

WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Helicopter Request Procedures

1. Request made to White Sands National Monument (WNSA) for commercial photography/ filming permit. A ***completed application*** for a special use permit for photography/ filming has been submitted to the Monument with the ***\$100 non-refundable application fee and the \$100 non-refundable administrative fee***. Within the application, there is a request for aerial photography/ filming over the Monument as a part of the proposed filming activity.
2. Applicant has spoken with the WNSA Filming Coordinator and has been advised of the restrictions, regulations, and time constraints regarding the airspace over the Monument. The WNSA Filming Coordinator has advised and the applicant has considered *other possible alternative* means to produce the footage requested.
3. Considerations for aerial photography/ filming over the Monument will be based on Code of Federal Regulations, Department of the Interior policies, FAA regulations, visitor safety considerations, and resource impact and impairment. All requests for aerial use will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - All aerial filming/ photography will be contracted through Army Air, Department of Defense. Private aircraft or helicopters are ***prohibited***.
 - The altitude restriction over the White Sands National Monument is a minimum of 500 AGL (above ground level) per Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Part 2.17(a)(1).
 - Helicopter use will only be allowed outside the public use areas. This will most likely be the north side of areas 17 and 19 on the Loop Road. However, each request will be considered on an individual basis.
 - Helicopter must approach the permitted area without flying over any other public use area, trails, or public access road (i.e. Dunes Drive or Loop Road).
 - Aerial filming/ photography may be denied during periods of high visitation to the Monument or during special events held within the Monument. These events may be in addition to the black out dates listed in Section H and K of the main body of this document.
 - All aerial filming/ photography requests will be evaluated in relation to the impact to the resource, the impact to the visitor's experience, and the safety of the visitors, employees, and the persons involved in the photography/ filming activity.
4. White Sands National Monument will process the request for aerial photography/ filming, through the WNSA review process. The review process minimally includes but is not limited to the Superintendent, the Chief Ranger, and the Filming Coordinator. If the request for aerial photography/ filming is approved, then the WNSA Filming Coordinator contacts the White Sands Missile Range (WNSMR) scheduling office for availability of air time for the requested times and dates. WNSA Filming Coordinator will advise the applicant of the WNSMR schedule.
5. WNSA Film Coordinator will then contact Army Air for availability of a helicopter (including a pilot, engineer, and refueling) for the requested times and dates.
6. If WNSMR scheduling has approved the time and date for airspace use, and Army Air has advised availability of a helicopter and crew, the application will then have final approval with the White Sands National Monument.

7. Weather conditions must be within the perimeters established by WHSMR and Army Air for the helicopter to fly on the requested time and date. Marginal weather considerations will cancel a scheduled flight.
8. Due to the complex nature of aerial filming/ photography, the review process and application approval *may be longer* than normal application requests. Additional administrative time for the review and processing of the application will be billed to the applicant.
9. The applicant will be required to carry a higher than average insurance amount which will be determined by the activity requested in the application.