Photographing Water
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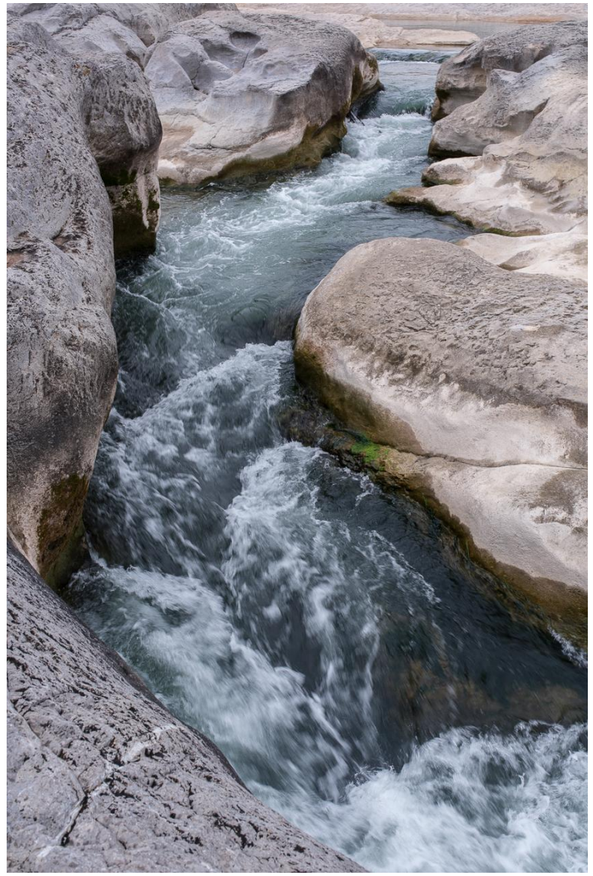
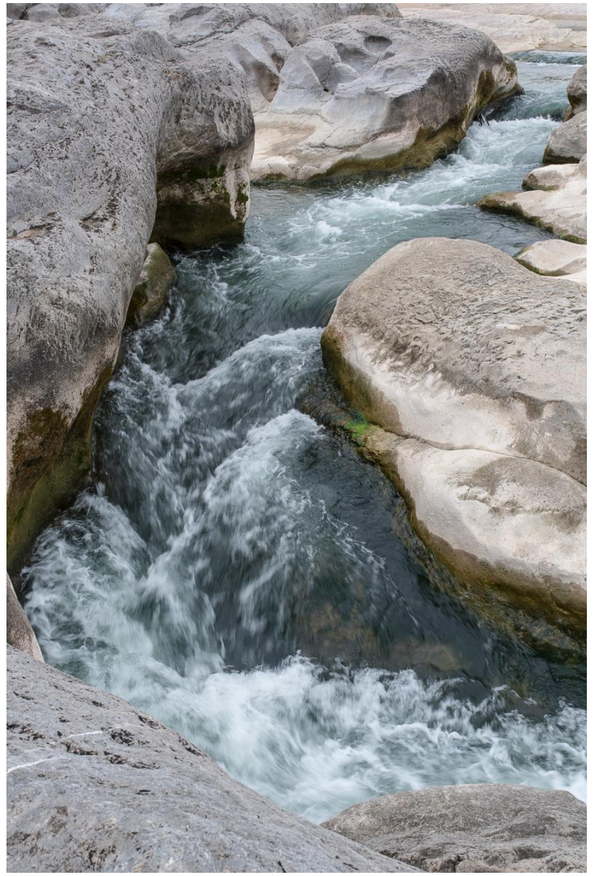
Waterfalls and Moving Water

- It’s all about shutter speed and your artistic intent.
- Slow shutter speeds blur the movement and faster shutter speeds freeze the motion.
- The effect will vary greatly based on the speed of the water – you have to experiment.

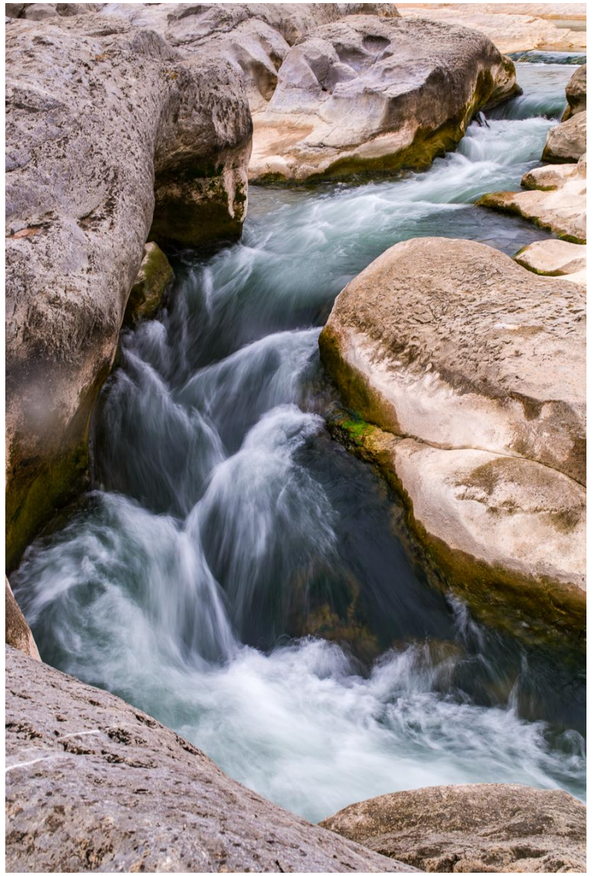
Varying Shutter Speed – Slow Water



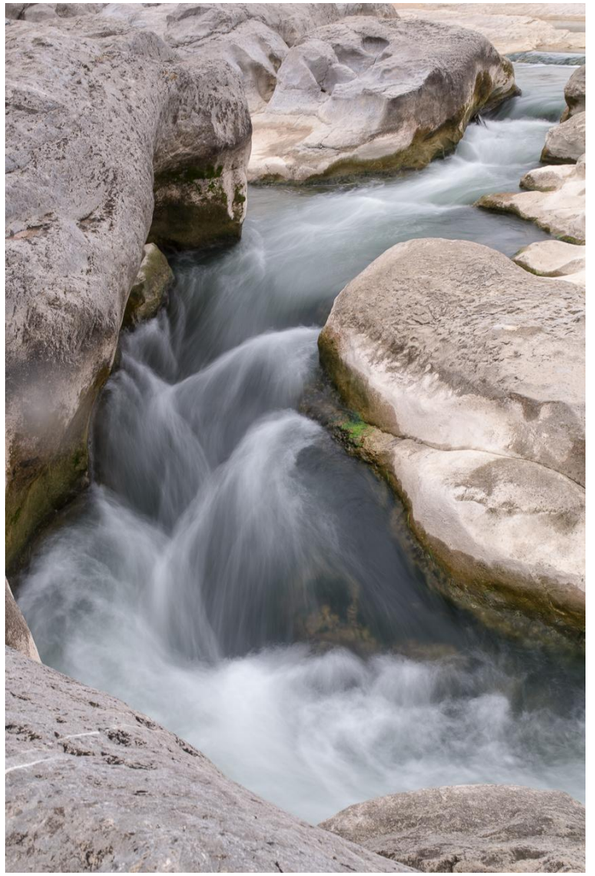
1/40 Second



1/25 Second



1/3 Second



1 Second

Varying Shutter Speed Fast Water

1/30 Second

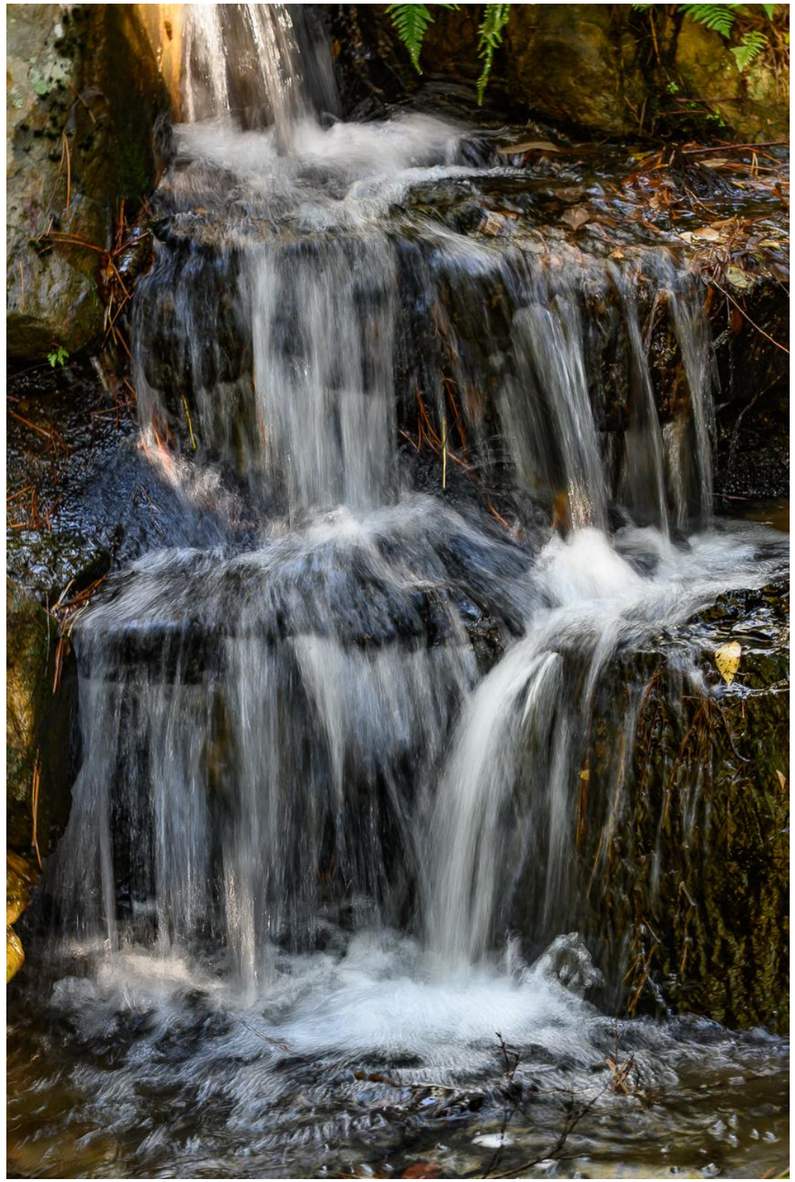
1 Second

Varying Shutter Speed

1/640 Second

25 Seconds

Watch the Light

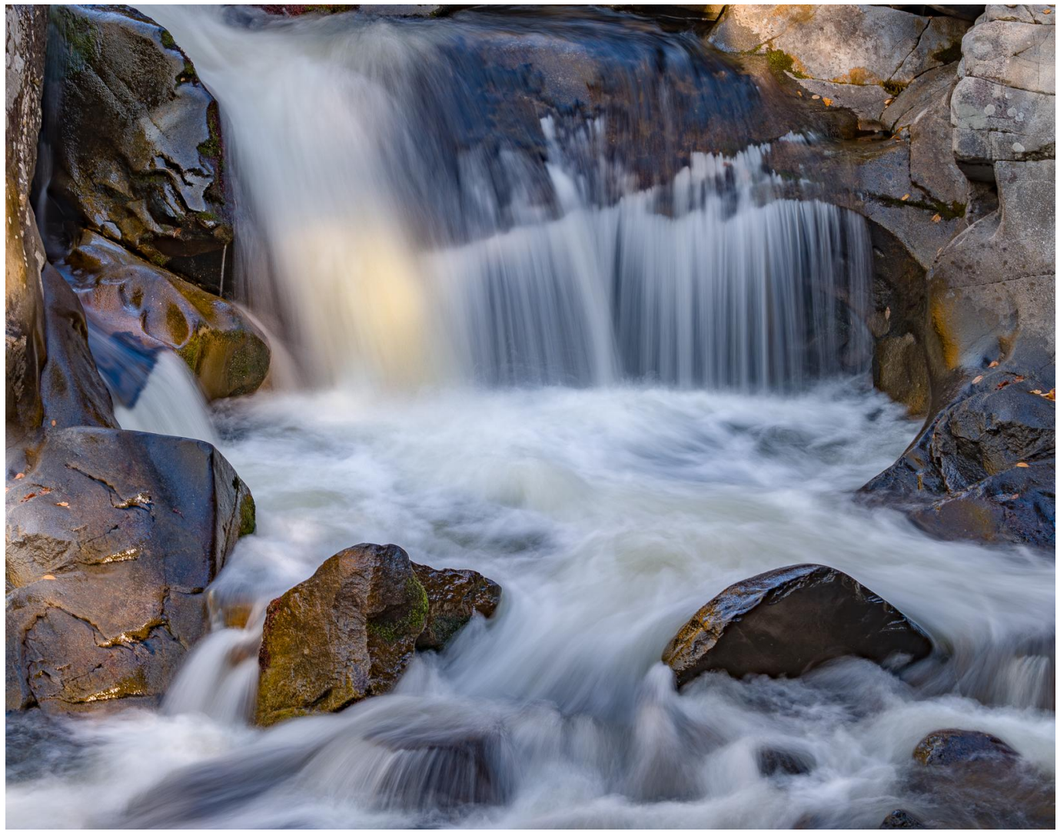


- When the water is churning there will be “white water”
- Take care not to blow these out.
- Overcast skies and shade are preferred.

Watch the Light

- The sun went behind the mountain.

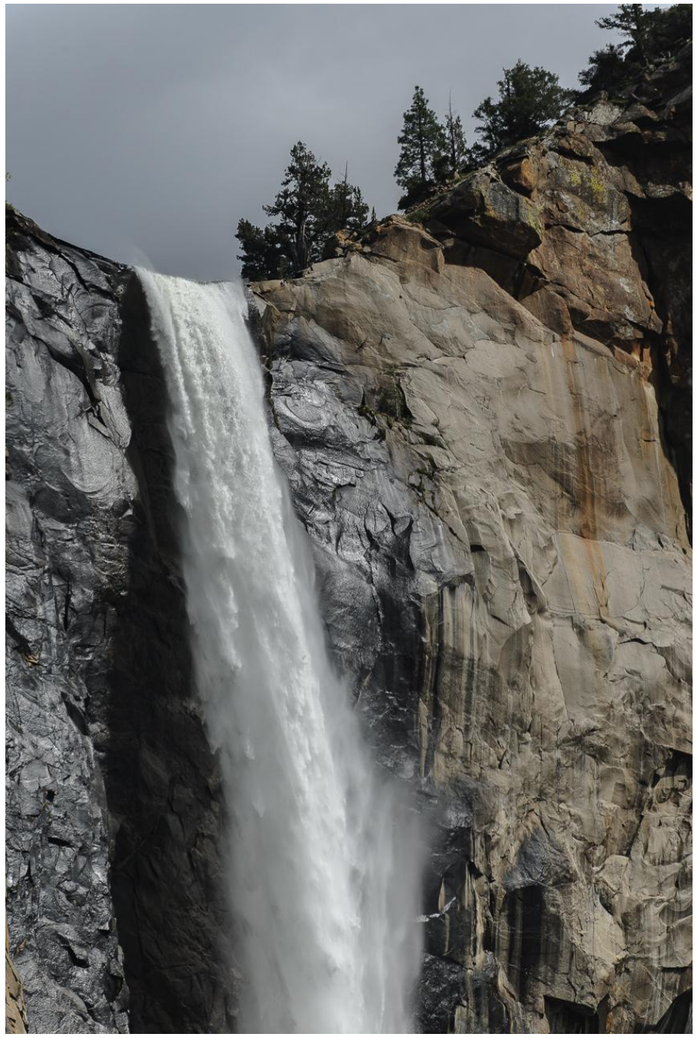
The Sinks/Smokey Mountain National Park
0.6 Seconds



No Local Adjustments

With Local Adjustments

Changing Patterns



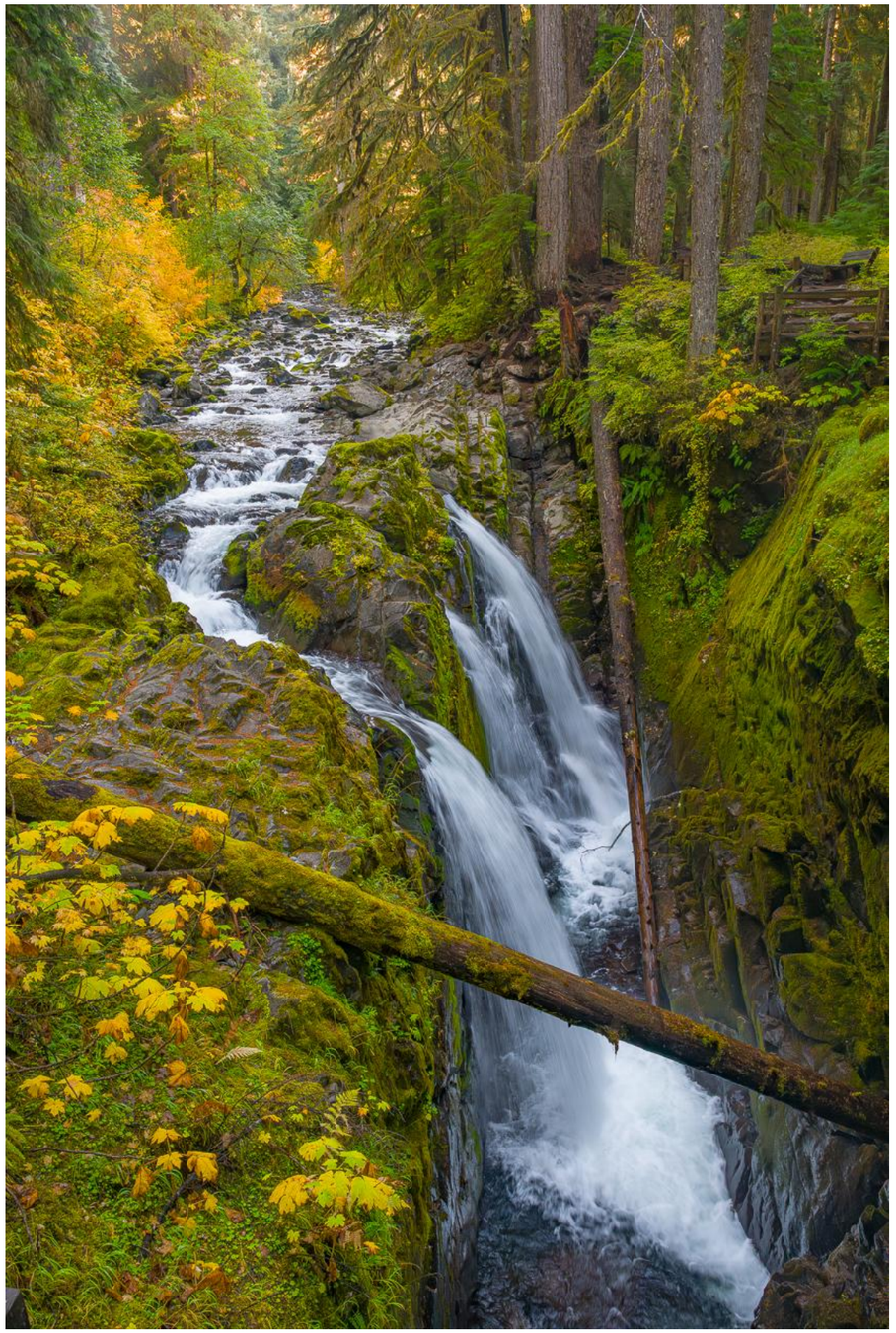
- Water flow is not constant.
- Patterns change in interesting ways.
- Especially in the wind.

Controlling the Shutter Speed

- My starting point for waterfalls and running water is 1/8, 1/15, and 1/30 second. Adjust from there.
- Time of day. Early or late if possible.
- If not filters, stop down (slows shutter speed) and use low ISO.
- Circular polarizer and neutral density filters.
- Fixed neutral density filters
  - 6 stops is a good all-around choice. 3 stops can be stacked with the 6.
  - Rarely need 10 stop.
- Variable neutral density filters.
  - 1 to 5 or 1 to 8 stop is a good choice.
  - Find one with stops
  - Good quality otherwise color issues
  - Amazon.com : B+W 77mm XS-Pro Digital Vario ND with Multi-Resistant Nano Coating : Electronics

Gear and Technique

- Gear
  - Sturdy tripod and head.
  - Neutral density and circular polarizing filters.
  - Lens of choice.
- My Technique
  - Variable ND filter.
  - Aperture priority.
  - ISO 64 (or lowest).
  - Adjust ND to get the time I want.
  - If it is really bright, I might add a fixed ND.
  - Look at the display and adjust to taste.
- Post processing
  - Local use of Dehaze gives life to the water. May need to brighten shadows.



Sol Duc Falls/Olympic National Park, Washington 1/15 Sec

Second Beach/Washington 1 Sec

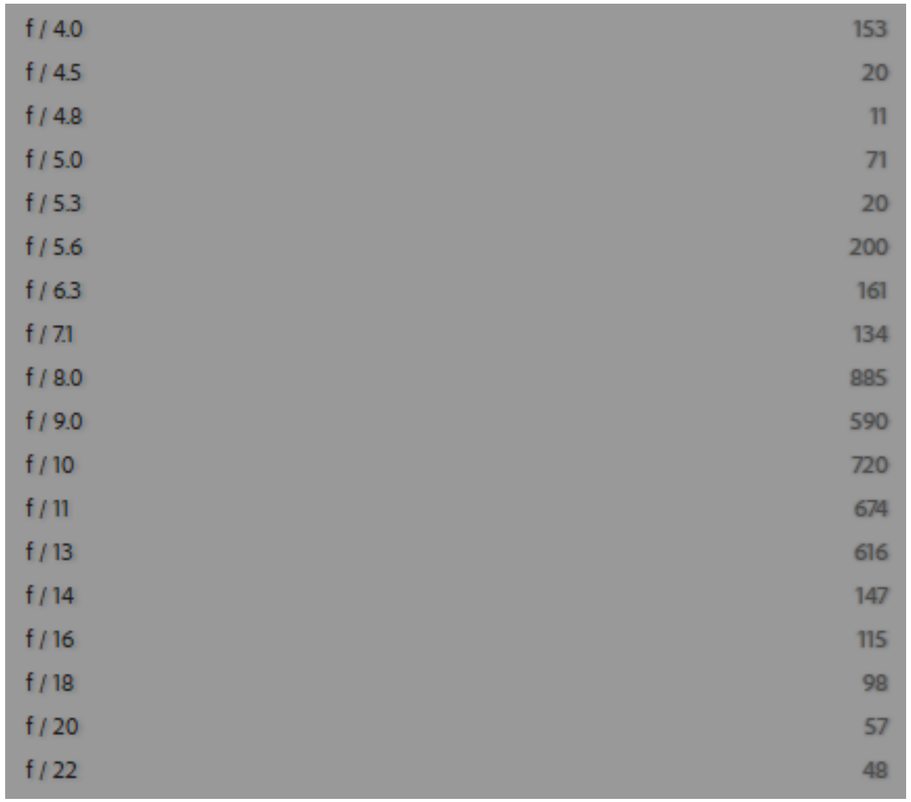
References
dallascameraclub.org

- *My Passion*
  Moving Water - Alan Whiteside, June 11,2024 PDF

- *2021 Photographing Water* with Alan Whiteside
  Part 1 PDF VIDEO
  Part 2 PDF VIDEO

Focusing and Aperture

- Generally, stop down for greater depth of field. My usual range is f/9 to f/13 depending on the distance to the subject.
  - More distant subjects f/8 of f/9
  - Closer subjects stop down more.



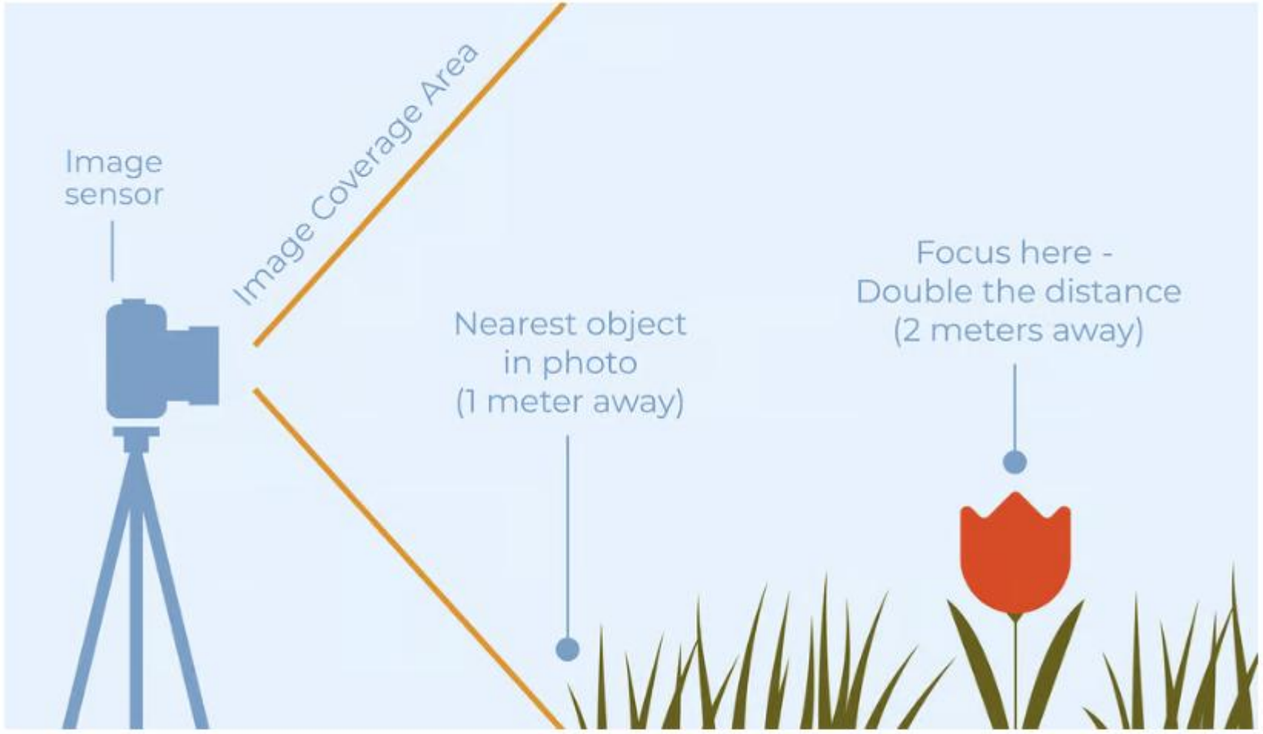
Focusing and Aperture

- At f/16 and higher you can lose acuity due to lens diffraction (and dust spots show up more.)
- To maximize depth of field,
  1. Stop down
  2. Use hyperfocus distance
  3. Use focus stacking

2024-02-20 - Dennis Fritsche PDF VIDEO (Cleaning Tripod, Stock Photos, Depth of Field and Hyperfocal Distance, UV Filters, Dennis' Editing Workflow)

Rule of Thumb 1

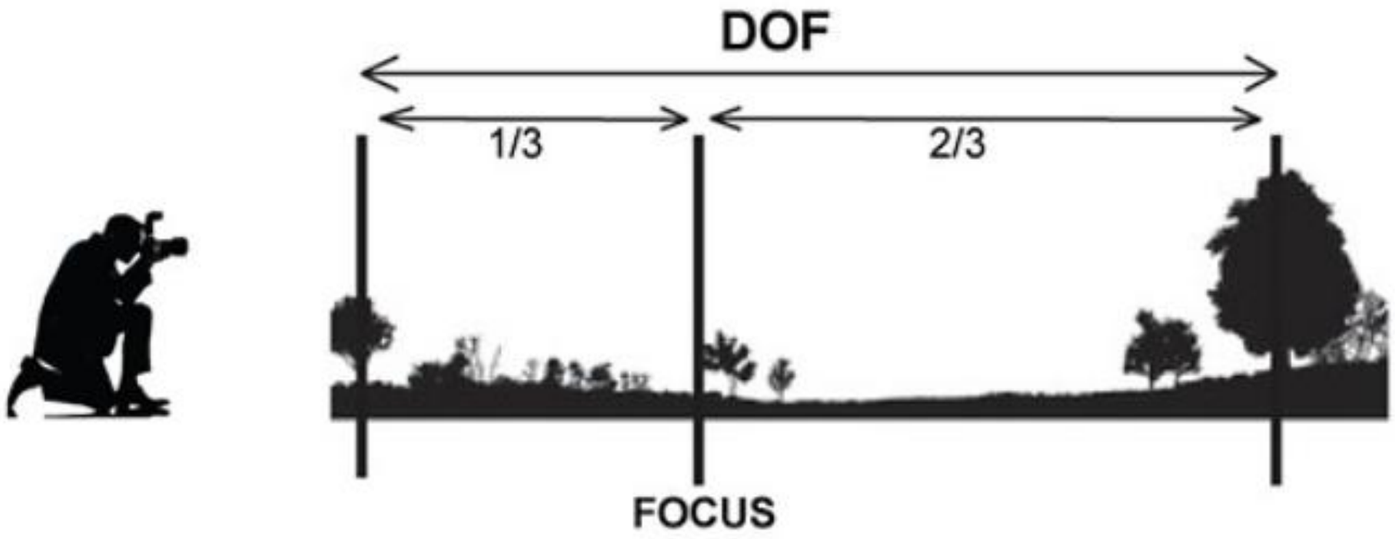
- If you have a close object, focus at twice the distance to the closest object.



From Photographylife.com

Rule of Thumb 2

- For distant subjects, focus 1/3 of the way into the scene.



Thank You