

STRONGHOLD PRECISION AERIALS

# Southern Arizona Drone Airspace

## Field Guide Sample Edition

Free sample — 4 of 13 cards. The pre-flight legal check, the flat prohibitions, and the by-location quick reference.

---

Version 1.0 · August 2026 · Letter format

Current as of August 2026. Airspace and statute change — verify before you fly.

Every restriction traced to a primary source: an FAA rule, a Federal

Register airspace action, an NPS compendium, or a statute as ENACTED.

Where a rule is unsettled, this guide says so instead of guessing.

# What's in here

---

Ordered the way you actually use it, not the way the manual is organised.

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| How to use this             | 3 |
| The pre-flight legal check  | 4 |
| Where you cannot fly at all | 5 |
| Quick reference by location | 6 |

## The one idea that matters

| Layer                    | Who runs it               | Cleared by                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Airspace class           | FAA                       | LAANC or an FAA authorization              |
| Restricted / special use | FAA + the using agency    | Not available to civil UAS; check NOTAMs   |
| NSUFR over DoD sites     | FAA under 14 CFR 99.7     | NOTHING. LAANC does not touch it.          |
| The ground you stand on  | NPS / USFS / ASLD / owner | A permit, or permission, or neither exists |

Holding a valid LAANC authorization and believing it covers a National Security UAS Flight Restriction. It does not. They are separate systems, and the NSUFR applies to every operation regardless of purpose, altitude authorization or certificate held. Check the FAA UAS Data Delivery System separately, every time.

Nothing in it authorises anything. You are still the remote pilot in command under 14 CFR 107.19, and that responsibility does not transfer to a PDF.

## The pre-flight legal check

- ☒ Identify the UAS Facility Map grid square for the ACTUAL launch coordinates, and read the ceiling it gives. A grid can authorize 0 ft, which means no automated approval exists there.
- ☒ Check for an NSUFR over the site. Separate system. LAANC does not clear it. FAA UAS Data Delivery System.
- ☒ Confirm who owns or manages the ground you will stand on to launch and land. This is a different question from the airspace.
- ☒ Check NOTAMs — including restricted-area activation outside published hours, and any TFR.
- ☐ File LAANC if the grid requires it. Under a minute when it works; days when it needs further coordination.
- ☐ Check the parcel against National Park Service boundaries if you are anywhere near one. The ban includes launching and landing.
- ☐ Check for designated Wilderness if you are on Forest Service land.
- ☐ If within 15 miles of the international border, plan the coordination, not just the flight.
- ☐ Confirm your own currency: registration, Part 107 recurrent training, and remote ID broadcast.
- ☐ Weather: wind aloft, density altitude, and in season the convective outlook. Morning beats afternoon from June to September, every time.
- ☐ Tell somebody where you are going. Cell coverage in this county is not continuous and the roads are not either.

**If any item cannot be answered, the answer is do not fly**

Not 'probably fine'. Every restriction in this guide is one somebody has been cited for, and the sanction for the federal ones is not a conversation.

YOUR NOTES ON THIS CARD

## Where you cannot fly at all

Under the National Park Service Superintendent's Compendium, launching, landing or operating an unmanned aircraft is prohibited at these Cochise County units:

- ☐ Chiricahua National Monument
- ☐ Coronado National Memorial
- ☐ Fort Bowie National Historic Site

And in the Tucson metro:

- ☐ **Saguaro National Park, east and west districts**

This is not a permit process. There is no commercial exception, no Part 107 exception, and no filming permit that unlocks it.

## The workaround that is not a workaround

The prohibition covers LAUNCHING AND LANDING as well as operating. Taking off from just outside the boundary and flying in is still prohibited — the operating half of the rule catches it. Rangers know this is the obvious thing to try, and the sanction is a federal citation rather than a conversation.

## Designated Wilderness

Drones count as motorized equipment and are not permitted in designated Wilderness. Inside the Coronado National Forest that includes the Chiricahua Wilderness and the Miller Peak Wilderness, among others.

The boundary between general Forest land and designated Wilderness is not always obvious on the ground and is not always signed where you happen to be standing. Check it on the map, not by eye.

## Over designated DoD facilities

National Security UAS Flight Restrictions under 14 CFR 99.7 prohibit UAS operation from the surface to 400 ft AGL over designated Department of Defense facilities. They apply to every operation regardless of purpose and are administered separately from airspace authorization. A LAANC approval does not clear one.

YOUR NOTES ON THIS CARD

## Quick reference by location

| Where                                           | Position                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sulphur Springs Valley floor                    | Class G. No authorization. Fly it.                                      |
| Willcox, Cochise, Pearce, Sunsites, Dragoon     | Class G. Watch land status, not airspace.                               |
| Benson, St. David, Bowie                        | Class G in most places. Check the grid.                                 |
| Sierra Vista / Huachuca City                    | Class D to 7,200 ft MSL, 4.7 mi. LAANC. Check NSUFR.                    |
| Anywhere near Fort Huachuca                     | R-2303 946 sq mi. NSUFR. RF environment. Card 03.                       |
| Tucson metro                                    | Class C shared TUS/DMA. Grid ceiling varies. Card 04.                   |
| Chiricahua NM / Coronado NM / Fort Bowie        | PROHIBITED including launch and landing.                                |
| Saguaro NP, both districts                      | PROHIBITED including launch and landing.                                |
| Designated Wilderness (Chiricahua, Miller Peak) | PROHIBITED.                                                             |
| Coronado NF, general                            | Generally permitted. Confirm commercial permitting.                     |
| Arizona State Trust Land                        | Permit to ENTER. Recreational permit is NOT commercial.                 |
| Private property                                | Overflight generally lawful. Launch/land = trespass without permission. |
| Within 15 mi of the border                      | Lawful, but officers have immunity to disable. Coordinate.              |
| Over designated DoD facilities                  | PROHIBITED surface to 400 ft. LAANC does not clear it.                  |

YOUR NOTES ON THIS CARD

## STRONGHOLD PRECISION AERIALS

### Southern Arizona Drone Airspace · Field Guide Sample

This is a free sample of the full field guide. The complete edition adds the Tucson Class C shelf, Sierra Vista and R-2303, State Trust Land permitting, the border band, what Arizona law does and does not say, the GPS and RF environment, and desert flying conditions.



**Published rate card**

[strongholdprecisionaerials.com/pricing](https://strongholdprecisionaerials.com/pricing)



**Airspace articles, updated**

[strongholdprecisionaerials.com/blog](https://strongholdprecisionaerials.com/blog)

Version 1.0 · August 2026 · Letter

Current as of August 2026. Airspace and statute change — verify before you fly.

This is a reference, not legal advice, and it authorises nothing.

You remain the remote pilot in command under 14 CFR 107.19.

Verify every restriction against its source before you fly.

For personal use. Do not redistribute or resell.

[inquiries@strongholdprecisionaerials.com](mailto:inquiries@strongholdprecisionaerials.com)

[strongholdprecisionaerials.com](https://strongholdprecisionaerials.com)