



Bureau of Land Management

Cuddeback Dry Lake Fossil Falls Trona Pinnacles

Dear BLM Applicant:

The following is information about the **Bureau of Land Management Commercial Film Permit Application**.

Attached you will find:

1. BLM Cover Page with instructions and fee information – 2 pages
2. Guidelines for Film Permit, 4 pages (**initials required on page 4**)
3. Land Use Application and Permit, 2 pages (**signature required on Page 1 & 2**)
4. Commercial Use Application, 1 page (**signature required**)
5. Land Use Permit Stipulations, 4 pages (**signature required on page 4**)
6. Stipulations for Filming at trona Pinnacles, 2 pages (**signature required on page 2**)
7. Ridgecrest Processing Fee form (**Signature Required**)

Please include with your return Email:

- a. #2 – 7, signed and completed (required)
- b. A **Storyboard** or a **detailed description of activities** (not required but highly recommended)
- c. A map of where you would like to film with decimal GPS coordinates
- d. A Certificate of Insurance **and** a Letter of Endorsement listing the **Bureau of Land Management** as additionally insured (Required – see page two (2) for details)

Please read and complete the aforementioned forms. **Any pages left unsigned or incomplete will halt the permit process and delay your permit.** Please use the checklist above to verify you have prepared all the appropriate documents. Once the **signed and fully complete** application has been received, along with required insurance documents and payment, the IEFS will process you permit within 10-14 business days. It is important to list **ALL** props, vehicles, and equipment to be used, along with a detailed description of your activities and/or a storyboard. You must list all stunts, precision driving, pyrotechnics, explosive devices, airplanes, helicopters or drones used in your shoot.

FEES*

All Motion Filming (Film, Digital, Video, etc.).....Permit Rates: 01-30 people = \$250/day
31-60 people = \$500/day
61+ people = \$600/day

Commercial Still Photography.....Permit Rates: 01-10 people = \$100/day
11-30 people = \$150/day
31+ people = \$250/day

Processing Fee To be determined based on BLM Review (Starts at \$151)

Monitoring Fee To be determined based on BLM Review (Starts at \$151)

RRFC Fee\$175 per permit

IEFS Fee\$225 per permit

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. FEES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

*Regulations (43 CFR 2920.6(b)) require the collection of cost recovery and monitoring fees for land use permits.



Bureau of Land Management

Page 2

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

All invoices will be sent via Square.com where you can pay online with a credit card, ACH or cash app

If you want to pay by check, make it payable to the Inland Empire Film Services, Inc. Once you have been given your total, overnight (via FedEx, UPS, etc.) your check to the address supplied by the IEFS representative. Keep in mind that the check has to clear the bank before the permit will be issued. This can add 5-7 days to your permit timeline.

You must provide proof of liability insurance and a Letter of Endorsement (ISO Form CG-20-12-07-98 or equivalent) naming the Bureau of Land Management as additionally insured for the amount of \$1 million.

See following page for detailed instructions

In the event of the use of aircraft, an Aircraft Liability Insurance Certificate and Letter of Endorsement is required naming the Bureau of Land Management as additionally insured for the amount of \$5 million. *If you are using drones, additional UAS/Aircraft liability insurance Certificate and Endorsement in the amount of \$2 million is required along with FAA drone licenses & registrations and a POA with flight maps showing the flight area.*

See following page for detailed instructions

A Copy of your “Plan of Activities” (POA) filed with the FAA is also required for aircraft (except for drones)

Please contact us once a specific location has been chosen to determine the availability of that location on the date you desire. **All locations requested are tentative and are not guaranteed reserved until your paperwork is received, completed, signed and paid in full.**

A complete copy of your permit, stipulations, maps and insurance must be on site at all times.

Proof of Insurance Requirements

Proof of Insurance

- with “USDI-BLM” 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93555
- \$1 million regular permit
- \$2 million if using drone
- \$5 million if using helicopter
- **Certificate of Liability** – Needed under name of Production Company for filming
- **Certificate of Liability** – Needed under name of Student for film school student

1) **The following must be included on the policy under “Description of Operations/Locations etc.**

a)) the statement *“this policy shall remain in full force and effect on a continuous basis for the term of the grant(s) unless the Insurer provides to the insured not less than one hundred twenty (120) days advance written notice of its intent to cancel the policy. It is understood and agreed that the Insured may recover the full amount of the policy (less any previous amounts paid to the Insured under the policy) if the Insurer cancels the policy, and within thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the cancellation, if the Insured has not received replacement Security acceptable to the BLM” (this is an endorsement to the policy that the holder must request be added).* This would be an endorsement on the policy;

b) Project name and contact name

2) **Helicopter or Drone Use** - If there’s Helicopter/Drone use we will also, need Insurance for Helicopter/Drone use, as well as certification of Helicopter/Drone operator and Drone information, serial number, etc.



Film Permit Checklist

- Complete application, with a full list of all vehicles, equipment, and activities
- Signatures on pages 3 - 6, 10 (12 for Trona Pinnacles) 13 & 14
- Map of location with filming area clearly marked
- Proof of insurance
 - with the following listed as additionally insured:
USDI-BLM
300 S. Richmond Rd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
 - \$1 million regular permits; \$5 million if using a helicopter
- Email or credit card signature for Ridgecrest Film Commission invoice
- STUDENTS ONLY – letter from supervisor validating your enrollment and film project on school letterhead
- Email completed paperwork to:

Kari Crutcher
Ridgecrest Regional Film Commission
permits@filmridgecrest.com

GUIDELINES FOR FILM PERMITS

(THE GUIDELINES ARE FOR YOUR RECORDS ONLY, **DO NOT RETURN WITH APPLICATION.**)

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING APPLICATION!!

These guidelines are provided to assist you in completing an application for a film permit. The enclosed Land Use Application and Permit (Form 2920-1) is fairly self-explanatory, but please feel free to call our office if you have any questions or concerns at (760)384-5400.

PERMIT APPLICATION

- Block 1: List the **name** and **title** of the **person responsible while on location**, along with the **company name** listed below it. List the **complete address** of the company, the **office phone** number, and **email**.
- Block 2: Please attach a map **when possible**.
- Block 3: State which **day(s)** you wish to use the location for filming. The use of the land **begins and ends at midnight** (rather than a 24-hour period spread over two days.)
- Block 4: Place an "**X**" next to Resident, Corporation or other, according to your status.
- Block 5: "**No**" is generally the answer, **unless** more than one company will be using the land at the same time.
- Block 6: "**No**" is generally the answer, as long as you will be using **existing access roads**. If this is not the case, please contact the film commission or BLM office.
- Block 7: (a) Please state your **intended use** of the land (e.g., "still photography for magazine ad" or "motion picture photography for commercial/feature," etc.).
*Any props you will require; trucks, vehicles, and equipment to be on location; digging or surface disturbance of any kind; and number of cast and crew will be described on an attached project description. Make sure that this information is complete on your **Commercial Use Application**.*
- (b) "**None**" is generally the answer unless you plan to make **permanent improvements** to the land.
- (c) Give a **rough estimate** of the capital involved in the project.
- (d) If your project requires the use of water, **how much** will you use and **how will you supply** the water **on location**.

Signature Block: Application **MUST** be signed and dated by the **Unit Production Manager or above**.

PERMIT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All that is necessary for you to complete on this page are the **filming dates** and **signature** (again, **Unit Production Manager** or above). Please place signature (and title) on the line labeled "Permittee." Do not write on the line labeled "Authorized Officer." Upon receipt, the film commission will complete the permit portion of your application.

Please email your application to the film commission office at racvb@filmdeserts.com.

****Please include with your permit application:**

- ☞ **Storyboards of the proposed activity, if available.**
- ☞ **Certificate of insurance naming the USDI-BLM, 300 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 as the co-insured in the amount of \$1,000,000.00, (\$5,000,000.00 for applications including any use of aircraft.)**

Location Credit: The Ridgecrest Regional Film Commission requests acknowledgment in location credits, where applicable.

By initialing, you agree to give the Ridgecrest Regional Film Commission location credits X_____

Privacy Policy: Provisions of the California Public Records Act allow proprietary information and trade secrets to be held in confidence where disclosure would cause loss of competitive advantage, loss of work, or would render a project subject to disruption by the public. Then requested by the applicant and to the extent of the law, it is the policy of the RRFC to withhold all proprietary and trade secret information pertaining to production filming within the RRFC jurisdiction. General information will be released only after the permitted activity has been completed.

By initialing, you are requesting us to keep the information in this document a secret until after the filming is completed. X_____

RIDGECREST REGIONAL FILM COMMISSION

ATTN: Kari Crutcher
880 N. China Lake Blvd.
RIDGECREST, CA 93555
(760)375-8202

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND
USE APPLICATION AND PERMIT

(Sec. 302(b) of P.L. 94-579, October 21, 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1732

FOR BLM USE ONLY

Application Number

CACA#

APPLICATION

1. Name (first, middle initial, and last)	Address (include zip code)	Phone (include area code)
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2. Attach map or sketch showing public lands for which you are applying

3. Proposed date(s) of use: from _____ to _____

4. Give legal basis for holding interest in lands in
The State of CALIFORNIA
(Check appropriate box at right and explain)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government | <input type="checkbox"/> State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

5. Are the lands now improved, occupied, or used? Yes No (If yes, describe improvements and purposes, identify users and occupants)

6. Do you need access to the land? Yes No (Describe needed or existing access)
(WILL USE EXISTING ACCESS ROADS AS DESIGNATED BY BLM STIPULATIONS)

7a. What do you propose to use the lands for?

(See attached project description)

b. What improvements and/or land development do you propose? (To complete application processing, engineering and construction drawings may be required)

NONE

c. What is the estimated capital cost?

\$ _____

d. What is the source of water for the proposed use?

I CERTIFY That the information given by me in this application is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is given in good faith.

X _____
(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

Permission is hereby granted to
of
To use the following-describe lands

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	SUBDIVISION

Meridian MOUNT DIABLE	State CALIFORNIA	County	Acres (number) 10.0
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For the purpose of
SEE ATTACHED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- This permit is issued for the period specified below. It is revocable at the discretion of the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management, at any time upon notice. This permit is subject to valid adverse claims heretofore or hereafter acquired.
- This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR 2920) which are made a part hereof.
- This permit may not be assigned without prior approval of the authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management.
- Permittee shall not enclose roads or trails commonly in public use.
- Authorized representatives of the Department of the Interior, other Federal, State and local law officials shall at all times have the right to enter the premises on official business.
- Permittee shall pay the United States for any damage to its property resulting from the use.
- Permittee shall notify the authorized officer of address change immediately.
- Permittee shall observe all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the premises and to erection or maintenance of signs or advertising displays including the regulations for the protection of game birds and game animals, and shall keep the premises in a neat, orderly, and sanitary condition.

- Permittee shall pay the authorized officer, in advance, the lump sum of \$ _____ for the period of use authorized by this permit or \$ N/A, annually, as rental or such other sum as may be required if a rental adjustment is made.
- Use or occupancy of land under this permit shall commence within N/A months from date hereof and shall be exercised a least N/A days each year.
- Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest, brush, and grass fires and prevent pollution of waters on or in the vicinity of the lands.
- Permittee shall not cut any timber on the lands or remove other resources from the land without prior written permission from the authorized officer. Such permission may be conditioned by a requirement to pay fair market value for the timber or other resources.
- Permittee agrees to have the serial number of this permit marked or painted on each advertising display or other facility erected or maintained under the authority of such permit.
- This permit is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, which sets forth the Equal Opportunity clauses. A copy of this order may be obtained from the signing officer.
- Permittee acknowledges, by signing below that he/she knows, understands, and accepts the terms and conditions under which this permit is issued.
- Special conditions (*attach additional sheets, if necessary*)

STIPULATIONS ATTACHED

Permit issued for the period

X

(Permittee)

From _____

(BLM)

To _____

Field Office Manager

(Title)

(Date)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Submit, in duplicate, to any local office of the Bureau of Land officer Management having jurisdiction of the lands.
- Applications for Land Use Permits will not be accepted unless a Notification of the availability of the land for non-BLM use (Notice of Realty Action) has been published in the Federal Register and for 3 weeks thereafter in a newspaper of general circulation. This Provision does not apply in those situations where the publication of

- a (Notice of Realty Action) has been waived by the authorized
- If the annual rental exceeds \$250 dollars per year; costs of processing the application must be paid by the applicant in advance.
- The authorized officer may require additional information to process an application. Processing will be deferred until the required information is furnished by the applicant.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) requires us to inform you that:

Information is needed to process applications for land use authorizations, pursuant to 43 CFR Section 2920. Information shows if the applicant and proposed use meet the requirements of 43 CFR Section 2920.1. Applicants must respond before he/she can be granted authorization to use public lands.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RIDGECREST RESOURCE AREA
COMMERCIAL USE APPLICATION**

1. Name of Company: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
2. Person responsible on location: _____ Title: _____
3. Location of site desired: _____
4. Dates of use: _____ Hours of use: _____
5. Number of personnel (Include production crew & actors): _____
6. Statement of activity. Give specific details and include the name of the product of production:

7. Complete list of vehicles, equipment, special effects, aircraft, or animals to be used:

8. Props to be used/constructed, (props include any items that will appear on film) give details, (including how props will be constructed and supported):

9. Name and phone number of the person to contact in case of emergency:

SIGNATURE

DATE

LAND USE PERMIT STIPULATIONS

The following stipulations have been incorporated into the permit in order to manage filming activities being conducted on public land. The permittee shall comply with the following stipulations.

General

1. The Permittee shall comply with all applicable Local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
2. The Permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless, the United States, against any and all liability; direct or indirect, arising from the occupancy and use of the public land associated with the activities herein authorized.
3. The permittee shall designate a representative for field operations before activities may commence. This person shall be the sole field representative for the Permittee's employees or contractors in dealing with the Authorized Officer. Said representative shall be responsible to receive and comply with all communications and decisions issued by the Authorized Officer. The selected representative shall be a Unit Production Manager or higher.
4. Unless specifically approved in writing as part of the permitted activity, all use under this permit shall be confined to areas of previous surface disturbance.
5. The Permittee is not granted exclusive usage of public land. Therefore, the Permittee must be cognizant of other users' needs in relation to its own uses and shall permit free and unrestricted public access to and upon the public land for all lawful purposes unless otherwise authorized by the Authorized Officer for public safety.
6. In areas other than open areas, vehicle use shall be limited to existing roads. The Permittee shall not leave the road surface to turn around or to go around any obstruction on the road itself. Vehicle speeds are limited to 20 MPH on ALL dirt and access roads.
7. This authorization is issued subject to all valid existing rights as of the date of issuance.
8. The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and subcontractors of the terms and conditions of this authorization. Any officer, employee, or agent of the Bureau Land Management (BLM) may direct the Permittee or its employees, contractors, or subcontractors to cease and desist all activities on public land at any time in order to protect significant public land resources. Activities shall resume only upon written approval by the Authorized Officer.
9. The Permittee shall remove from public land and properly dispose of any and all trash, litter, debris, waste, excess materials, including flagging and signs, or other substances and materials resulting from the use under this authorization. All trash and food items shall be promptly contained within closed, raven-proof containers. These shall be regularly removed from the project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other tortoise predators.
10. Aircraft filming operations may be conducted in a military special use airspace complex, called the R_2508 Complex. **It is the responsibility of the pilot in command to comply with all Federal Aviation Regulations regarding access to special use airspace.** To exchange information regarding your planned activity and concurrent military operations, **contact the R_2508 Central Coordinating Facility (CCG) at (661) 277-2508 at least three working days prior to your operation.**
11. Many of the film locations on public land are isolated and remote. Therefore, pursuant to California Labor Code 2350, the Permittee shall provide within reasonable access, a sufficient number of toilet facilities for use by crewmembers. These toilet facilities may be either porta-potties or motor homes.

12. As directed by the Authorized Officer, the Permittee shall provide an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or its equivalent on-site during filming activities.
13. The Permittee shall provide to the BLM Authorized Officer a DVD of the produced video in a commonly used format, for the BLM's records. If still photography, the Permittee shall provide either a photo, tear sheet, or copy of the publication for the BLM's records. Additionally, the Permittee hereby agrees to allow the BLM to duplicate segments of the video photos for the purpose of promoting the BLM and filming on public lands, or for internal government training. The BLM will NOT post any copies prior to the release of film or photo projects.
14. The Permittee will provide film credits for movies and television shows. The credits must benefit the stature of the BLM. Credits shall be as listed: USDI-Bureau of Land Management-Ridgecrest Field Office
15. The Permittee shall maintain liability insurance, naming the United States Department of the Interior, as co-insured in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for the full term of the permit. If aircraft is being used, the Permittee shall additionally maintain insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000 naming the United States, Department of Interior as co-insured.
16. If vehicles, equipment, materials, etc. are left on site overnight, a caretaker must be present to ensure the security of the property.
17. No activity is allowed on the lakebeds when the surface is wet or muddy. Any activity, which would create ruts or other alterations of the lakebed surface, is prohibited.
18. This permit does not authorize the taking, killing, or collection of any wildlife, vegetation, or soils.
19. Any soil disturbance such as ditching, pounding, leveling, mounding, etc. must be specifically authorized by BLM on the permit and must be cleared by the Ridgecrest Field Office.
20. Filming operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to avoid creating safety hazards to other public land visitors and to the filming crews.
21. The Permittee shall take adequate steps acceptable to the Authorized Officer to rehabilitate any surface disturbed during use under this permit, including areas previously disturbed, to a condition comparable to their condition prior to the permitted activity. (Examples: smoothing of berms or disturbed soil to natural contour; removal of vehicle ruts; replacement of fences or gates, etc.)
22. The Ridgecrest Field Office must pre-approve any commercial filming involving exotic (i.e., non-desert and desert plants and animals not native to the West Mojave) or domestic species. The Permittee is responsible for controlling and cleaning up after these species to avoid the dissemination of seeds or diseases in the desert. The Permittee shall notify the American Humane Association prior to the commencement of filming activities that involve animals. The Permittee shall furnish the BLM proof that this contact was made prior to the issuance of the permit. Failure to do so may result in the suspension of the permit until American Humane Association is contacted.
23. Commercial filming activities involving pyrotechnic or explosive devices must be specifically authorized by the BLM on the permit.
24. The Permittee must be in physical possession of this permit to constitute a valid authorization. These documents must be presented to any Federal, State, or Local law enforcement officer requesting their possession.
25. The Permittee is fully responsible for obtaining any permits or approvals required by state, local, or other Federal agencies. (Examples: county use permits, fire permits, county air quality permits, etc.)
26. Any non-SAG productions using any animal actor will require animal monitoring. Monitoring hours will be determined by activity and will be arranged through the Ridgecrest Film Commission at the rate of \$30.00/hr. plus mileage.

Cultural Resources

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resources (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder or any person working on the Holder's behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Authorized Officer, Field Manager BLM, Ridgecrest, CA. The Permittee shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the Authorized Officer to determine the appropriate actions to follow to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The Permittee will be responsible for the cost of the evaluation. Any decision as to proper mitigation measures to be taken will be made by the Authorized Officer after consultation with the Permittee.
2. Collection or disturbance of artifacts and other archaeological, historical, and paleontological materials by the Permittee, its representatives, or employees, shall not be allowed. Offenders shall be subject to prosecution under the appropriate State and Federal laws.

Wildlife

1. Only biologists authorized by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG), and the BLM shall handle desert tortoises.
2. The area of disturbance shall be confined to the smallest practical area, considering topography, placement of facilities, location of burrows, public health and safety, and other limiting factors. Special habitat features, such as burrows, identified by the qualified biologist shall be avoided to the extent possible. To the extent possible, previously disturbed areas within the project site shall be utilized for storage of equipment, location of office trailers, and parking of vehicles. The qualified biologist, in consultation with the project proponent, shall ensure compliance with this measure.
3. To the extent possible, access to the project site shall be restricted to designated "open" routes of travel. Except when absolutely required by the project and as explicitly stated in the project permit, cross-country vehicle use by employees is prohibited during work and non-work hours.
4. Should a tortoise wander into the work area, filming must stop. The BLM shall be notified within 24 hours that a tortoise did enter the site.
5. Upon locating a dead or injured tortoise, the project proponent or agent is to notify the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office immediately. The information provided must include the date and time of the finding or incident (if known), location of the carcass or injured animal, a photograph, cause of death, if known, and other pertinent information. Any dead tortoises encountered must be left in place and BLM notified. No relocation of live or dead tortoises around the project site is permitted under Federal law.
6. Workers shall inspect for tortoises under all vehicles prior to moving them. If a tortoise is present, the worker shall carefully move the vehicle only when necessary and when the tortoise would not be injured by moving the vehicle or shall wait for the tortoise to move out from under the vehicle.
7. Pets should be restrained either by enclosure in a kennel or by chaining to a point within the project site.
8. Explosives shall not be permitted on projects that occur within desert tortoise critical habitats. Where explosives are employed outside of critical habitat, the Bureau shall ensure that no more than two acres of desert tortoise habitat shall be affected.
9. Many of the areas where filming is allowed have fragile environmental concerns. The Desert Tortoise is an Endangered Species within the United States. Its habitat is within the permitted area. Caution must be taken not to harass, hurt or disturb the tortoise. **If harassment, injury, or death occurs, a fine of up to \$50,000 and imprisonment of up to one (1) year may result.** Always beware of tortoises on the roads, under parked vehicles, or entering a site that you may be using.

Water Quality

1. No dumping of water, sewage, trash, oil, or any other petroleum products is allowed in the area. All wastes must be transported out of the area.

Fire Management

1. Smoking shall be allowed only in designated areas on public land. These areas shall be clearly marked and supplied with proper smoking disposal equipment. Any violation of this stipulation may result in the temporary suspension of the permit until such time that the proponent conducts a safety meeting with BLM firefighters in attendance. Continuous violations of this stipulation will result in the termination of the permit.

Failure to comply with any terms or conditions of this permit may result in the immediate suspension or termination of the permit and may result in civil or criminal charges, as appropriate.

X _____
Signature of Authorized Company Representative

Date

STIPULATIONS FOR FILMING AT TRONA PINNACLES

The following stipulations have been incorporated to manage filming activities at the Trona Pinnacles. The Permittee shall adhere to the following stipulations:

1. Filming activity is limited to that which is specifically approved on the permit. Any deviations must have prior written BLM approval.
2. Vehicle use (driving and parking) is limited to existing roads. Vehicle speeds are limited to 20 mph.
3. Surface disturbance (i.e., digging, trenching, grading, staking) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and, if allowed, is restricted to existing roads and previously disturbed areas.
4. Set construction will be considered on a case-by-case basis and, if allowed, is restricted to existing roads and previously disturbed areas.
5. Use of explosives is prohibited.
6. Use of minor pyrotechnics (non-explosive) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
7. Use of heavy equipment such as graders, cranes, and tractors will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
8. Staging shall be on the black rock-covered "levy" prior to entering the Pinnacles. If the designated staging area is to be used as part of the film project, an alternate staging area will be provided by BLM.
9. Excess vehicles may be parked in the large dirt turnout area at the intersection of Highway 178 and the graded dirt road to the Trona Pinnacles.
10. A bond is required for filing for all productions at the Trona Pinnacles to insure the fulfillment of the terms and conditions outlined in the land use authorization. The bond amount is based on the potential cost to the BLM to rehabilitate the site after all the Permittee's filming activities have terminated. The bond shall be posted prior to the issuance of the permit or immediately upon the request of the BLM and shall be in the form of a cashier's check, surety bond, or credit card. The bond will be returned within 4-6 weeks after the completion of filming activities if, in the judgment of the Authorized Officer, all the terms and conditions of the land use authorization have been satisfactorily performed by the Permittee.
11. **All members of the cast and crew** must attend a pre-film conference with BLM or BLM's agent prior to the commencement of any activity. Any individual who fails to attend the meeting will be prevented from engaging in any filming activity at the Pinnacles. The purpose of this meeting is to review the terms, conditions, and stipulations of the permit and desert safety information. **Film permits will not be released until this requirement has been met.** It is the Permittee's responsibility to schedule this meeting with BLM. The meeting may be scheduled through the Ridgecrest Film Commission or the BLM office and must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours prior to the requested meeting time. There may be an additional fee of \$125 for meetings outside of normal office hours (Monday – Friday 07:30-16:00), weekends, or Federal holidays. At times, the BLM might require monitoring during filming activities. The Permittee shall be liable for the cost to monitor the filming project. **Any filming activity, including catering, prep work, set construction, etc., done prior to the pre-film conference is unauthorized use, and parties involved may be cited by a BLM law enforcement officer.**
12. If a film company fails to report for a scheduled meeting or to contact BLM if unable to attend a scheduled meeting, it will be considered a "no-show" and the meeting will be canceled. **Fees will not be refunded in the event of a "no-show"** and will be charged for an additional meeting. The permit will not be released until the pre-film conference has been held. Please note, however, that in the event of a "no-show", BLM may not be able to accommodate the film company's schedule, which may result in filming delays.

Failure to comply with any terms or conditions of this permit may result in the immediate suspension or termination of the permit and may result in civil or criminal charges, as appropriate.

Signature of Authorized Company Representative

Date



RIDGECREST REGIONAL FILM COMMISSION

Company: _____

Project title: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for filming with us!

The Ridgecrest Film Commission charges a \$175 application and processing fee. Please indicate, by circling one of the options below, how you prefer to receive this invoice:

A. By e-mail: _____
(preferred e-mail address)

B. You may charge the credit card provided to the BLM in the amount of \$175 payable to the Ridgecrest Film Commission.

(signature/date): _____

We have enjoyed being part of your production and look forward to working with you again in the future.

Kari Crutcher, Film Commissioner
Ridgecrest Regional Film Commission
permits@filmridgecrest.com
(760)375-8202



RIDGECREST REGIONAL FILM COMMISSION

PRODUCTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Request to Use Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Filming

****IMPORTANT****

Please allow up to seven (7) business days for the RRFC to process requests for film permits that include the use of drones and be aware that the process will not begin until all required documentation has been submitted.

Also note that meeting all qualifications required of a Remote Pilot does not guarantee that permission to fly a small UAS over State or Federal property will be granted. Government agencies (BLM, Caltrans, State Parks, etc.) review applications on a case-by-case basis and consent or deny requests based on location conditions and specific agency guidelines.

Date _____ Production Company _____

Type of Production _____ Production Title _____

Proposed Film Date(s) _____ Production Contact _____

Contact's Cell# _____ Email Address _____

Location Address _____ **Hours of UAS Activity**

_____ From ____ [] a.m. [] p.m. to ____ [] a.m. [] p.m.

Location Address #2 _____ **Hours of UAS Activity**

_____ From ____ [] a.m. [] p.m. to ____ [] a.m. [] p.m.

UAS Company _____ Primary Contact _____

Address _____ Cell# _____

_____ Email Address _____

UAS / AIRSPACE INFORMATION

Make/Model of Aircraft _____ Registration# _____

Make/Model of Aircraft _____ Registration# _____

Total Payload Weight (incl. UAS/camera/additional equipment) _____

Class of Airspace UAS Activity Will Occur in: B C D E G

Restricted Areas or Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) Within Proposed Time/Area of Operation? Yes No

REMINDER: if you are flying in Class B, C, D or E airspace, ATC authorization is required for all UAS activity.

Part 107 Requirements

Name of Remote Pilot in Command _____

Remote Pilot's Phone# _____ Remote Pilot's Certificate# _____

If Remote Pilot will not be operating UAS, name of person operating UAS under the direct supervision of Remote Pilot _____

Visual Observer Yes No

Please provide the following:

- Copy of Remote Pilot Certificate
- Copy of Part 47 or Part 48 Registration Certificate for each UAS listed above
- Description of planned flight operations, including diagrams, charts and maps as applicable
- Certificate of Insurance & Endorsement Copy/screen shot of ATC approval to operate in restricted airspace

For Students Enrolled at an Accredited Educational Institution Operating Under "Hobbyist" Rules

Name of Operator _____ Operator's Phone# _____

Name of School _____

Please provide the following:

- Copy of UAS Registration Certification letter from school (on school stationery)
- Detailed description of proposed UAS activities Proof of TRUST exam completion
- Certificate of Insurance & Endorsement under which you will be operating

See this website for safety guidelines: https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/

All operators must possess a current Airman Certificate and must have passed one of the courses listed below:

- **Current Part 61 certificate holders:**
 - Take the Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Initial (ALC-451) online course
 - Available on the FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) [website](#) for no cost
- **Part 107 remote pilots who are also certificated and current under Part 61:**
 - Take the Part 107 Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Recurrent (ALC -515) online course
 - Available on the FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) [website](#) for no cost
- **All individuals who hold a Part 107 remote pilot certificate (regardless of currency):**
 - Take the Part 107 Small UAS Recurrent Non-Part 61 Pilots (ALC-677) online course
 - Available on the FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) [website](#) for no cost

WAIVERS: Please note that students may not apply for FAA waivers. In accordance with new FAA regulations, we will no longer request or accept waivers for night operations (§107.29), flight over people (§107.39) or flight over moving vehicles (§107.25). UAS operation under these conditions is now covered under the standard FAA test.

For Part 107 Remote Pilots: if you are requesting any of the following activities, please check all that apply and furnish proof of waiver from the FAA upon submission of this document.

- Flight altitude restrictions (§107.51)
- Operating multiple small UAS (§107.35)

UAS OPERATING AUTHORITY:

- 14 CFR Part 107
- Title 49 (“Hobbyist” Rules) – *For Students Only*

Remote Pilot in Command is responsible for the safe operation of all UAS activities and declares that he/she will be in compliance with all Part 107 standards and requirements.

Signature of Remote Pilot in Command or Authorized Company Representative

Print Name _____ Title _____

Student enrolled at an accredited educational institution is responsible for the safe operation of all UAS activities and declares that he/she will be in compliance with all community-based safety guidelines.

Signature of Student Operator *Print Name*



Requirements for Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Revised June 2022

On August 29th, 2016, the FAA’s permanent regulations for the commercial operation of drones – small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in the National Airspace System went into effect. These regulations under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) Part 107, serve as commercial operating authority and establish the minimum safety standards for small UAS operations in the United States.

Among other things, these rules establish certification requirements for small UAS pilots under 14 CFR Part 107, establishing a category of pilot referred to as the Remote Pilot. A person holding a traditional pilot certificate under Part 61 may also operate small UAS under Part 107 if they meet certain requirements outlined in the rule. Both category of pilots may supervise the operation of a small UAS operated by someone without any pilot certification under Part 107 or Part 61.

On December 28, 2020 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced final rules for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones that will require Remote Identification (Remote ID) of drones and allow operators of small drones to fly over people and at night under certain conditions.

- [Remote ID information](#)

The [Operations Over People rule](#) became effective on April 21, 2021. Drone pilots operating under [Part 107](#) may fly at night, over people and moving vehicles without a waiver as long as they meet the requirements defined in the rule. [Airspace authorizations](#) are still required for night operations in controlled airspace under 400 feet.

INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The RRFC requires completion of our Questionnaire by the Remote Pilot when he/she is retained by a production to fly UAS over State or Federal property. The completed Questionnaire and all accompanying documentation must be submitted with the production’s permit application.

UAS OPERATING AUTHORITY

In addition to Part 107, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 44809 is another operating authority that is recognized, albeit it only for students enrolled at accredited educational institutions. 49 U.S.C. 44809 describes the means by which small UAS may be operated without specific certification or operating authority from the FAA under a community-based set of safety guidelines and within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization, or what are commonly referred to as “hobbyist” rules.

EDUCATIONAL USE OF UAS

Students enrolled at an accredited educational institution may now operate small UAS for school projects. Educational use is considered non-commercial, and students may operate under hobbyist rules. Film permits are still required, but the commercial requirements of Part 107 are not (see “UAS Operating Authority” above)

Before a permit will be issued, students must submit:

- Proof of UAS registration
- A certification letter from the accredited educational institution (on school stationery to verify enrollment)
- Required insurance coverage, including \$2 million in aviation coverage
- A description of all proposed filming activities (including a detailed description of proposed UAS operations)
- The name of the community-based model aviation organization's safety guidelines under which the student will be operating

Student filmmakers must:

- Avoid flying directly over people, animals, vessels, vehicles or structures, so as not to endanger the life and property of others
- Avoid flying in a careless or reckless manner or at locations where UAS activities are prohibited, or in close proximity to crowds of people at outdoor sporting events, music festivals, political gatherings, firework displays or beaches
- Fly within visual line-of-sight
- Follow community-based safety guidelines and fly within the programming of a nationwide community-based organization
- Use an aircraft under 55 lbs., unless certified by a community-based organization
- Never fly near other aircraft
- Notify the airport and air traffic control tower prior to flying within 5 miles of an airport
- Never fly near emergency response efforts

A complete list of community-based safety guidelines can be found on The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA)'s website at: <https://www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/100.pdf>

NOTE: Student filmmakers enrolled at an accredited educational institution are required to take an aeronautical knowledge test before operating a UAS. For more information see: [The Recreational UAS Safety Test \(TRUST\) \(faa.gov\)](#)

UAS FACILITY MAPS

UAS Facility Maps show the maximum altitudes around airports where the FAA may authorize Part 107 UAS operations without additional safety analysis. The maps should be used to inform request for Part 107 airspace authorizations and waivers in controlled airspace. NOTE: these maps DO NOT authorize operations in these areas at the depicted altitudes – they are for informational purposes ONLY. Operators must still apply to operate in controlled airspace (Class B, C, D or surface area E) by completing a Part 107 Airspace Authorization or Waiver Application in the FAA DroneZone <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/>

Individuals who request a Part 107 airspace authorization are encouraged to consult the maps prior to submitting a request to determine locations and altitudes that can be approved quickly.

If you apply for authorization to operate at or below 300-feet, your request will be expedited. If you apply for authorization to operate over 400-feet, your request will necessitate a safety review.

Sample UAS Facility Map:

https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/uas_facility_maps/media/Class_E_UASFM.pdf

The FAA has forged partnerships with several companies that provide mobile apps providing near real-time processing of airspace authorizations for Part 107 UAS operators who fly in controlled airspace. It's part of what's called the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) initiative.

LAANC uses airspace data, including [UAS facility maps](#), which show the maximum altitude around airports where the FAA may authorize operations under Part 107 in controlled airspace. The program gives UAS operators the ability to interact with industry-developed applications and obtain near real-time authorization from the FAA. LAANC, a foundation for developing the [Unmanned Aircraft Systems Traffic Management System \(UTM\)](#), is now available at nearly 300 FAA air traffic facilities across the country, covering approximately 500 airports.

Two of the mobile apps now being used by UAS remote pilots are AIRMAP and Skyward.

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For a list of FAA facilities participating in LAANC, go to:

https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/uas_data_exchange/airports_participating_in_laanc/

For a list of approved LAANC UAS Service Suppliers, go to:

https://www.faa.gov/uas/programs_partnerships/uas_data_exchange/

To view all UAS Facility Maps and grids, go to: https://www.faa.gov/uas/request_waiver/uas_facility_maps/

For questions about Facility Maps, email: UAShelp@faa.gov

For Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to Facility Maps:

https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/uas_facility_maps/faq/

PERMITTING TIMEFRAME

Please allow up to seven (7) business days for the RRFCC to process requests for film permits that include the use of small UAS and be aware that the process will not begin until all required documentation has been submitted. Also note that meeting all qualifications required of a Part 107 Remote Pilot does not guarantee permission to operate small UAS over public property. RRFCC State partners (Caltrans, State Parks, etc.) also review applications on a case-by-case basis and consent or deny requests based on their specific criteria. Applicants should consider checking with all applicable State agencies before submitting permit applications to the RRFCC.

UAS PILOT CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

In order to obtain a Remote Pilot certificate under Part 107, applicants (who do not already hold a Part 61 pilot certificate) must pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center and complete a security background check by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Pilots with a traditional Pilot Certificate under Part 61 (except Student Pilots) must have successfully completed a flight review within the previous 24 months and complete a Part 107 online training course.

PERMIT APPLICATIONS: OPERATING AUTHORITY - 14 CFR PART 107

Those applying under Part 107 are required to submit:

- A copy of the Remote Pilot Certificate for the Remote Pilot in Command (Remote PIC) •
- A copy of the Part 47 or Part 48 Registration Certificate for each UAS
- A detailed description of proposed flight activities (including maps)
- Copies of all necessary waivers or approvals
- Proof of insurance coverage (as detailed below)
- Copy/screen shot of ATC approval to operate in restricted airspace

Basic provisions of 14 CFR Part 107 include:

- UAS must weigh between .5 and 55 pounds.
- Use of Visual Observer (VO) is optional.
- The Remote Pilot and the person manipulating the flight controls must remain within visual line-of-sight of the UAS (unaided by any device other than corrective lenses), unless a waiver is obtained.
- UAS must be operated in daylight only – or civil twilight (generally 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, with appropriate anti-collision lighting)
- Maximum altitude is 400 feet above ground level (or within 400 feet of a structure).
- UAS operations require a preflight inspection by the Remote Pilot.
- Operations in Class G airspace is allowed, but operations in Class B, C, D and E airspace is only allowed with the required ATC (Air Traffic Control) authorization.
- No person may act as a Remote Pilot or Visual Observer for more than one UAS operation at one time.

Note: 14 CFR Part 107.205 identifies regulations that may be waived by the FAA. Those regulations include:

- 107.31—Visual line of sight aircraft operation
- 107.33—Visual observer
- 107.35—Operation of multiple small unmanned aircraft systems
- 107.37(a)—Yielding the right of way
- 107.41—Operation in certain airspace
- 107.51—Operating limitations for small unmanned aircraft

When applying for a waiver, applicants must demonstrate how they will establish an equivalent level of safety.

FOR INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKERS

Remote Pilot Licensing: Non-U.S. citizens who want to fly for commercial purposes may do so under Part 107 by obtaining a Remote Pilot Certificate issued by the FAA. The FAA does not currently recognize foreign Remote Pilot Certificates, because globally-recognized Remote Pilot certification standards have not been developed. Remote Pilot certification requirements can be found in 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 107, Subpart C. Small UAS Registration. In addition, the FAA does not currently permit foreign registered small UAS operations under Part 107. Each small UAS used in film production must have an effective U.S. registration as prescribed in 14 CFR part 91.203(a)(2).

NO DRONE ZONES

Local municipal codes may establish “No Drone Zones.” If you see a posting for such, don’t assume it applies to the commercial use of UAS. Some codes may only apply to model aircraft. If unsure – ask for clarification.

There are times when the use of drones on public property will be prohibited – in some instances because of environmental conditions, in other instances, because it’s an area that’s too heavily populated. That’s why requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

PLEASE NOTE: While the FAA controls U.S. airspace, individual jurisdictions (states, counties, and cities) may regulate take-offs and landings within their jurisdictions. Additionally, the FAA does not regulate the use of UAS indoors (on a stage, in a building or other enclosed areas). Indoor drone activity will require other applicable approvals.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

As the RRFC website details “Insurance Requirements for Filming,” a production entity that wishes to film on State property must provide the RRFC with a certificate of insurance evidencing coverage of General Liability, Workers Compensation and Automobile Liability.

If the production’s proposed activities include the use of a small UAS, **additional aerial coverage must be provided by the UAS operator**. The additional requirements are to provide:

1. Proof of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) coverage (listing the specific aircraft to be used) with a **limit of at least \$2,000,000**. This can be submitted in one of two ways:

a. If UAS coverage is being added to a general liability policy, there must be a ***separate endorsement*** showing proof of UAS coverage.

b. If the coverage is coming from an *aviation-specific* insurance carrier (such as Global Aerospace), a separate policy endorsement is ***not*** necessary, as the entire policy represents the UAS coverage.

c. A separate endorsement naming the RRFC, its officers, agents and employees as Additional Insured.

2. Please note that all **separate endorsements** must be submitted as **separate attachments** (not included in the body of the certificate of insurance).

IMPORTANT NOTES

- UAS operators must have all pertinent documentation **on set with them at all times**, including documents related to Operating Authority, Pilot Qualifications, and Aircraft Registration.
- Operation of a small UAS is permitted only when all qualifications have been met, all necessary approvals have been obtained, and use of a small UAS is noted on the production’s permit. If a production is found to be operating a small UAS without the proper permit, the assigned Fire Safety Officer or law enforcement official may immediately suspend the small UAS activities and/or the production may be subject to a fine.

- While Part 107 does not require the use of a Visual Observer (VO), the RRFC recommends the use of a VO for increased safety in UAS operations.
- Small UAS flown as a PROP is subject to the same regulations as those used for filming.
- On October 9, 2015, Contract Services Administration Trust Fund issued Safety Bulletin #36, “Recommended Guidelines for Safely Working Around Unmanned Aircraft Systems.” This document is posted on the csatf.org website, and may be accessed by clicking this link:
<http://www.csatf.org/pdf/36UAS.pdf/pdf/36UAS.pdf>

Note: A copy of this Safety Bulletin should be attached to your call sheet on days when a small UAS is being used.

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF UAS OVER CALTRANS PROPERTY

Submissions for permits that include the use of small UAS over Caltrans property will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Caltrans guidelines for the use of a UAS are as follows:

- Use of a small UAS will be treated as a complex shoot and will require a full road closure and/or ITC. There could therefore be up to a twelve (12) business day approval process. If, however, all required documents are submitted in a timely manner, and Caltrans is satisfied with the plan of activities, the turnaround time could be as short as seven (7) business days. Depending on the requirements, at least one meeting with Caltrans, CHP, RRFC and other affected entities would be required to discuss logistics.
- Insurance requirements will be consistent with State guidelines (follow this [link](#) to review requirements).
- Requests for the use of small UAS over Caltrans property will not be considered without the submission of a detailed plan of proposed activities (including maps).
- Small UAS operators must adhere to all current and future FAA mandated rules with regard to distances from airports, military installations and any person(s) or property.
- It is the responsibility of the permittee to obtain all necessary jurisdictional approvals and to submit a description of proposed activities and proof of required insurance coverage within a timely manner.

If approved:

- Caltrans will determine the radius (extending beyond any point of the roadway) that will constitute the production’s closed set during small UAS activities.
- Small UAS pilots (with the approval of Caltrans) may decrease the perimeter of the closed set if barriers or structures are present that would sufficiently protect non-participating persons from the small UAS and/or debris in the event of an accident. Please note however that permission to reduce the perimeter must also be granted by Caltrans.
- Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) or closures will be enforced from both directions, creating full closures on both sides of the freeway/road. Please note that ITC shall be performed on conventional highways only, and filming with a small UAS must occur within 3- to 5-minute ITC windows. UAS filming on freeways is restricted to the ends of freeways where full freeway closures are feasible and adequate detours are available.
- No driving with the flow of traffic will be allowed when a small UAS is involved.
- Productions must work with all applicable City jurisdictions to facilitate the closing of all relevant over-crossings and under-crossings during filming with a small UAS.
- Caltrans has the right to assign a monitor to be on-set during small UAS flights over Caltrans freeways, highways and roads.

For a complete list of guidelines for operating UAS under Part 107, go to:

- [Complete Text of Part 107 Rule](#)
- [Summary of Part 107 Rule](#)

For information on obtaining a Remote Pilot Certificate under Part 107, or how to apply for a Waiver:

- [Becoming a Remote Pilot](#)
- [Applying for a Waiver](#)



THE DESERT TORTOISE

STATUS: On April 2, 1990 the desert tortoise was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species. Under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, anyone who takes (the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) a tortoise is subject to civil and/or criminal penalties of up to a \$50,000 fine and one year in jail or both. BLM will be assisting the Fish and Wildlife Service in the enforcement of the Act. Additionally, the desert tortoise is considered by California to be a threatened species with associated penalties.

BIOLOGY: Like other reptiles, the desert tortoise is cold blooded. To survive in the desert the tortoise "sleeps" through the heat of summer and the cold of winter in a burrow deep underground. Tortoises come out in the spring (and for a short period in the late summer and fall) to eat, drink, socialize, travel, etc. At other times of the year they are less active or not active at all.

The desert tortoise lays from 4 to 14 ping pong ball size eggs each year after reaching 10 to 20 years of age. Since a tortoise may live for 60 to 100 years, many eggs will be laid in a lifetime. However, only about 5 out of every 100 hatchlings will survive to become an adult tortoise. For the first 6 or 8 years, the young tortoise's shell is no thicker than your fingernail, and therefore, it is easy prey for many other desert animals.

Many of man's activities are also threatening the survival of the desert tortoise and are considered illegal. Some of these include:

1. removing wild tortoises from the desert,
2. releasing pet tortoises into the desert (they often carry disease),
3. driving off roads in areas not designated for off-highway vehicle play,
4. crushing tortoises as they are crossing roads,
5. shooting at tortoises, and
6. handling tortoises found in the desert (this may cause them to lose vital water supplies).

Some DOs and DON'Ts:

1. If you find a desert tortoise in the desert, **DO** take pictures, get down and look at it (but not too closely so that you don't harass it), watch to see how it moves and what it eats, and then walk away and know that you have done a good deed by letting it live in peace.
2. While driving on desert roads, **DO** keep an eye out for tortoises crossing the road. If you encounter one and have plenty of room to pass, drive slowly and carefully around it. If you don't have room to pass, stop and let the tortoise move across the road of its own accord. If the tortoise is on a paved road and in immediate danger, pull your car over and stop in a safe place. Lift the tortoise slowly and gently, keeping it level. Move it to a safe place, no more than 100 yards away, in the same direction that it was traveling. Carefully set it down, preferably in the shade of a shrub.
3. If you want a pet desert tortoise **DON'T** take one out of the desert! Do call the California Turtle and Tortoise Club (Linda York in Palm Desert at (760) 347-2647 or Bunny Williams in San Bernardino at (714) 862-4777) or the California Department of Fish and Game at (714) 597-8235. You also will need to get a free permit from the Department of Fish and Game to legally keep the tortoise.
4. If you get tired of a pet desert tortoise **DON'T** let it go in the desert. Release of captive tortoises is a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Instead, call one of the numbers listed above to find a new home for your pet.

Revised 3/27/97



Desert Survival Safety Tips

Before any trip, always let someone know where you are going, the route(s) you plan to take, and when you expect to return. Make sure to stick to your plan. It will increase your chances of survival greatly. Be sure to check the road and weather reports before traveling as well.

When in hot weather, you need to adapt gradually, going into the heat for short periods at first. Always keep your clothing on. It helps to keep the body temperature down and reduces the dehydration rate. Also, cover your head. If a hat is not handy, improvise a head covering. Also make sure to drink fluids frequently and eat small meals regularly during the day. Do not drink alcohol. It will decrease your ability to tolerate the heat. If you have water, drink it. Do not ration it. Carry at least one gallon of water per person per day. In a pinch, use plastic gallon jugs. They are handy and are transported easily. If water is limited, keep your mouth shut. Do not talk, do not eat, do not smoke, and, as mentioned before, do not drink any alcohol.

The best thing to do is find shade, sit down, and prop up your feet. You may adjust your shoes and socks, but *do not remove them* – you may not be able to get them back on your swollen feet (a common problem). If you must walk in the sun/heat, rest for at least 10 minutes every hour. If you are not normally physically active, rest up to 30 minutes every hour. Try to avoid sitting or lying directly on the ground. It may be 30+ degrees hotter than the surrounding air.

Make it a point to keep an eye on the sky. If you see “Thunderheads,” near or far, be prepared to evacuate. Flash floods may occur in a wash in a matter of moments. They can fill low spots to dangerous levels very quickly. During evacuation, or any other time, do not drive through flooded roads if you can’t tell how deep it is.

Be sure your vehicle is in good condition with a sound battery, good hoses, spare tire, spare fan belts, necessary tools, reserve gasoline, and extra oil. Other spare parts and extra radiator water are also valuable.

Before driving through washes and sandy areas test the footing. One minute on foot may save hours of hard work changing a flat, digging your vehicle free, or replacing a punctured oil pan. It is recommended to use a four-wheel-drive vehicle when traversing these areas.

If caught in a dust storm while driving, immediately get off the road, Turn off your headlights, and turn on your emergency flashers. Try to position your vehicle with the back to the wind. This will reduce windshield pitting by sand particles.

If your vehicle breaks down, stay near it. Your car and various items within it can be useful in an emergency. You can raise the hood and truck lid to denote “Help Needed.” Also, a vehicle can be seen for miles, but a person on foot is very difficult to find. Only leave a disabled vehicle if you are positive of the route to help. If you must walk for help, wait until sunset and leave a note telling which way you went.

Heat Related Illness

Body Temperature Regulation

Regulating ones body temperature is a constant balancing act of heat input from ambient temperature, metabolism, physical work, sunlight, and heat output from radiation, evaporation, conduction, and convection.

Normally, radiation accounts for about two-thirds of heat loss, with one-third resulting from evaporation. If you are very hot, or working hard and sweating, evaporation can become a major factor in heat loss, except for when it very humid, in which case evaporation has no effect. Conversely, water conduction may also be a major factor in heat loss. When immersed in water, one can lose significant body heat (unless the water is around body temperature). Infants and very young children lack effective heat regulatory mechanisms and are more at risk for heat related injuries.

Acclimatization by exertion (i.e. working or working out) in the heat encourages the body to adjust to a hot climate. Until one is acclimated, heavy exertion should be limited to 30-90 minutes per day, avoiding the hottest part of the day.

Clothing should be lightweight, light in color, and a loose weave. A wide-brimmed hat will help keep you cool and prevent sunburn.

Be aware of humidity! Even in relatively cool temperatures (75 degrees), marked exertion in very high humidity can lead to heat illness due to failure of evaporative cooling.

Heat Disorders

Heat Cramps

These are painful cramps, usually following exercise or heavy exertion, and often affecting major muscles such as the calves and thighs. Stretching, maintaining good hydration and electrolyte balance, as will becoming acclimated to the heat has been found to be the most effective in alleviating this painful condition.

Heat Syncope

Heat Syncope is when one faints due to heat exposure, often after prolonged standing or when standing up from a seated position. Most people recover quickly to fluid replacement. Older individuals and those on hypertension medications are most at risk.

Heat Exhaustion

This is caused by dehydration and depletion of electrolytes, or body salts. Its symptoms are weakness, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. An increased body temperature and pulse rate may also be present. The treatments for heat exhaustion is to rest, get out of the heat/sun, sponge the body with water and fanning it, and to replace the body's fluids and salt with a sports drink, or water and salty snacks. If not taken seriously, this can progress to heat stroke.

Heat Stroke

In this condition the body loses its ability to regulate temperature causes the body temperature to soar, often to above 106 degrees. Sweating may or may not be present. Heat stroke will result in physical collapse and mental deterioration ranging from confusion to coma. If someone is exhibiting these systems, call 911 immediately. This is a medical emergency and must be treated aggressively with rapid cooling and IV fluids. If not, permanent damage to kidneys, heart, or liver may result, and in some cases, death. If you suspect someone is experiencing heat stroke, here are a few emergency treatment that will help until emergency crews arrive: 1) remove clothing, 2) cool/wet the body, with whatever water that is available, 3) fan the body, 4) if victim is able to drink, give them water, a sports drink, or any oral rehydration formula.

Preventing Heat Illness

Even marginal dehydration interferes with the body's ability to regulate temperature. It can also cause mild diarrhea, which can dramatically increase dehydration. In hot climates, you should always consume enough water so that you urinate every two to three hours. If your urine becomes dark yellow, it means that you are getting dehydrated or that you are getting jaundiced.