

Mid-Pacific Region, Bureau of Reclamation Right-of-Use Application for Commercial Photography and Filming on Reclamation Project Land and Water Surfaces

The Mid-Pacific Region has projects located in the three Western states of California, Nevada, and Oregon. The public may apply to use project lands or the surfaces of any project body of water for commercial photography and filming and may engage in the use only after proper authorization is received from the Mid-Pacific Region. Right-of-Use (ROU) authorizations are not required for public recreational use of recreation areas and facilities open to the public.

Introduction

The following information applies to the Mid-Pacific Region for commercial photography and filming on Reclamation lands and waters. The information below is provided under the authority of the Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 429, "Procedure To Process And Recover The Value Of Rights-Of-Use And Administrative Costs Incurred In Permitting Such Use" http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_05/43cfr429_05.html. Information related to all other proposed activities on Reclamation lands and waters can be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/lands/>. The information related to commercial photography and filming is being provided here for the convenience of the public. Any information or changes to ROU regulations publicized at Reclamation's principal ROU website supersede information provided here.

Commercial photography includes, but is not limited to, motion picture filming, video taping, and sound recording, or still photography. A ROU is required if such activity is requested to take place at locations where or when members of the public are generally not allowed; involves product or service advertisement; the use of models, sets, or props; or when the use requires management to prevent impairment or derogation to the resources or a significant disruption of normal visitor or agency use. All scripts (or script concept) must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Public Affairs Officer to ensure script content does not misrepresent Reclamation or show Federal employees inappropriately.

How do I apply?

Step 1: Complete the ROU [Right-of-Use Application \(7-2540\)](#)

Complete all parts of the ROU application form. You may attach additional sheets if more space is needed. If a particular question or response does not apply to the proposed use, please indicate "not applicable" or "N/A."

Step 2: Provide the following documents: proof of signatory authority; script or script concept; and any plans, specifications, maps, drawings, or other documents relevant to the request.

Step 3: Enclose an application fee of \$200.

You must submit an initial deposit fee of \$200 payable to the Bureau of Reclamation with your ROU application to cover the minimum administrative costs to review your application. Failure to submit the initial deposit fee or the required information will cause delays in the evaluation of the application.

The granting of any ROU on Reclamation lands, facilities, or water surfaces is at Reclamation's discretion, and there is no guarantee that any application will be approved. If after a preliminary review of the ROU authorization will not be granted, Reclamation will refund \$150 of the initial deposit fee within 30 calendar days (providing proper banking or electronic funds information is provided to Reclamation in a timely manner). The Code of Federal Regulations Title 43, part 429, describes the general process that will be used to collect and refund, where appropriate, excess initial deposit fees.

If found compatible with present or future uses, Reclamation will advise you of any additional estimated administrative costs in excess of the initial \$200 application fee, which you will be required to pay before further processing of your application. Administrative costs include, but are not limited to: Appraisal, appraisal review; compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act; and Reclamation's review, preparation and issuance of the ROU authorization. In the event the estimated administrative costs exceed the initial deposit fee of \$200, you will be required to supplement the initial deposit to make up the difference. If you refuse to accept the agreement after it is prepared and offered by Reclamation, no refund will be made for any of the application fee deposit.

Market Value of the ROU (rental charge) fees could be adjusted on a case by case or location basis.

Step 4: Submit the application, initial deposit fee of \$200, and any attachments to your local Reclamation office, attention Realty Specialist.

No activity may commence until a fully executed ROU authorization document is issued by Reclamation. If you have additional questions, please contact your local Mid-Pacific Region Reclamation office. A complete list of all offices can be found at:

http://www.usbr.gov/mp/area_offices.html.