

Grand Angle Productions
22 rue Marcelin Berthelot
33700
Iceland

Reykjavík, mánudagur, 18. júlí 2022
UST202202-201/F.P.
09.06.01

Subject: Application for a permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Grand Angle Productions, dated February 16th, 2022, for using a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Description of the project:

The applicant has requested a permit to fly a drone in Fjallabak nature reserve during the period of 28th August – 10th September 2022. The footage will be used in a television programme. The crew consists of 12 people, out of which 4 people will be filming. Maximum flight altitude is 100 meters and flight time will be maximum 30 minutes per day. Equipment is one single drone. Aerial photographs that show the take-off and landing points and the flight radius was supplied by applicant. The group will be traveling on foot. No disturbance is expected on soil, flora or fauna.

Filming locations:

- Rauðufossar
- Landmannahellir
- Stútur
- Fjallabaksleið nyðri
- Stóra Hamragil
- Torfajökull

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the protected area if the conditions of the permit are followed. The project might however disrupt and have negative impact on the experience of other guests of the area.

Conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Grand Angle Productions permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak as described above during the period of 28th August – 10th September 2022 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.
- Licensee should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The licensee must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The licensee should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The licensee is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people.
- Please do not fly over gathering spots or viewpoints at popular tourist destinations in the area, such as in Rauðifoss and Landmannalaugar.
- Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- Please do not fly over campsites, natural pools or crowds in places like Landmannalaugar.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- Note that according to regulation no. 990/2017 remotely piloted aircraft flights shall always be conducted within visual line of sight of a remote pilot or an RPA observer of a remotely piloted aircraft.
- 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.

If the licensee 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

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
Advisor

Freyja Pétursdóttir
advisor