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UST202204-106/P.V.B.
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Subject: permit to fly a drone at protected areas

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Anna Port, dated April 9th 2022, for for a permit to fly a drone within Dyrhólaey Goðafoss, Háifoss, Hverfjall, Skógafoss and Skútustaðargígjar at lake Mývatn.

Dyrhólaey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no.101/1978. Construction work and disturbance to geological formations and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. A permit from the Environment Agency is needed for camping inside the nature reserve. This includes tents, motorhomes and campers. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Access to Dyrhólaey is limited from May 1st to June 25th 2022 due to nesting season. The area is open from 9:00 am -7 pm.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife and geological formation 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 monument, 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.

Hverfjall is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 1261/2011. Disturbance to vegetation and wildlife is prohibited. The guest should follow marked paths at any given time.

Skútustaðargígjar is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 399/1973. Disturbance to geological formations that can alter the form of the pseudocraters is prohibited.

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. Camping overnight is only allowed in a designated campsite. This includes tents, motorhomes

and campers. 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:

At Dyrhólaey the plan is to stand on the cliff and take a picture of the crew there and maybe to fly a bit to the sand beach, perhaps just 50m. The drone would take off from the path, max altitude 120 m and minimum the altitude where the pilot is located in the cliff. Estimated flight time would be less than 15 minutes. At Godafoss the plan is to fly the drone from the cliff from where you look to the waterfall towards the waterfall about 50 meters from the cliff. Maximum altitude would be 120 meters and minimum would be the altitude from where the cliff is located. The drone would take off from the path. At Háifoss waterfall the plan is to fly the drone to capture a nice short clip and also a photo of the waterfall, the plan is to capture it from inside the canyon. Also take a picture with the drone from above where the applicant would stand at the viewpoint. Estimated flight time 15-30 minutes. Take off from the viewpoint area. At Hverfjall the plan is to fly the drone just some meters around the volcano to capture the scenic formation of the volcano. Flight altitude would be 0 meters when it takes off from the path and maximum 120 meters. Estimated flight time would be 15 minutes. At Skógafoss the drone would fly from the parking lot to the waterfall. Flight altitude would be 0-120 meters. Estimated flight time would be 15-30 minutes. At the pseudocraters of Myvatn, the plan is to fly the drone only over the craters and take a picture from above. Takeoff would be from the parking lot. Maximum flight altitude would be 120 meters. Estimated flight time would be max 15 minutes. The flight would take place in the period of June 16th – 26th 2022. Number of employee is two.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the areas Godafoss, Háifoss and Skútustaðargíga. It might temporarily disturb other guests. To minimise disturbance, it's important to keep flight time to a minimum, keep the drone away from guests and wildlife and avoid flying during the area's busiest time of day. At Skógafoss it is important to keep a high altitude to avoid disturbing the fulmars nesting in the canyon in front of the waterfall. Access to Dyrhólaey is restricted from May 1st til June 25th. Droneflight near the bird cliffs is considered to have negative impact on birds in the area since the drone would fly over the cliffs. Negative affects are considered less after 26th of June when access to the area is no longer restricted

Conclusions and conditions:

After reviewed the application and regulations for Hverfjall and Skúturstaðargígar no permission is needed to fly a drone over Hverfjall and the pseudocraters if it does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Anna Port request to fly a drone within Dyrhólaey nature reserve on the period of June 16th – June 25th 2022.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Anna Port permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Godafoss, Háifoss and Skógafoss as described above on June 16th – 26th 2022 and in Dyrhólaey on June 26th 2022 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 each 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.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that the droneflight 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.
- 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.
- 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 in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss and near the cliff edge. Map with the no fly zone is attached to this letter.**
- **It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.**

If the licensee 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.

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.

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

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.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor