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Permit to fly a drone in Fjallabak nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Echotours, dated 11th of July, for filming with a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve from 1st of August-30th of September.

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. From 15th of June to 15th of September it is prohibited to operate drones within the nature reserve without a permit from the Environment Agency.

Description of the project:

The project will be carried out from 1st of August-30th of September. And locations include Landmannalaugar, Hrafninnusker, Tungaá, Stórikýlingur, Kirkjufell, Hnausapollur, Ljótípollur and Grænihryggur. One person will be operating the project and will always be on marked trails and drive on marked tracks. Max altitude will be 120m and always away from people.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the protected site.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Echotours permission on its behalf to film with a drone within Friðland nature reserve above from 25th of July – 29th of July on the following conditions:

- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area.
- Stay on paths when possible.
- If guests in the area ask about the project, inform them that you have a permission from the Environment Agency.

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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 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.

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

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

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
Advisor

Þórdís Björt Sigþórsdóttir
Team leader