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Reykjavík, 29. júlí 2021  
UST202107-220/S.S.  
09.06.01

**Subject: Permit for cinematography within Fjallabak nature reserve - Ljótípollur**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Beta Entertainment Spain S.L., dated 22. July 2021, for cinematography within Fjallabak nature reserve, specifically at Ljótapollur (e. ugly volcano).

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. According to the management plan rule no. 10, cf. regulation 422/2021, drones may not be flown within the nature reserve during the period 15 June - 15 September without the permission of the Environment Agency.

The applicant also mentioned Fagradalsfjall, Jökulsárlón and Sólheimajökull in the application. These locations are not under the supervision of the Environment Agency. Regarding these locations the applicant needs to contact the landowner or municipality of the area.

***Description of the project:***

The project is the filming of a documentary series named Desafío Ártico (Arctic Challenge). It is a co-production in partnership with Canal Sur. In this media format, the applicant plans to travel to the hearth of the arctic with eight young people who have survived cancer. In addition to being a show of adventure, survival experiences and self awareness, the goal is also to showcase climate change awareness and the environmental imprint humans leave on the planet. All along the episodes, the teenagers will perform activities concerning climate change and its consequences. This project has been designed to be zero footprint, the applicant will try to make the journey through the arctic landscape completely innocuous. In the end the final goal of this trip is to find visual proof of climate change. As part of the expedition, the viewers will be shown the magnificent landscapes Iceland has and a little bit of the Icelandic life.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the protected areas. The project might however disrupt and have negative impact on the experience of other guests at this location. The licensee must adhere to the conditions listed below.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Beta Entertainment Spain S.L. permission on its behalf to film a documentary within Fjallabak nature reserve, specifically at Ljótipollur, as described above on 2. August 2021, 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.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- A sign that indicates what the project is about and that a permit to film has been obtained from the Environment Agency, must be placed at the site.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site and limit the size of the filming site.
- 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 Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- 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.
- 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 next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- 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.

- Crew members should stay on marked paths the whole time.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, 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.

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to art. 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Administrative Procedures, based on Art. 91 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation within three months from the date of this letter.

***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.

Sincerely

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lawyer

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advisor