

Filming in Parks or Other Sensitive Locations

A sensitive location is any area that is designated as a park, beach, conservation or wildlife reserve, UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as Indigenous and/or culturally significant lands, sites which contain particularly sensitive or endangered plant/animal species, or other designated environmentally sensitive and significant areas.

In addition to following the environmental guidelines below, it may be wise to hire a biologist or consultant to conduct an audit of the locations prior to filming, carefully documenting their condition and any types of vegetation or wildlife present, so that pre-filming conditions can be properly established. The audit can also help to identify any active nesting or wildlife habitat areas as well as any particularly sensitive vegetation.

General Guidelines

- Locations should be selected so that the fewest members of the public are present in the area, particularly in the case of filming on public or government land.
- Identify any areas that are sensitive, and suggest appropriate methods to avoid, mitigate or remedy the adverse environmental effects of filming activity in these areas.
- Cordon off areas where there is particularly sensitive vegetation or native wildlife so that vehicles, crew and other production related activities have minimal impact.
- Create and use areas designated for equipment storage, set piece laydown, and stock piling of materials. Do not use any areas outside of the set/work zone perimeter for any of the aforementioned actions.
- Contain and remove all water from toilets and showers used on the locations. Do not allow any discharges of water on to the land.
- Use trash, recycling and composting bins with lids or other closures designed to prevent access by wildlife and place them in easily accessible locations.
- Perform daily set/work zone “housekeeping” to prevent trash and debris from leaving the site and becoming windblown hazards.
- Reinstate any land or vegetation that has been damaged or affected as a result of production activities.
- Shield all lighting downwards and prevent any lights used at night from shining on active bird nests or any other sensitive habitat.
- Limit continuous or sustained noise near sensitive habitat and wildlife locations, such as active bird nests.
- Construction and filming areas should be limited to existing access roads, pathways, driveways, or trails.

Altering Landscapes or Vegetation

- Do not remove, replace, limb or trim existing vegetation without express authorization from the appropriate environmental agency.
- Do not alter the existing site topography without the express authorization of the appropriate environmental agency.
- Do not disturb existing flora or fauna and only use non-invasive species when bringing in outside plants.

- All vegetative and nursery stock brought to the site should be certified free of pathogens and pests.

Vehicles, Generators & Fuel Use

- Manage all vehicle use, crew foot traffic and all other film related activities causing impact to ground cover and vegetation to ensure minimal damage to sensitive ground cover and terrain.
- All crew vehicles must keep to the established vehicle access tracks and base camp areas on the site. Care should be taken to avoid wheel ruts on wet ground.
- Place spill containment (oil drip trays and/or groundsheets) under all vehicles (including historic vehicles, prop vehicles and construction vehicles) and all generators on site.
- Have spill kits available in easily accessed locations on site for immediate spill cleanup.
- Create designated site(s) for all fueling. These sites should be in contained or banded areas and not within close proximity of any waterway (i.e., river, stream, lake, or ocean).
- Refuel and perform routine maintenance of construction equipment and utility vehicles within the designated refueling stations.
- Place spill containment under all vehicles being fueled and keep an emergency spill kit in plain sight.
- If a fuel spill occurs, the location manager must be notified immediately. Arrangements shall be made to clean up any spill in an appropriate manner.
- Store all flammable liquids and fuels in approved containers and storage areas and store where any leakage or spill will be safely contained.
- Use drones instead of helicopters for filming where possible (and where permitted). Be sure to follow all of the local guidelines for the use of drones.
- Use helicopters instead of cars or trucks to reach a location if there are sensitive or pristine landscapes that will be damaged by vehicles.
 - Suitable landing sites close to filming areas should be located. Aircraft engine and rotor noise should be minimized by careful landing and departure procedures, with wind-down and start-up noise to be minimized as much as possible.
 - Helicopters should land on solid ground and in areas that are identified as having the least sensitive vegetation or wildlife present.
 - Only essential crew and camera equipment should be flown into more sensitive locations.