

Tobias Goschenhofer

Reykjavík, 16. July 2024  
UST202407-082/I.M.B.  
09.04.00

### **Application for a permit to film with a drone within the protected areas of Dynjandi, Geysir, Gullfoss, Háifoss, Friðland að Fjallabaki and Skógafoss**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Tobias Goschenhofer, dated 2. July 2024, for permit to film with a drone within protected areas during the period of the 26<sup>th</sup> of July to the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

*Dynjandi* is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 348/1971. According to the rules of conduct operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

*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. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15<sup>th</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup> is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

*Geysir* is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 660/2020. All disturbance of geological monuments is prohibited, incl. any inscriptions and disturbance of the activity and water level of the hot spring area, disturbance of hot springs, hot springs, soils and rocks, without permission. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

*Gullfoss* is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation 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.

*Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni* are protected as natural monuments, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency for organized events and projects that pose a risk of disturbance to geological formations, wildlife or guests in the area. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

*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. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned

aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

***Description of the project:***

The project applied for is to film with a drone within protected areas. The dates are as follows:

26<sup>th</sup> of July: Geysir and Gullfoss

27<sup>th</sup> of July: Háifoss and Hnausapollur, Ljótípollur, Strútur, Höfðavatn, Jökulgilskvísl within Friðland að Fjallabaki nature reserve.

2<sup>nd</sup> of August: Skógafoss

6<sup>th</sup> of August: Dynjandi

Maps that show the start and landing points and the flightpaths were attached to the application. The flights will not exceed the altitude of 120m. Two people will be on location. They will choose a location during takeoff and land in a 25-50 meter radius away from people and inform any guests near about the takeoff/landing.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the protection value of the areas. It may have temporary negative impact on visitor's experience but can be reduced with following conditions.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Tobias Goschenhofer permission on its behalf to film with a drone within Geysir, Gullfoss, Friðland að Fjallabaki, Skógafoss and Dynjandi as described 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 starting the project.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.

- 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.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown close 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- **It is forbidden to fly drones in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection.**
- **For safety reasons, unmanned aircraft are not allowed to fly below 50 meters above Strokkur.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.**
- **If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.**
- **Note that within Dynjandi, Fjallabak and Skógafoss there are some areas where drone flight is prohibited. Please familiarize yourself with this information (see email attachment).**

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.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft. Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors. 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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.2000 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

***Supervision:***

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

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson

*advisor*

Freyja Pétursdóttir

*advisor*