

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, STATE PARKS DIVISION

POLICY/PROCEDURE #320

June 17, 2014

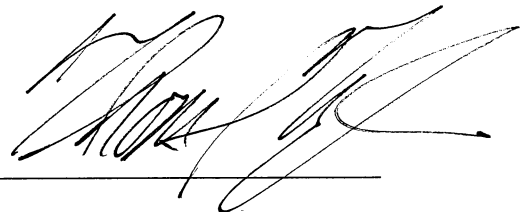
SUBJECT: I. USE OF REMOTE CONTROL AIRCRAFT OR "DRONES"
II. HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY

I. PROHIBITION IN STATE PARKS AND FORESTS

1. The use of "remote control aircraft or drones" is prohibited in all state parks and forests, unless authorized in Special Use License or other authorization by the Commissioner. Section 23-4-1(0), "Disorderly Conduct", is the applicable regulation.

II. HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY

1. The use of remote control aircraft and "drones" are considered hazardous to other persons, wildlife and property for the following reasons:
 - (1) Remote control aircraft and drones fly at low altitudes, and rely on a fuel or battery motor to stay aloft. Failure of the motor or other equipment will result in an uncontrolled descent, which could result in injury to others or damage to state or personal property.
 - (2) The operation of these aircraft by an untrained pilot creates risk of injury and/or property damage. As there is currently no licensing requirement for pilots, there is no reliable mechanism for DEEP to be assured of pilot competence.
 - (3) The operation of these aircraft are noisy, and are disruptive to wildlife.
 - (4) The use of these aircraft on state property has caused concern among other park users, potentially resulting in confrontation between guests.



Thomas J. Tyler, Director