

THE FILM PERMITTING PROCESS

The permitting process and items needed vary depending on the proposed location and type of filming. Contact the local BLM field office and/or local Film Commission.

For minimal-impact filming in popular filming locations, complete the following and submit to the Bishop BLM Field Office:

1. [Land Use Application Form 2920](#). Complete only the application section of the form. The BLM will complete the "permit" portion.
2. [Detailed Description of Filming Activity](#). Submit with application.
3. Provide a detailed map showing the specific location(s) requested.
4. [Cost Recovery and Rental Fees](#). Pay the appropriate amount as discussed with the local BLM film permit coordinator. (Continue to bottom of form for fee schedule)
5. Certificate of Insurance naming the Department of the Interior - BLM as co-insured.

Depending on location, time of production, and type of production, the BLM may impose additional requirements such as bonding, reimbursement for overtime costs, etc.

Although it may vary, the time to process is usually around 7-14 days.

BLM FILMING FEES

Processing/Monitoring and Rental fees must be paid before filming is permitted on public land. Generally, it is easiest to submit all fees with the application. Processing fees are non-refundable, but monitoring and rental fees will be refunded if the application is not approved.

PROCESSING AND MONITORING FEES vary depending on the estimated BLM work hours required to process the application and to monitor filming and reclamation. In most cases, minimal impact filming at popular locations requires Category 1 fees. These are generally paid with the application after coordination with the BLM permit coordinator. Fees are based on the following schedule:

Category	BLM Work Hours	2021 Processing Fees	2021 Monitoring Fees
1	1 to 8	\$131	\$131
2	8 to 24	\$462	\$462
3	24 to 36	\$869	\$869
4	36 to 50	\$1,246	\$1,246
5	<i>Not applicable to film permits</i>		As specified in the agreement
6	50+	Full reimbursement for actual costs	Full reimbursement for actual costs

RENTAL FEES vary per state and are generally established by statewide appraisals. The following schedule is for the state of California for most CA BLM filming permits:

California Rental Schedule

Motion Picture/Videos	
People	Cost

1 to 30	\$250/day
31 to 60	\$500/day
Over 60	\$600/day
Still Photography	
People	Cost
1 to 10	\$100/day
11 to 30	\$150/day
Over 30	\$250/day

BISHOP FIELD OFFICE

Contact: Prairie Larronde Kearney (Permit Coordinator)

Tel: 760-872-5027

Email: pkearney@blm.gov

WHEN DO I NEED A FILM PERMIT? (ALL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND BLM.GOV)

Filming: Filming activities that may require a permit include the use of motion picture, videotaping, sound recording, or other moving image or audio recording equipment on public lands that involve the use of actors, models, sets, and/or props.

Public land users do not require a permit for short term filming activities unless the activity would:

- cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources, or improvements, or
- is prohibited by closure of the lands to such activities.

Still Photography: Still photography activities that require a permit are those that:

- use models, sets, or props that are not part of the site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities (portrait subjects such as wedding parties or high school graduates are not considered models), or would:
- take place where members of the public are generally not allowed, or
- would require onsite management and oversight for resource protection or to minimize visitor conflict.

Filming or still photography will NOT be permitted if it is determined that:

- There is likelihood of resource damage or public health and safety risks that cannot be mitigated, or
- There would be an unreasonable disruption of the public's use and enjoyment of the site (beyond short-term interruption).

Each office authorizes filming on public lands within its jurisdiction, and each location is unique and subject to different conditions. Please contact the appropriate land management agency, county/local film commission office, or private landowner for questions regarding filming on lands not administered by the BLM

Mono County Film Commissioner:

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Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
Phone: (760) 924-1738
Tourism: www.monocounty.org
Filming: www.filmmonocounty.com

Inyo County Film Commissioner:

Jesse Steele
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