US Forest Service Commercial Filming & Photography

Mountaintop Ranger District
Big Bear – Arrowhead – Barton Flats
c/o Inland Empire Film Services, Inc.
6185 Magnolia Ave, #305, Riverside, CA 92506
(909) 460-8100, x101 ~ usfs@iefilmpermits.com

General:

The Forest Service permits commercial filming & Photography on public lands. Like other commercial uses of National Forest System lands (NFS) and resources, commercial filming & photography require a Temporary Special Use Permit issued by the District Ranger.

Prior to the issuance of the permit, the Forest Service will determine if there are any environmental concerns in the proposed shoot location. The Forest Service may deny permits for filming that depict practices prohibited on NFS lands (i.e. operating vehicles off-road, maintaining an illegal campfire, littering, etc).

The Forest Service encourages use of environmental messages and depiction of environmentally sound practices in connection with the filming. Staff will work with the film producers on ways to incorporate such messages and practices in a manner consistent with the production.

Obtaining a Location and Permit:

The production company should contact Inland Empire Film Services (IEFS) describing the type of location desired and the activity or effect to be captured on film. They may suggest areas that have the desired "look" saving the company hours of scouting or may refer the production company to the District Office for more detailed assistance. Once a location is chosen, obtain the permitting information from IEFS. In additional to a film permit, each vehicle must have an adventure pass. IEFS will provide those passes and overnight them to production (an in-person pick up option can be provided on a case-by-case basis. Ask your permit coordinator for details). Each car will need a pass for each day on USFS land. Daily Adventure Passes are $5/day/vehicle.

Insurance:

The Special Use Permit requires that the permit holder indemnify the United States against any liability arising from the use or occupancy of NFS lands. The permit requires the holder to have their insurance company name the United States Government as an additionally insured party. The minimum required liability coverage shall be as follows: 1) General liability, each occurrence - $300,000; 2) Property damage (each occurrence) - $25,000; 3) Death or injury (to one person)
- $100,000; and 4) Death and injury (to more than one person) - $300,000. A copy of a Certificate of Insurance ***and*** a letter of endorsement (ISO form # CG-20-12-07-98 or equivalent) will be required prior to the issuance of the permit. In the event that aircraft will be used, an ***additional*** Certificate of Insurance ***and*** Letter of Endorsement, naming the United States Government as additionally insured, in the amount of $10 million is required (see "Aircraft" for regulations). Drones will require UAS/Aircraft Insurance in the amount of $2 million. ***NO HAND-WRITTEN CERTIFICATES OR ENDORSEMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED***.

The following clauses must be shown ***verbatim*** on the Certificate or Binder and the Letter of Endorsement:

In the Certificate Holder Box: **"USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**

In the Description of Operations Box: **"It is understood and agreed that the United States Government, in care of USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333, is additionally insured solely as respects liability arising from the operations of the named insured."**
And
"It is understood and agreed that the coverage provided under this policy will not be cancelled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty (30) days written notice to the United States Government, in care of the USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."

On the Letter of Endorsement: **"USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."**
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"It is understood and agreed that the United States Government, in care of USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333, is additionally insured solely as respects liability arising from the operations of the named insured."
And
"It is understood and agreed that the coverage provided under this policy will not be cancelled or its provisions changed or deleted before thirty (30) days written notice to the United States Government, in care of the USDA, Mountaintop Ranger District, San Bernardino National Forest, P.O. Box 290, Fawnskin, CA 92333."

Fees:

Permit fees are based on the number of production employees and dates required for the shoot. All fees are non-refundable and due prior to filming, including convenience fees and other miscellaneous fees. All fees are subject to change without notice.

Still Photography		
1-10	persons:	$111.34/day
11-30	persons:	$333.93/day
31+	persons:	$556.54/day

Motion Picture, Television, Video		
1-10	persons	$ 333.93/day
11-30	persons	$ 445.22/day
31-60	persons	$1,113.09/day
61+	persons	$1,339.97/day

IEFS Fee $235 per permit (non-refundable)*
Additional fees for the use of drones or pyro.

Once your total is calculated, IEFS will send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay. NOTE: payment must be in advance of your permit being processed. Non-payment will stall your permit application and could result in your permit being denied.

Cost Recovery:

In order to respond to the needs of the industry, it is necessary for our representatives to put aside their normal work to process permit requests and conduct studies that may be needed to facilitate the use of an area.

In some cases, a Forest Officer or a third party monitor may be assigned to the production as a monitor to insure resource protection and public safety. The monitor will act as the District Ranger's representative approving or disapproving requests that may occur during filming. The monitor also has the authority to suspend operations for non-compliance.

The production company will pay expenses incurred by the Forest Service through Cost Recovery, depending on the amount of time necessary to process the permit application and monitoring if needed. (Processing and Monitoring are assessed separately). All Special Use Permits for filming on the National Forest are subject to Cost Recovery.

2025 Processing and Monitoring Fee Schedule		
Fee Category	**Hours**	**Rate**
1 (Minimal Impact)	>1 and <8	$155
2	>8 and <24	$TBD
3	>24 and <40	$TBD
4	>40 and <64	$TBD
5 (Master Agreement)	Varies	As specified in the agreement
6	>64	Full reasonable costs, except MLA Full actual costs (MLA)

Public Access:

Public access to the set may be restricted during rehearsals and actual filming periods. However, the closure of any area to the general public be considered on a case-by-case basis. The needs of Forest visitors must be considered when planning activities. **Special Use Permits do not grant exclusive use**.

Filming Schedules:

Filming may be restricted on weekends between 5:00 pm on Fridays and 6:00 am on Mondays. Filming may not be allowed on holidays. Night filming will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally, night shooting will be restricted if residents of nearby campgrounds or private residences will be disturbed by noise, light, and other related filming activity.

to avoid this fee, you can contact the USFS directly for permit processing – (909) 382-2728. This may also increase your permit processing time to 4 weeks or more.

Special Effects:

Pyrotechnics, use of weapons, temporary construction, etc. will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All special effects must be approved prior to filming. In some cases, Forest Officers, County Fire Officers and/or fire suppression equipment will be required (See Collection Agreements).

Vehicle Operation:

All roadways are to be kept open to the public.

- During filming, a road may NOT be closed for an extended period of time.
- Emergency traffic is allowed through at all times.
- Vehicles are NOT allowed off of legal roads. (Roads not shown on the Forest map are often illegal and cannot be used).

Parking areas will be determined prior to the shoot. Parking can be extremely limited and the use of shuttle vehicles is encouraged.

Winter Road Closures:

The following roads are closed in November (dates vary due to weather) to all vehicular travel: 1N02, 1N05, 1N54, 1N96, 2N06, 2N08, 2N10, 2N13, 2N13C, 2N27, 2N68, 2N80, 2N93, 3N09 and the dirt road just East of Snow Valley Ski Area that accesses the Camp Creek Trailhead. Gates are used to close these roads in order to protect the road surface and to provide non-motorized winter recreation activities. Other roads, although not closed, are not maintained during the winter season and may be impassable.

Aircraft:

Flight operations, flight paths, and landing zones must be approved in advance. Tail numbers, make, model, color, frequency monitored, etc., will be provided to the Federal Interagency Communication Center. A FAA approval, in writing, is also required. See "Insurance" for additional insurance requirements. A Forest Service monitor (at the expense of the production company) will be required for any production using aircraft. The company will provide direct radio communication between the aircraft and the monitoring ranger. All Federal and State aircraft regulations apply.

Drones:

Drones are allowed on a case-by-case basis. Contact IEFS for more details.

Representative:

A bona fide representative of the production company must be on the location at the time of the shoot. This representative is responsible for following the permit terms as well as any special direction required by the District Ranger.

Credits:

We **REQUIRE** credit be given as follows:

"Filmed on location in the San Bernardino National Forest"

And Special thanks be given as follows:

"Mountaintop Ranger District – Big Bear Lake"

and

"Inland Empire Film Services"

Who to Contact:

IEFS will be handling the permit process for the US Forest Service – Mountaintop Ranger District – (909) 460-8100, x101; usfs@iefilmpermits.com. They can also assist you with finding local crew, vendors, locations or permits for other jurisdictions around the Nation Forest.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political belief, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

SAN BERNARDINO

National Forest

Photography/Filming Request

Date: _____

Project Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

FAX #: _____

Primary Contact Title & Phone:

_____

_____

Backup contact Title & Phone:

_____

_____

FedEx #: _____

Production Date(s): _____

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l. Production Information:

Type Film, please check which one or ones apply:

☐ Still Photography ☐ Commercial ☐ TV Movie ☐ TV Episodic ☐ Feature ☐ Music Video ☐ Corporate Video

☐ Other _____

Proposed Location(s) (including size of area needed):

_____

Set Up (date, length of time, time of day _____

Filming (start/stop): _____

Breakdown and restoration (start/stop): _____

Alternate filming date: _____

Parking (vehicles, equipment, aircraft): _____

Staging (dressing rooms, catering, portable restrooms, etc.):

_____

Stunts/Special Effects Proposed, please check which one or ones apply:

☐ Pyrotechnics ☐ Hazardous Materials ☐ Wild Animals ☐ Aerial Stunts ☐ Riparian Area ☐ Developed Recreation Site
☐ Other _____

Special Request Information, please check which one or ones apply:

☐ Wilderness ☐ Use of aircraft (type, time of day, flight path) ☐ Weather

☐ Other _____

Total number of people on location: _____

II. Description of Activity: _____

(Including map of area, proposed ground disturbing activities, attach narratives and story boards as needed)

III. Description of Equipment: _____

Equipment detail, please check which one or ones apply: ☐ Generators ☐ Cars ☐ Trucks ☐ RV's ☐ Other

Action involving vehicles and/or equipment: _____

_____

Props proposed:

_____

Traffic and safety control/special closures measures needed (Have you obtained permission to use improvements not owned by/under the jurisdiction of the United States Government ,i.e. structures, roadways, etc.?):

_____

***Please attach any other relevant information with additional sheets to the end of this application.**

2. For Forest Service Use Only

Fees:

Photography/Filming fee: _____

Collection Agreement/Cost Recovery:_____

Certificate of Insurance:_____

Bonding Information:_____

Property Owner Permission Required: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Road Encroachment Permit Required: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Fee Schedule 2026:

Processing Fee - $155.00

***Still Photography* (if permit required)**

1- 10 persons $111.34/day

11-30 persons: $333.93/day

30+ $556.54/day

Motion Picture and Television Location:

1-10 persons $333.93/day

11-30 persons $445.22/day

31-60 persons $1,113.09/day

60+ : $1,339.97/day

EXHIBIT A

OPERATING PLAN

The following terms must be met for this authorization to remain in effect:

1. This authorization is not to be interpreted as exclusive to the production company. The roads near the areas occupied are to remain open to public travel. Fire and other emergency vehicles going into or out of the areas under this authorization will always be given immediate access.
2. This authorization is contingent upon the holder acquiring all necessary permits and /or permission from affected agencies (CALTRANS, CA Highway Patrol, County of San Bernardino, FAA, BB Municipal Water District, City of Big Bear Lake, etc.) or private landowners.
3. Use of fire and prevention:
    a. CAMPFIRE – Campfires are not authorized.
    b. SMOKING – Smoking will be permitted within enclosed vehicles only while traveling. Outside of vehicles, individuals must clear an area three feet in diameter to mineral soil. All cigarettes must be extinguished and buried in mineral soil before leaving any smoking area.
    c. PARKING – To prevent a wild land fire due to hot exhaust, vehicles must be parked in areas predetermined by the Forest Service or in cleared areas free of flammable materials. Access to all Forest Service system roads must be kept clear at all times. Staging or off-site parking must be approved in advance.
    d. FIREWORKS – No fireworks or other incendiary devices shall be brought onto or used on any National Forest lands within the boundaries of the San Bernardino National Forest.
    e. SPARK ARRESTERS AND MUFFLERS – A muffler or spark arrester satisfactory to the authorized officer shall be maintained on the exhausts of all vehicles or other internal combustion engines used in connection with this authorization.
4. Avoid all destruction, defacement, or carving of trees, shrubs and all natural features. Use no boughs for beds or shelters. Collecting live plant material is forbidden except by special permit from the Forest Service.
5. The Permittee shall protect the scenic aesthetic values of the area under this authorization and adjacent land as far as possible with the authorized use, during construction, operation and maintenance of the production site.
6. The Permittee shall take reasonable precautions to prevent pollution of or deterioration of the lands or water that may result from the exercise of the privileges extended by this permit.
7. Trash and garbage will be removed from the site and dispose of at the Doble Dump.
8. Signs are not to be nailed to or hung from trees or other vegetation. Directional signs will be removed at the close of production.
9. An authorized agent of the company must be on site throughout the shooting.

Applicant Signature_____ **Date** _____

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
BIG BEAR RANGER DISTRICT
ANIMAL STIPULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FILMING

1. Animals not endemic to the area shall be under the control of **qualified handlers at all times.** Animals shall **NOT** be allowed to feed on natural vegetation.

2. Permittee is responsible for providing appropriate feed and water for the animals. Plant-eating animals shall be fed non-germinating pellets or certified weed-free hay for two days prior to filming **AND** during filming on USFS lands. Animals will be either tied to a parked vehicle; contained in a free standing fenced corral; and/or housed within a trailer in a parking area or road, when not in use.

3. All animal "waste" shall be removed from USFS lands on a daily basis. Transmission of diseases from domestic animals to wildlife will be avoided through appropriate action (vaccines, avoidance of contact, etc).

Permittee acknowledges, by signing below, that he/she knows, understands and accepts the terms and conditions under which this permit is issued.

Permittee Signature	Animal Wrangler Signature
Permittee Name (please print)	Animal Wrangler Name (please print)
Title	Date
Date	Address
	City, State, Zip
	Phone number

SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

SPECIAL USE – AIRCRAFT NOTIFICATION FORM

Any Special Use Authorization (permit) holder that requires the use of aircraft (fixed or rotor wing) within the San Bernardino National Forest will be required to fill out this form. Submission of this form will be routed through the District or Forest Lands Program Manager to the Forest Aviation Officer.

All "Aircraft Notification Forms" must be completed and submitted at least 3 business days prior to the desired flight date.

Required Information

Project Name_____

Date(s) of project:_____ Time(s) proposed:_____

Contact Person:_____ Company:_____

Office Phone:(___)_____ Cell Phone: (___)_____ Fax: (___)_____

Second Contact having direct commo. with aircraft: Name_____Phone: (___)_____

Project Location:_____

Latitude/Longitude (preferred Degrees.Decimal Minutes format)_____

Description of Project:_____

_____

_____

Aircraft Tail Number:_____ Aircraft Color:_____ Aircraft Make/Model:_____

Aircraft Tail Number:_____ Aircraft Color:_____ Aircraft Make/Model:_____

Aircraft Tail Number:_____ Aircraft Color:_____ Aircraft Make/Model:_____

Contact radio frequency aircraft will monitor during project:_____

-Agency Use Only-

Lands Program Received by:_____ Date_____

Forest Aviation Officer (meaton@fs.fed.us)Received Date:_____

Forward to:(circle) FICC HPS KWLD SBDATB SBDHTB

Rare Animals of the San Bernardino National Forest – San Bernardino Mountains

The San Bernardino National Forest is home to a number of rare plants and animals. Our biologists are trying to learn more about these unique species and we would like to enlist your help as our eyes and ears. If you should ever encounter any of the species described below, please record sightings, including information about what you saw, when you saw it, and where you saw it. Photographs would be greatly appreciated. All of these animals are protected species—so please do not handle them, collect them, or harm them in any way.

Rare Reptiles

These rare snakes and lizards are often found in areas with a lot of rocks or logs. None of them are venomous but may bite if bothered. If you see them, leave them alone and let them leave the area on their own.

← **San Bernardino Mountain Kingsnake:** This colorful snake has declined in numbers due to over-collecting by people who want to keep them as pets. These snakes are between 20 – 40 inches long.

San Bernardino Ringneck Snake:→ This two-toned snake flashes its orange belly when intimidated or scared to scare off predators. These snakes are between 10 – 16 inches long.
FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.

← **San Diego Coast Horned Lizard:** Like the San Bernardino Mountain kingsnake, coast horned lizards have been over-collected. These little "dinosaurs" generally freeze when scared because their camouflaged patterns make them blend into the background. These lizards are about 2 – 4 inches long. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Southern Rubber Boa:→ This small docile snake looks like an overgrown earthworm. It is active at dawn and dusk, especially during rainy periods. The southern rubber boa is extremely rare and lives in downed logs and rocky outcrops. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED**

← **Rosy Boa:** Like its cousin the rubber boa, the rosy boa can constrict and climb branches. This docile snake is usually found in drier habitats at lower elevations.
FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED

Terrestrial Mountain Garter Snake (right) and Aquatic Two-Striped Garter Snake (below): These small active snakes are common in the mountains. The aquatic garter snake is found near water and eats small fish, tadpoles, and invertebrates. The terrestrial garter snake is found at higher elevations in the San Bernardino Mountains. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Rare Amphibians

Amphibians are usually associated with water or very moist areas. Their eggs are laid in water and they spend their first life stage there as tadpoles. Then the tadpoles grow legs and they move onto land. They like areas with logs or a lot of leaf litter. These animals are harmless and will not bite. If you are lucky enough to see one, please leave it alone.

Large-blotched and Monterey Salamanders, Slender Salamander

These are the only salamanders that occur in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains. They are nocturnal and most active during wet periods. Typically found under logs or in moist areas. These salamanders are about 2 –3 inches long. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED**

Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog: This frog was once our most common frog; now it is very rare. Part of its decline is probably due to an increase in non-native predators, habitat loss, water pollutants, and disease. Contact one of the biologists below immediately if this animal is seen. **FEDERALLY ENDANGERED. FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Mammals

Mammals can be found across a wide variety of habitats and are abundant on the San Bernardino National Forest.

San Bernardino flying squirrel: This mammal is a sub-species of the northern flying squirrel and it is only known to occur in the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. They don't actually fly—instead, they glide on thick pieces of skin spread between their legs. These animals like to den in cavities at the top of dead trees. Flying squirrels are much smaller than the common gray squirrel; they're closer in size to our local chipmunks. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Ringtail: This nocturnal carnivore is known to live in hollow trees, logs, and cavities on our forest. They stick close to streams and riparian areas but may be found on open ground near bushes and rocky out-crops. Ringtails may be confused with raccoons because of their striped tail, however they are much smaller averaging between 24—32 inches long with the tail being more than half the length of their body. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

American badger: Active mainly at night during all seasons, the badger has a triangular face with distinctive black and white pattern, and brown or blackish "badges" marking the cheeks. It also has a white stripe extending from the nose to the base of the head. Badgers can be aggressive in defending their territory. They use their distinctively long front claws to excavate lengthy tunnel systems and to dig prey out of holes in the ground. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Western Spotted Skunk: The spotted skunk is much smaller than its more common relative the striped skunk. With an average size ranging between 14– 22 inches, this small omnivore forages mainly at night in brushy, rocky, and riparian areas. They den in cavities, burrows, brush piles and under buildings. Like other skunks, these animals will spray an obnoxious scent when threatened. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Porcupine: There are old records for porcupine in the Big Bear area but none have been recorded since the mid-1990s. We believe they still exist here and want to hear about sightings. This plant-eater nibbles on tree bark and young branches. They in burrows, rock crevices, and hollow trees. They move slowly and have poor eyesight. Contrary to popular belief, they don't throw their needle-like quills. Instead they erect them and back towards a predator giving them a snout-full of quills (especially dogs). Please report sightings to the Forest Service. **FOREST SERVICE PROTECTED.**

Animal Signs and Avoidance Areas

Listed below are several examples of important habitat features that many of our rare animals use. It is critical to their survival that we try our best to reduce the damage caused to these areas. If possible, try to limit the disturbance of your project in and around these important features.

Bird Nests: Birds don't just nest in trees. Some species nest on the ground in shallow scraps in the dirt; others nest in or under bushes. It is important to look for active nests in bushes and shrubs or other vegetation before disturbing the plants. Nests with eggs or chicks must be avoided. If there are adult birds in the immediate area that seem to be upset by your presence, that is another clue that an active nest is present. Old inactive nests will look like they are falling apart and may have spider webs across them. It is okay to disturb or destroy inactive nests. When moving through grassy areas, it is important to watch where you step so that nests are not disturbed or crushed.

Woodrat Nests: Woodrats are an important rodent in the forest ecosystem. They are the main prey item for the California Spotted owl and their nests offer shelter for reptiles including the San Bernardino Mountain Kingsnake. The nests are typically built around the base of a shrub or downed tree. They are constructed of sticks and other woody material.

Snag Trees: Dead trees are also called snags. Not all snags are a hazard. Snags serve as food cache sites for many animals. The food reserves help some animals make it through the colder months. Cavities in the tree offer shelter for birds, squirrels, raccoons, and bats. Sloughing bark offers a day roost site for bats. Snags are also habitat in the life cycle of many insects.

Burrows: Bears, rabbits, desert tortoise, badger, and many other animals construct burrows for shelter. It is important to avoid walking over a burrow site to avoid collapsing the tunnel.

Rattlesnake Safety: Rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake in this forest. The most common rattlesnake you will find on the San Bernardino National Forest is the southern Pacific rattlesnake (left). Although rattlesnakes have several distinctive features, many people are not sure how to identify one. Rattlesnakes have a powerful body, thin neck, and a well-defined triangular or arrow-shaped head.

Looking for the characteristic rattle on the tail (below) is a good method, but sometimes these rattles are lost.

Using the snake's color or pattern is NOT a reliable method of identification. In the San Bernardino Mountains, full-grown Pacific rattlesnakes tend to be dark in color – almost black without obvious patterning (right). Young rattlesnakes, on the other hand may be a lot lighter in coloration with very obvious patterns (left).

By comparison, a non-venomous snake tends to look more like a snake a child rolls out of clay: the head, neck and body have more-or-less the same diameter. They do not share the distinct skinny neck of the rattlesnake. (*Please note: This is true only of snakes native to California and does not apply to exotic snakes or snakes imported into California from elsewhere*.)

Other Important Information:

- While working in the Forest, you may find many other animals that are not shown on this flyer. If you do, please be aware that it may be a protected species (we could not fit all potential species on this flyer).
- Therefore, please do not harm, handle, or collect any of our forest animals.
- Please take note of their appearance, behavior, and location if possible and report the sighting to your crew leader. Take a photo if possible.
- Contact a Forest Service biologist if you have questions.
- Crew Leaders – please fill out a Crew Wildlife Sighting Record for any wildlife encountered by you or your crews. Submit completed form(s) to one of the biologists listed below. Questions or concerns during project implementation regarding wildlife can be directed to the biologists listed below.

Local Forest Service Wildlife Biologists:

Kim Boss (office = 909.382.2936) 1209 Lytle Creek Road; Lytle Creek, CA 92358. kboss@fs.fed.us
Robin Eliason (office=909.382.2832) - Big Bear Ranger Station, 41397 North Shore Drive, Fawnskin, CA 92333. reliason@fs.fed.us.

California Condor Identification

The photo above shows the difference in size between a condor (left) and turkey vulture (right) and the difference in the black and white color patterns.

If you see a condor, please report it immediately to Robin Eliason, 909-382-2832, or reliason@fs.fed.us. Try to get photos and the tag number.

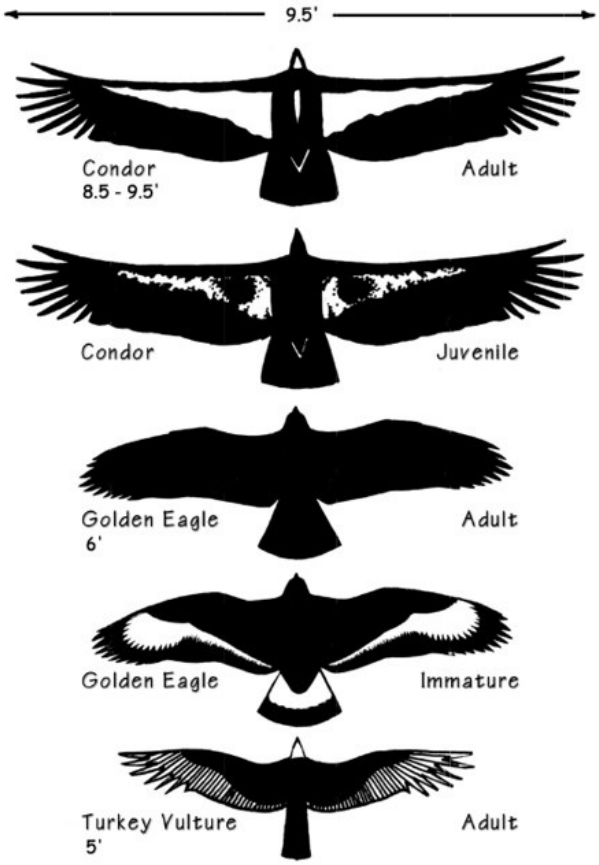
Most condors have wing tags that are color-coded and numbered so individuals can be identified and tracked.

Condors soar without flapping for long periods. They eat dead animals.

They will perch on towers, trees, cliffs, and on the ground.

Condors will become very ill after ingesting tiny amounts of trash like broken glass, pieces of wire and metal, and litter.

Keep your eyes to the sky and note the following characteristics



(1) Overall size: Condors are the largest North American bird. They are much larger than their turkey vulture relatives.

(2) Wings: Condors have long, flat wings and are very stable in flight. Adults have large triangular-shaped patches on the undersides of the wings, while juveniles have mottled patches. Look for finger- like primary feathers extending from each wing while the bird is in flight.

(3) Head: In adults the bare head and neck are pinkish- orange, the eyes are a brilliant red and the beak whitish. Juveniles have black heads and dark eyes. A ruff of black feathers encircles the base of the neck.

(4) Look for the identification tag attached to the wing. If possible, note its number color, and whether the tag has dots or a line below the number.

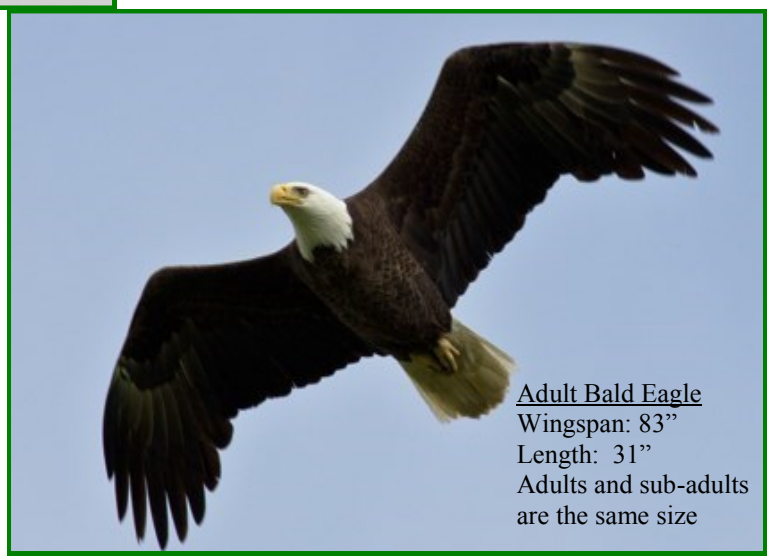
Golden Eagle
Wingspan: 80”
Length: 31”

Peregrine Falcon
Wingspan: 45-50”
Length: 20-23”

Sub-adult Bald Eagle

If any birds of these are observed, disturbance should be minimized until they leave the area and the Forest Service biologist should be notified. Photographs are appreciated.

Adult with Sub-adult Bald Eagle



Adult Bald Eagle
Wingspan: 83”
Length: 31”
Adults and sub-adults are the same size