



Permits for Media Projects in Baxter State Park

This area is to be maintained primarily as a Wilderness and recreational purposes are to be regarded as of secondary importance and shall not encroach upon the main objective of this area which is to be "Forever Wild."

- *Governor Percival P. Baxter, January 11, 1955 in a letter to Governor Edmund Muskie*

Per Section 4.12 of the Baxter State Park Authority's rules, commercial media projects in the Park require a special use permit issued by the Director. The purpose of this document is to explain to those interested in conducting a commercial media project in the Park the permit application process and limitations on the Director's ability to issue such permits.

Commercial Media Projects

Commercial media projects typically include the film, electronic, magnetic, digital, or other recording of a still or moving image by a person, business, governmental, or other entity for a market audience with the intent of generating income.

Media Permit Requirements

Per Rule 4.12, a permit from the Director of Baxter State Park is required before conducting any commercial media project in Baxter State Park.

Permissible Media Projects

The Director may allow commercial media projects that keep with the mission of the Park. First and foremost, this means that the project must be compatible with the purpose of the Park as a primarily wilderness area consistent with the Deeds of Trust and Formal Communications from the donor, former Maine Governor Percival P. Baxter. Commercial media projects must not be disruptive to other visitors or wildlife in the Park.

All commercial media projects, including all activities necessary to complete the project, must comply with all Park Rules including, but not limited to:

BSP Rules Section 1 - Camping, reservations, registration, camping max group size.

BSP Rules Section 2 - Day use hiking group size (maximum of 12 on any Park trail).

BSP Rules Section 4 - Pets, protection of wildlife and plants, fires, carry-in, carry-out, disturbances, use of power equipment, protection of cultural objects.

BSP Rules Section 5 - Vehicle size limits, parking, speed limits, motorcycles and ATV's, aircraft including drones, snowmobiles, motorboats.

BSP Rules Section 6 - Supervision of minors, solicitation and use of alcohol and drugs.

Additionally, media projects and activities must comply with existing Park policies such as [day use parking access](#) policies at popular Katahdin trailheads and [Leave No Trace principles](#).

Non-permissible Media Projects

Any project that, in the judgment of the Park Director, is inconsistent with Governor Baxter's Deeds of Trust or Formal Communications, or violates one or more of the Baxter State Park Rules, and/or conflicts with operational policies.

In all the deeds from me to the State the phrases "natural wild state" and "as a sanctuary for wild beast and birds" have been used. By these I do not intend that the Park forever shall be a region unvisited and neglected by man. I seek to provide against commercial exploitation, against hunting, trapping and killing, against lumbering, hotels, advertising, hot-dog stands, motor vehicles, horse-drawn vehicles and other vehicles, air-craft, and the trappings of unpleasant civilization. Nor is the Park to be kept exclusively for professional mountain climbers; it is for everybody.

- *Governor Percival P. Baxter, January 2, 1945*

To commercialize this magnificent area, to desecrate it with 'great hotels' with their noisy social life, their flaming signs, the roar of motor cars and airplanes coming and going to break the peace of that great solitude would be nothing less than sacrilege. The people of Maine, even if it were possible to do so, will not permit it.

Maine has 20 million acres outside of Katahdin where countless hotels and 'great log cabins' can be built, if required, to care for all the sports, Winter and Summer, that Maine ever will need, and where the National Government can establish several National Parks if it sees fit to do so.

- *Governor Percival P. Baxter, Portland Press Herald, May 6, 1937*

Media Permit Application

Permit applications may be downloaded from the Park website. If you wish to visit the Park to scout for filming locations before filing an application, please visit our website baxterstatepark.org for information about the Park or contact Park Headquarters at 207-723-9616.

Please include complete information in your application. If significant staff resources are required to evaluate your application, the Park will bill you for the additional costs. To assist Park staff in evaluating your request, please including with your application: maps, diagrams, script pages, storyboards, vehicle and equipment lists, crew lists, call sheet, itineraries, shot lists, etc.; this may reduce the need for staff to request additional information, which may delay processing.

- Applications that are complete when initially submitted, and do not require alteration or complex evaluation, typically will be processed within 30 days.
- Projects involving multiple locations, complex logistics, or coordination with other visitor activities likely will require a minimum of 45 days to process.

- Projects that require environmental or cultural resource evaluation must be submitted no less than 60 days before the proposed start of proposed activities and may require additional time dependent upon project complexity.
- Park managers will not sign location release agreements.**

Baxter State Park has limited staff. On-duty staff are fully committed to existing work in resource protection, recreation management, and public safety. Park Rangers and other staff may monitor the activities and conduct of media projects in Baxter State Park but media projects that require significant monitoring or on-site presence of Park staff will be billed for required staff time.

Violation of Park Rules by the Permittee, including its employees, agents, or other project personnel, may result in citations for Rule violations, revocation of the commercial media permit, and possible expulsion of project personnel from Baxter State Park.

Please submit the application form to the Park as far in advance as possible.
Mail completed applications to:

dan@baxterstatepark.org | 207-723-9616

Insurance Requirements:

An applicant who proposes a video or filming project for **3 days or longer** must submit with the application for a commercial media permit proof of insurance issued by a company fully licensed or designated as an eligible surplus line insurer to do business in the State of Maine by the Maine Department of Professional & Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance, which policy includes the activity for which the applicant seeks a commercial media permit and affords adequate liability coverage. The insurance certificate must identify the production company by name and business address; if the Permittee uses a different name than listed on insurance policy, the relationship between insured company and Permittee's company must be identified.

The minimum acceptable amount of liability insurance is \$1 million for most media projects. High-risk activities or activities that may have the potential for resource impact will require higher liability amounts. Contact the Park for details. A request for a permit may be denied if there is no proof of adequate insurance. Personal homeowner's liability is not acceptable. The certificate should be generated by the insurance company. Handwritten certificate holder information is unacceptable.

Pre-Project Steps:

After approval of an application and before the activity begins, the Permittee should meet with the Park Director, or designee, to:

- Review the final terms/conditions, scheduling and any special instructions pertaining to the respective project,
- Provide an original certificate of insurance, and if required, a bond,

- Pay estimated costs, if required,
- Sign and obtain a copy of the Media Permit.

Activities not specified in the permit will not be allowed. No activities on Baxter State Park property may begin unless the Director has issued a special use permit for the project and the Permittee has signed the permit and returned it to the Director.

Media Permit fee schedule:

Permitted project 1-2 consecutive days	\$60
Permitted project 3-5 consecutive days	\$100
Permitted project more than 5 consecutive days	\$200

Permit Conditions

Permittee must comply with all Baxter State Park Rules. Specific conditions and restrictions related to existing resource protection, recreation management, and public safety policies will be noted on the permit. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply to the operation of vehicles and equipment. Project activities may be monitored or checked by Baxter State Park Rangers or staff. The Permittee must keep the permit in possession while engaged in the permitted project in Baxter State Park. The Permittee must produce the permit for inspection when asked to do so by Park Rangers or staff.