



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Shenandoah National Park
3655 U.S. Highway 211 East
Luray, VA 22835

IN REPLY REFER TO:
I.A.I.

October 19, 2015

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

Through: *J* Regional Director, Northeast Region *J*

From: Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park *D North*
Regional Permits Manager, Northeast Region

Subject: Request for approval to issue a Special Use Permit authorizing use of an unmanned aircraft in accordance with Interim Policy Memorandum 14-05

Shenandoah National Park is requesting approval to issue a filming permit to Matters, Inc. to allow the use of an unmanned aircraft for a commercial filming shoot. National Geographic and Subaru, both National Park Service Centennial sponsors have contracted with Matters, Inc. to shoot a promotion for the Find Your Park campaign inside Shenandoah National Park. The request for approval follows the guidelines set out in Policy Memorandum 14-05 dated June 19, 2014.

Permitted activities will include the use of a Gryphon Dynamics X8 drone for filming along Skyline Drive at 13 different locations. The permit will allow up to 15 cast and crew and five vehicles. Maps detailing the drone's flight paths (attached) have been reviewed by the park to ensure that a closed set can be achieved, that the areas are not in designated wilderness and that the use of each area will not violate any FAA regulations, cause injury or damage to any park resources, unreasonably interfere with normal park operations or present any clear and present danger to public health and safety.

The park believes that the use of the drone will produce a product that will help support the Find Your Park campaign as well as showcase many dramatic viewsheds that are an integral part of the visitor experience in Shenandoah. For these reasons, the park believes that the filming activity is appropriate and compatible with the values and resources of the park.

The permitting of commercial filming with a drone could be potentially controversial by seeming to set a precedent in the park. We feel that the centennial partnership relationship and the focus on the Find Your Park campaign warrant special consideration. The park does not feel that the issuance of this particular permit will set a precedent for drone use in the park.

Concessions Specialist, Chad Tinney, is the person of contact for the park and can be reached at 540-999-3500 x3374 or 540-742-2766.

Attachments

Concur:



Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection
National Park Service