

Donal James Boyd
8 Öldugata
Reykjavík
Iceland

Reykjavík, 1 júlí, 2022
UST202206-230/P.V.B.
09.06.01

Subject: permit to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Donal James Boyd, dated June 23rd 2022, for a permit to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by act no 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. 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 visitor experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency.

Description of the project:

Purpose of the filming is to film the arctic fox. Camp will be set up on the campsite in Hornvík. Applicant will use a generator provided by Borea Adventures. The drone will be used in Hornvík, Horni and Hornbjargi. Map that shows flight routes and where the drone would take off and land was included in the application along with a detailed description of each flight. Drone will be used for filming landscape and the applicant. Three dens will be visited for filming. During each session 10-15 minutes will be spent at each den site not closer than 40 meters. Filming will take place early morning and evening. Foxes will also be filmed and photographed when the applicant will run into them. No drones will be used near dens. Filming will take place in the period July 4th – 9th 2022 and only one employee.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency considers the droneflight at flight routes 6, 7 and 8 likely to have negative impact on birdlife in the cliffs. The drone flight would take place during breeding season.

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the filming not likely to have negative impact in other flight routes and near the dens if conditions of the permit are fulfilled and rules of conduct for the site area followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Donal James Boyd request for a permit to fly a on flight routes 6, 7 and 8.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Donal James Boyd permission on its behalf to fly a drone at routes 1 - 5 and film foxes at dens within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above on July 4th – 9th 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 48 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.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- 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 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.
- or the research institute.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Generator can only be running when other visitors are not at the campsite or near it which is usually 11:00-15:00
- It is not allowed to go closer to the dens than 40 meters and maximum time spent there is 20 minutes.
- It is not allowed to film foxes at dens from 20:00 til 8:00
- 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 when other visitors are in the area.
- 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.

If the developer 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

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir
team leader

Dórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor