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Subject: Filming with a drone in protected areas in Iceland

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ms. Maiya Stevenson, dated 5th June 2018, for filming with a drone within protected areas in Iceland during the period 7th-13th June 2018.

Gullfoss, Fjallabak nature reserve (incl. Landmannalaugar and Ljótípollur), Skógafoss, Dynjandi and Snæfellsjökull National Park (incl. Lónrangan) and Búðahraun are protected by Act no. 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. regulations no. 141/1979 Gullfoss, 354/1979 Fjallabak nature reserve, 477/1987 Skógafoss, 47/1971 Dynjandi, 568/2001 Snæfellsjökull National Park and 357/1979 Búðahraun.

Geysir is listed on the Nature Conservation Register and is under the Environment Agency supervision.

Description of the project:

The purpose of the project is to film with a drone the natural phenomena within the protected areas. The filming duration will not be longer than an hour on each site. Five employees will work on the project. There will be no use of motorized machinery, no need to go off paths or roads. There will be no props nor chemicals used for the project. The filming will take as described here below:

7th June:

Gullfoss: 180° across and 360° around the main waterfall.

Geysir: Take off in the grass area further way from tourists and Geysir. Get 180° view of the geyser from a far.

8th June:

Skógafoss: 180° view of the waterfall. Take off from the grassy area in front of the waterfall as far away from tourists as possible.

9th June:

Landmannalaugar: 360° views around the mountain range and a top-down view of the colour of this range.

Ljótípollur: 180° view across the crater lake and a 360° view around the crater.

Fjallabak: 360° views around the mountain range and a top-down view of the colour of this range.

10th June:

Snæfellsjökull National Park (inc. Lónrangan): 180° views of the coast line and Lónrangan Sea Stacks.



Búðir church: 360° view around the church.

11th June:

Dynjandi: Take off in the space in front of the water as far away from tourists as possible. 180° across and 360° around the main waterfall.

Impact assessment:

Based on the information from the applicant the Environment Agency of Iceland does not consider the filming likely to have negative impact on the conservation values of the areas. Flying a drone can cause temporary disturbance to bird life in bird cliffs and nesting areas. Due to number of visitors on many of the sites applied for, flying a drone can have negative impact on the visitor's experience.

Conclusions and conditions:

Since the road to Fjallabak nature reserve is closed for all vehicles, the Environment Agency does not grant a permit for filming within the nature reserve.

A permit for filming with a drone in Gullfoss, Geysir, Skógafoss, Lóndrangar, Búðir and Dynjandi, as described above, is hereby granted on following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you during your filming in within the protected areas.
- The Environment Agency requests that the ranger will be contacted before starting the project and inform him on your intentions.
- The Environment Agency should be informed if there will be any changes to the project description.
- If the dates of the project change the Environment Agency shall be notified, with at least 5 days notice, if possible, when the project starts. Otherwise as soon as possible or within a day.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Crew members shall always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited, including birds.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- In Gullfoss and Geysir the filming must take place before 9:00 am or after 6:00 pm when the number of visitors is at its lowest.
- Due to nesting season the drone must be flown at least 200m away from Lóndrangar and bird cliffs.
- Due to nesting season the drone cannot be flown into the canyon at Skógafoss.
- In Dynjandi waterfall, Skógafoss and Lóndrangar filming shall take place during early morning and/or late afternoon, when there are less people visiting the sites.
- The drone shall be flown as far away from bird cliffs and nesting areas as possible and the duration of the flight shall be kept to the minimum. The drone shall be landed if there are any signs of disturbance to the birds.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter and traces of the project is removed from the sites.
- The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff before the work begins.
- If the material filmed is to be broadcasted on television or on the internet it shall be stated in the video that a permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland has been obtained for filming with a drone within the protected areas.

- The crew members must wear authentic clothing for the visitors to identify the members in case of the drone causes disturbance to the visitors.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas 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.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes responsibility so that people, fauna and nature is unharmed because of the aircraft's use and that no permanent mark will be left on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- A special permission from the Transport Authority is needed if the unmanned aircraft/drone weighs more than 5 kg. Permission is also required from ICETRA to fly the drone at a height of more than 120 metres. Furthermore, a permission is required from an aerodrome operator to fly the aircraft/drone within 2 km from the boundary of aerodromes with scheduled air services, except where the drones are flown below the height of the highest structures in the immediate vicinity of the flight trajectory of the drone.
- Liability for the use of unmanned aircraft/drone goes by Act no. 60/1998.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

Permission might be needed from landowners and/or municipalities for filming with a drone in areas outside the protected areas.

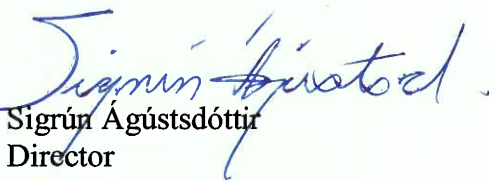
Permission fee:

The Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in for cinematography in protected areas on the basis of Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee is 118.600 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



Sigrún Ágústsdóttir
Director



Hákon Ásgeirsson
Advisor

