

Drone and UAS usage on National Forests.

Drone and UAS usage IS permitted under the following:

- Compliance with all FAA regulations and guidance for flying UAS, available online at: www.faa.gov/uas
- UAS may be flown for recreation or hobby purposes in compliance with the Special Rule for Model Aircraft (Section 336 of Public Law 112-95)
- UAS may be flown by public entities (i.e., federal state, and local government agencies, and public universities) that obtain a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization from the FAA

Drone and UAS safety tips:

- Take lessons, learn to fly safely
- Keep away from manned aircrafts
- Fly ONLY in the line of sight of operator
- Keep flights away from populated and noise-sensitive areas, such as campgrounds, trail heads, and visitor centers
- Contact airport or control tower if flying within 5 miles of an airport or backcountry runway



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Do NOT use Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones under the following circumstances:

UAS are considered “mechanized” equipment and aircraft.

UAS or drones cannot fly over, take off from, or land in, Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas. This is a violation of the Wilderness Act and violators are subject to fines and prosecution.

UAS or drone use is prohibited near active wildfires.

UAS or drones are not permitted to fly in areas that have “temporary flight restrictions in place.

UAS or drones used for recreation or hobby cannot fly higher than 400 feet above the surface, in compliance with FAA guidance.

UAS or drones may not be flown for commercial or business purposes without FAA approval.

Model aircrafts may not be flown for payment or commercial purposes.

Do not fly over or near wildlife, this can create stress that may cause harm.

