

Commercial Use Information

Commercial use of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management takes on many forms. It can include some forms of photography, commercial sales, and a variety of motorized and human races to name a few examples. Because public lands are utilized in a variety of ways by a variety of people, permits are required by law to reduce interferences among the many public users and also help keep public lands safe and free from obstruction or litter. The following guidelines are not all inclusive but are common situations that occur in the Southern Nevada District Office including Red Rock Canyon NCA.

Still Photography:

- Public land visitors and recreational, professional, and amateur photographers do NOT need a permit to take still photographs unless they will:
 - Use models, sets, or props that are not part of the site's natural or cultural resources or administrative facilities
 - **This type of photography is often encountered at weddings (and requires a permit)**
- Any exchange constitutes commercial use (i.e. proof books, favors, cash) and requires a permit
- Photos for advertising (however slight the gain, i.e. use on social media) requires a permit

Commercial Filming:

- A permit is required for all commercial filming on public lands. Commercial filming is defined as use of motion picture, videotaping, sound recording, or other moving image or audio recording equipment on public lands that involves the advertisement of a product or service, the creation of a product for sale, or the use of actors, models, sets, or props, but not including activities associated with broadcasts for news programs. For purposes of this definition, creation of a product for sale includes a film, videotape, television broadcast, or documentary of participants in commercial sporting or recreation event created for the purpose of generating income.
- Additional details available at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/leases-and-permits/filming-on-public-lands/film-permits>
- To obtain one of these permits, call 702-515-5381 or email jjguerrero@blm.gov

Commercial Use:

- The activity, service, or use is commercial if any of these conditions is present and therefore requires a permit:
 - Any person, group, or organization makes or attempts to make a profit, receives money, amortizes equipment, or obtains goods or services as compensation from participants in recreation activities occurring on public lands and led, sponsored by, or organized by that person, group, or organization. Compensation for recreation services may come from participants and/or other sources
 - Anyone collects a fee or receives other compensation that is not strictly a sharing of actual expenses, or exceeds actual expenses, incurred for the purposes of the activity, service, or use
 - There is paid, public advertising to seek participants

- Participants pay for a duty of care, i.e., an expectation of safety
- **This type of use often includes vendors selling goods or food, weddings, and limos associated with weddings.**
- Additional details available at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-passes/special-recreation-permits>
- To obtain one of these permits, please email RRC_Reservations@blm.gov

For additional specifics on Red Rock Canyon NCA Permits, please visit <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/nevada/red-rock-canyon> and look under the Special Recreation Permits section.

The Consequences of Operating Without a Permit:

Operating without a required permit or participating in a non-permitted event or activity that requires a permit is a Federal Class A criminal misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and 12 months incarceration. You could also be subject to certain civil action. (43 CFR, Part 5, Subpart A; 43 CFR §2932.57)