

Alexander Read
Stårputtveien 4
0891 Oslo
Norway

Höfn, mánudagur, 19. maí 2025
202504-0139/C.E.J.B.
10.02.01

Subject: Application for a filming permit – Alexander Read - Jökulheimar, Grímsfjall, Skálafellsjökull, 21.05.2025 – 04.06.2025

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Alexander Read, dated 22.4.2025, for a permit to film within Vatnajökull National Park.

Vatnajökull National Park is protected according to act no. 60/2007.

According to art. 14, it is prohibited to cause damage or disturbance to the wildlife, geological formations, landscape, and cultural heritage sites within Vatnajökull National Park. All activities within the park must align with the conservation objectives of the park according to the provisions of these laws, regulations set in accordance with them, and the park's management and conservation plan. Activities aimed at restoring land quality, protecting wildlife, geological formations, and landscapes, such as due to human, animal, or plant encroachment, natural disasters, water and sea erosion, soil degradation, or other disturbances caused by humans or nature, are permitted.

According to art 15(a) of act no. 60/2007, permission must be obtained from the park ranger for organized events and projects that require facilities, manpower, or the use of equipment in the national park, such as film production, art events, gatherings, and research. The park ranger is authorized to set any conditions for the granting of permits that are deemed necessary, as per paragraph 2. The park ranger is also allowed to temporarily close specific areas of the national park if necessary due to events or projects for which permission has been granted.

Description of the project:

Title of project:

“Vatnajökull – a preliminary expedition project for a potential documentary on human journeys through wild landscapes”

Short description of the project: A self-supported ski and pulk expedition across Vatnajökull from Jökulheimar to Skálafellsjökull, May 21–June 4, 2025. The team consists of 3 experienced polar expedition members. Filming is limited and conducted solely by the applicant, a professional documentary filmmaker, using handheld cameras and a compact drone. The

project serves as development for a potential future documentary and follows all park guidelines.

Planned locations: The expedition will start at Jökulheimar, west of the Vatnajökull ice cap, and follow a classic ski and pulk route across the glacier plateau via Grímsfjall and the Hermannaskarð pass, ending in Skaftafell. The route will be carried out entirely on skis, with pulks used to transport all gear and provisions. Participants will be roped up when necessary, depending on crevasse risk zones. The team will travel unsupported and sleep in tents throughout the traverse. We expect to complete the crossing in 12–14 days, depending on weather conditions, snowpack and daily progress. Navigation will be done via GPS and traditional map/compass, with safety protocols adapted to glacier travel. This route has been selected for its balance of remoteness, scenic value, and safety. The expedition will avoid heavily crevassed zones and sensitive wildlife areas. No fixed installations or external support will be used.

Total number of project's staff: 3

Further breakdown, e.g. number of actors and extras, technical personnel, service personnel, etc.:

Expedition members: 3 (all actively participating in the glacier crossing)

Film crew: None

Technical personnel: None

Service or support personnel: None

Actors / extras: None

All filming is conducted solely by the applicant, who is a professional documentary filmmaker, using small handheld cameras (e.g. GoPro) and a compact drone. No additional personnel, sound equipment, lighting, or external crew is involved. Filming will take place exclusively within the framework of Icelandic laws and the regulations of Vatnajökull National Park. All activities will be carried out with respect for nature, other visitors, and the values of the protected area.

Other details e.g. number and size of cars, set, scenes, helicopter filming, generators, animals etc.: This is a small-scale, self-supported ski and pulk expedition with no support vehicles, no fixed sets, and no constructed scenes. The entire crossing is carried out on skis by a team of three, pulling sleds with personal and safety equipment.

No vehicles, helicopters, generators, animals, set design or construction will be used.

Power use: none beyond camera batteries charged beforehand

Drone: One small drone operated by the applicant, for limited use only.

No infrastructure, transportation, or logistical footprint beyond personal movement will

be left in the area. Filming is minimal and observational, integrated naturally into the expedition. There is no disturbance to nature, wildlife, or other visitors.

Timeline, dates, and duration of the project: The expedition and filming will take place between May 21 and June 4, 2025. We expect to spend 12–14 days on the glacier, including weather buffers. The filming occurs exclusively during this period, integrated into the ski and pulk traverse across Vatnajökull, with no pre- or post-production on location. The crossing starts at Jökulheimar, proceeds via Grímsfjall and Hermannaskarð, and ends at Skaftafell. All travel is non-motorized, self-supported, and follows a pre-planned route across the ice cap.

In addition to the application, the applicant has submitted the following information regarding route: Our planned expedition is a **west-to-east ski crossing of the Vatnajökull ice cap**, from the **Jökulheimar area** on the western edge to the **Skálafellsjökull glacier** in the east.

The applicant will register the route with SafeTravel.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project *Vatnajökull – a preliminary expedition project for a potential documentary on human journeys through wild landscapes* to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of Vatnajökull National Park.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Alexander Read permission on its behalf to film within Vatnajökull National Park as described above 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. The easiest way to do this is to 'reply-all' to the e-mail that the permit was sent with.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site while filming.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger at Kirkjubæjarklaustur, tel. +354 470 0409, the ranger at Jökulsárlón, tel. +354 842 4355, or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.

- 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.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- If travel toilets are used within the sites, to disposal of the contents should be done in authorized discharge site outside the protected area.

About drones

- 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.
- 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.

Site-specific conditions

- Esjufjöll, Vatnajökull: This area is under stricter protections than other areas on Vatnajökull. Accommodation is generally prohibited on Esjufjöll, but permitted on the surrounding glacier. Travel is permitted in the area, but only in such a way that no life or land is damaged. Absolutely all litter must be removed from the area and no traces of activity left. The Esjufjöll area is bounded by the following coordinate points:

Point	East	North
1	629095	404231
2	614487	403653
3	613728	424078
4	6628238	424652

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

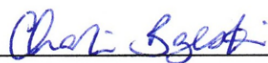
Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

Permission fee:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 21 of Act no. 60/2007 on Vatnajökull National Park. The fee is for the cost of processing the application. The fees are charged according to regulation no. 1580/2023 on rates and tariffs in Vatnajökull National Park. The permit fee is 50.000 ISK according to the park's tariff no. 1580/2023.

Best regards,



Charli E. J. Brzeski
Assistant Park Manager
Vatnajökull National Park



Hanna Valdís Jóhannsdóttir
director/advisor/park manager