

# Conservation Storytelling through Drone Imagery

## LTA Rally 2023 – Presentation Notes

### Google Slides Presentation:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QFLbKdKiB\\_xk1XJw-eYjCcNmwpG2e-Aq\\_52LjTRezJY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QFLbKdKiB_xk1XJw-eYjCcNmwpG2e-Aq_52LjTRezJY/edit?usp=sharing)

### Presenters:

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- Hugh Kenny, Multimedia Communications Specialist, [hkenny@pecva.org](mailto:hkenny@pecva.org)
- [The Piedmont Environmental Council](#) is based in Warrenton, Virginia
- \*Please reach out to us if you have any questions!

### Drones:

- [DJI camera drones](#)
- When we purchased our drones, we added the “DJI Care Refresh (2-year plan)”
  - covers collisions, flyaway, water damage, natural wear, and other accidental damage at a reduced price
- We also purchased the “fly more” package when buying our drones which came with extra batteries

### Where can you fly?

- The FAA controls *all* airspace, including where you can and cannot fly a drone.
  - Localities and landowners *can* restrict whether you’re not you’re able to take off from their land
  - The National Park Service doesn’t permit any drone operations above any of their land, but other BLM land and national forest land is generally ok.
- You should always check the [FAA B4 U Fly app](#) before you fly. It shows in clear language where you can and can’t fly and any temporary restrictions that might be in effect.
- In terms of landowner permission, you do not need to it fly above their land. However as a practical matter it never hurts to ask permission, people can definitely react negatively to an unexpected drone buzzing above them and it can certainly be rude to fly close to someone’s house. For general landscape shots that have private property in them you’re fine without permission but if you are taking photos “of” a particular feature it would be smart to ask first.

### How high can you fly?

- In most places the max height is 400ft from the ground
- Sometimes the FAA has stricter height restrictions in certain areas

### How far can you fly?

- Your drone needs to be within your line of sight when flying

### **Part 107 License**

- You don't need a special license to fly a drone for recreational purposes but to fly a drone for work you need a Remote Pilot Certification under the Federal Aviation Administration's Small UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Rule (Part 107).
- To get the license, you'll need to take the Unmanned Aircraft General – Small (UAG) at an [FAA-approved Knowledge Testing Center](#).
  - You'll have to learn about different types of airspace, how to read a sectional map, where and when you can fly, how to read aviation weather reports.
  - It takes a bit of studying but isn't too demanding.
  - We both spent about 8 hours or so studying and taking a few practice tests and then were ready to go. Free study guides we used:
    - <https://northrup.photo/free-faa-part-107-suas-drone-certification-study-guide/>
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_ucCKFJUCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_ucCKFJUCU)
  - Sample tests:
    - <https://3dr.com/faa/drone-practice-tests/>
    - <https://jrupprechtlaw.com/part-107-knowledge-test>
  - Test takes about 2 hours
- You need to refresh your certification every two years.
- Cost:
  - Test = \$175
  - Drone registration with FAA = \$5
- FAA webpage with information about drones: <https://www.faa.gov/uas>