



Recreational Drone Best Practices

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The following tips & etiquette are for hobby or recreational use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) or “Drones” in Oregon State Parks and the Ocean Shore State Recreation Area.

Know where to fly

- Check the park’s drone maps for conditions and restrictions for take-off and landing.
 - To further protect natural resources, the agency preference is for users to operate their drones within the areas allowed for take-off and landing.
 - Individuals and organizations may fly drones for recreational purposes in compliance with [FAA Regulations](#) and take-off and land from designated areas.
- Drones must be flown below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
- Drones are both “motorized equipment” and “mechanical transport” and, as such, they cannot take off from, land in, or be operated from congressionally designated wilderness areas or national wildlife refuges.
- Drones are not permitted to fly in areas that have Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) in place, such as wildfires. Search the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Web site for current TFRs at <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>.

Follow FAA rules and guidelines

- Ensure that you comply with all FAA regulations and guidance for flying your drone. The FAA has authority over all airspace. Information on FAA regulations is available at <http://www.faa.gov/uas/>.
- Utilize available navigation resources at https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/b4ufly

Protect wildlife & the environment

- Avoid flying over congressionally designated wilderness areas and national wildlife refuges such as the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.
- Do not fly over or near wildlife. This can stress out wildlife and cause significant harm or even death. Disturbance of animals during breeding, nesting, rearing of young, or other critical life history functions is against state and federal law.
- Do not approach wildlife closer than 300 feet (91.44 feet). Do not approach animals or birds vertically with the drone.

- If you observe wildlife reacting to your drone, discontinue use.
- Launch the drone more than 100 meters (328 feet) from wildlife.
- When in doubt about the location and status of wildlife populations (i.e. nesting, breeding), consult park staff for additional information.
- Consider topography, prevailing wind speed and direction, and sound levels emitted by drones to establish safe and suitable locations for takeoff and landing.
- Adhere to seasonal restrictions to protect colonies of birds or other congregated wildlife.
- Consider having a designated observer to monitor wildlife reactions.

Fly safely, stay in control

- Practice and learn to operate your drone safely before visiting a state park or the Ocean Shore.
- Keep your drone within your visual line of sight at all times.
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with traditional aircraft operations.
- Fly your drone in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to traditional aircraft.
- Be mindful and keep your drone far enough away from populated and noise-sensitive areas, such as campgrounds, trail heads, and visitor centers.
- Don't take off in or fly over crowds.
- Be mindful and respectful of the experiences of other park users.
- In the event of a crash, operators should consider if the aircraft can be safely removed without disturbing natural resources and jeopardizing personal safety. Abandonment of the UAS may be required to avoid further disturbance. Consult park staff before attempting to retrieve a drone in a closed or dangerous area.

Adaptive Management Statement

- The agency will process the take off and landing of drone use in state parks through administrative rules and determine the allowable areas through classification criteria determined by adaptive management. Adaptive management is the practice of implementing management actions through learning, experimenting, and comparing effectiveness of different strategies.
- In "Yellow/Conditional Use" areas on the drone maps, seasonality will determine if drones are allowed to take-off and land. The agency's Natural Resource Specialists in coordination with federal and state partners will work to create consistent calendar times to protect resources at sensitive times of the year.
- OPRD's Adaptive Management Policy will address the process of adaptive management review and implementation.