

Danyel Waller
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UST202002-510/H.H.
09.06.01

Subject: permit to fly drone at Gullfoss, Dyrhólaey, Skógafoss

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Danyel Waller, dated February 28th, 2020, for permit to fly drone at Gullfoss, Dyrhóley and Skógafoss.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project is to fly drone at Gullfoss, Dyrhóley and Skógafoss March 3rd - 6th depending on weather conditions. At Gullfoss, the plan is to take off and land on grassy/path area away from tourists and fly above to film a 360-degree view of the waterfall and canyon. No intent to go into the canyon itself. At Dyrhóley the plan is to take off and land along the pathway to the Dyrhólaey lighthouse and film above the cliffs facing the natural formation Dyrhólaey. At Skógafoss the plan is to take off and land from riverbed away in front of the waterfall but away from tourist and fly directly above the waterfall for a 180-degree view facing the waterfall. No intent to go within 50 meters of the waterfall or birds. There will be no use of motorized machinery, no need to go off paths or roads, and no usage of props or chemicals for the project.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to cause temporary disturbance to bird life at Dyrhóley and Skógafoss. Fulmars may have settled in cliffs in both areas and a drone could therefore cause temporary disturbance. Drone flight could also have negative impact on the experience of other guest in the area.

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative affect at Gullfoss. Due to number of visitors visiting the area, could flying a drone have negative impact on the visitor 's experience.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Danyel Waller permission on its behalf to fly drone at Gullfoss, Dyrhóley and Skógafoss as described above on February 3rd – 6th on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The applicant should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- The applicant should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors. During early morning and late afternoon, there are less people visiting the sites.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon at in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The applicant is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure to leave no litter.

If the developer causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

Permission fee:

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Supervision:

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir

Hildur Hafbergsdóttir
advisor

Daníel Freyr Jónsson

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advisor