



## USDA Forest Service Stanislaus National Forest

### Commercial Photography & Filming Request

Fill out permit request information and email the request to [SM.FS.R5StanPermit@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FS.R5StanPermit@usda.gov) and attach a detailed map showing proposed filming locations and staging areas (1:24,000 scale topographic map, including legal descriptions (if possible) – Township, Range, Section[s]) to the Special Uses Office at the Stanislaus National Forest. Please be advised that if the request is approved, insurance will be required. Please see below for insurance requirements for all commercial filming and photography activities.

We request at least **15 business days (Monday – Friday)** advance notice to process a permit application; please try to submit a request at least two weeks in advance of anticipated filming date. Please note that the request may be delayed if a map without sufficient detail is not provided.

### Insurance Certificate Requirements

**One (1) Million General Liability is required, submitted on ACORD 25 2009 form. If aircraft is involved, the Minimum Coverage Amount is \$5 million.**

The certificate of insurance must show “USDA Forest Service” (*not* “Forest Service”) as additional insured in the certificate holder box and on the endorsement page of the certificate. The certificate and the endorsement page must be submitted to the forest either with the permit request or immediately upon approval of the request, before activities commence.

The following clause must also appear on the face of the certificate and on the endorsement page of the certificate:

“It is understood and agreed that the United States of America, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Stanislaus National Forest, is additionally insured solely as respects liability arising from operations of the named insured.”

### Fee Schedule & Payment

Commercial filming and photography activities are subject to a per day use fee, determined by the size of the cast and crew present, and a non-refundable cost recovery fee (which covers Forest Service administrative and personnel costs). Payment must be made by check (no cash) at the National Forest Supervisor’s Office prior to first day of prep or filming. Please make

checks payable to USDA Forest Service. Payment can also be made online at the following payment portal - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/billpay>. Please see the fee schedule (below) for a list of fees.

| 2026 Cost Recovery Fees |                                |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Fee                     | Hours                          | Rate                           |
| 1                       | >1 and up to and including 8   | \$159                          |
| 2                       | >8 and up to and including 24  | \$563                          |
| 3                       | >24 and up to and including 36 | \$1,059                        |
| 4                       | >36 and up to and including 50 | \$1,518                        |
| 5                       | Varies                         | As specified in CR regulations |
| 6                       | >50                            | Full actual costs              |

| 2026 Permit Fees               |                   |                |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Number of People (Cast & Crew) | Still Photography | Filming        |
| 1-10 persons                   | \$111.34/day      | \$333.93/day   |
| 11-30 persons                  | \$333.93/day      | \$445.22/day   |
| 31-60 persons                  | \$556.54/day      | \$1,113.09/day |
| 60+ persons                    |                   | \$1,339.97/day |

### Information for Students

Student filmmakers are required to pay a minimum cost-recovery fee. However, use fees may be waived if students produce a letter on letterhead from the school stating that the film is a class requirement and has no commercial value.