of the activity and a non-refundable \$100 filing fee.

Prior to applying for any permit, check the land status and the applicable area plan!!!

Do I need insurance?

Commercial recreation permit. Liability insurance and a performance guarantee may be required on a case-by-case basis.

Land use permit. Liability insurance coverage is required. A performance guarantee is also required.

Permit terms and conditions.

The terms and conditions of a land use and commercial recreation permits address:

- authorized structures
- authorized use
- site disturbance
- fuel and hazardous substance management
- garbage storage and disposal
- wastewater disposal
- site restoration
- indemnification
- compliance with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances

Fees

The annual fees for either a land use or commercial recreation permit are as follows:

- **\$500** minimum annual fee for a permit authorizing temporary camp or floating facility use less than six months within a 12 month period);
- **\$1,000** minimum annual fee for a permit authorizing temporary camp or floating facility use from six to 12 months.
- **\$2 per visitor day** for the use of the permitted facilities.

If a public notice is required or deemed necessary, the applicant is responsible for paying the publication cost.

Permit Duration

A **commercial recreation permit** or a **land use permit** may be issued for a term of up to five years.

Permit Renewal

Commercial recreation permit. Renewals may be issued immediately when a completed permit form and the required fee is received by the Division as long as the applicant complied with the terms and conditions of previous permits.

Land use permit. Renewals may be issued in a shorter period of time if the permittee complied with the terms and conditions of previous permits, there are no significant changes in the development or operations plan and the use continues to be consistent with the effective land management plan.

Permit selection process.

Permits are issued on a non-competitive basis. All applicants that meet specified qualifications are issued a permit as long as the Division determines that the issuance of the permit would be in the best interest of the state.

Change of ownership or control of business entity.

Permits are not transferable.

Where do I apply, get forms, and get additional information?

Permit applications should be sent to the appropriate office listed below for the region where activities will be conducted. Information and forms can be obtained at any of these offices.

Anchorage/Southcentral:

Public Information Center
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
(907) 269-8400

Fairbanks/Northern:

Public Information Center
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
(907) 451-2705

Juneau/Southeast:

MLW Information Office
400 Willoughby St., Ste 400
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3511

For additional Division of Mining, Land and Water information, please visit our homepage at: www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw

