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UST201902-068/P.V.B.

Subject: droneflight in Hornstrandir

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Maramedia, dated May 21st, for permit to fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve in the period June 15th – 29th. This is part of two other applications dated February 6th for filming permit at Hornstrandir nature reserve and March 8th for permit to fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve. Permit for those parts were issued on March 1st and March 15th.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by Regulation no. 332/1985. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan for Hornstrandir, filming and photography that can affect wildlife and visitors experience as well as flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the nature reserve is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

This is part of a filming project that will take place in Hornvík. The aim of the project is to film natural behaviour of arctic foxes. The purpose of the drone flight is to get a sense of landscape rather than wildlife. The flight will take place in the period June 15th – 29th. Flight altitude will be 15-90 meters. Flight paths are shown on map in application. Flightpath one is over sea along the shoreline from Hornsá towards Hornklettur. Flightpath two is over sea in a line from Hafnarnes towards Miðfell. The third flightpath is along Hornbjarg above sea. For this flight, after taking off from land, the drone will fly straight up to a height of 200 m above the top of the cliffs, and then out over the seabird cliffs, to stay high above them, and not cause disturbance to birds on the cliffs. The drone will be at least 200 m away from the seabird cliffs. Each flight path will be flown once for a maximum of ten minutes, when there are good weather and wind conditions. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdottir will be with the film crew to advise during the flights. This can be conducted during one session and at a time when it is likely to cause least disturbance.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative affect on visitors experience unless the flight takes place when few visitors are in the area. Nesting season has started when the drone flight will take place at Hornbjarg an cygnets have hatched.

The impact of the drone flight on wildlife should be minimal if instructions from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and conditions for the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants a permission on its behalf for drone flight in the period of June 15th – 29th within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above on following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff before the work begins.
- If the dates of the project or project description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area 48 hours before drone flight starts or when he will arrive in the area.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks when possible and wear marked clothing or some kind of identification at all times.
- The crew shall be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that drone flight causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- At Hornbjarg the drone should stay 200 meters above the cliff edge and 200 meters away from the cliff.
- If the drone flight causes disturbance to birds or other animals in the area the applicant shall cease the flight at once.
- 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 be left on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

If the developer causes damage to the 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 the nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

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/>).

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

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. If processing the application takes more than 5 hours the Agency will charge extra fee. The extra fee is 13.200 ISK per hour according to art. 1. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015. This application is part of a bigger project and a bill for 52.600 ISK has been issued. Working hours for processing this application are now 8 hours. In the fee for cinematography and/or photography 5 hours are estimated to process the application. Extra hours for the application is 3 hours. The Environment Agency of Iceland will therefor issue a bill for 39.600 ISK for the extra work.

Sincerely

Hildur Vésteinsdóttir

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