

Viking Film Andreas Kieling
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UST201804-191/P.V.B.

Subject: Application for filming with a drone within protected areas in Iceland

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Viking Film Andreas Kieling, dated on the 17th of April 2018, for filming at Borgarfjörður Eystri, Ingólfshöfði, Lakagígar and Mývatn for the period 7th – 23rd July 2018.

Ingólfshöfði is protected by act no. 60/2013 on nature conservation. A permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed for filming in the area if it involves construction work or disturbance to geological formation, vegetation or wild animal life.

Lake Mývatn and the river Laxá region is protected according to laws no. 97/2004. The laws pertain to a 200-metre-wide stretch of banks along lakes, rivers and springs and the following wetland regions: Sortulækur, Geirastaðhraun, Sandvatn (ytra), Belgjarskógur, Slýja, Neslandatangi, Framengi, Kráká from Strengjabrekka to Laxá, Grænavatn, Helluvaðsá and Arnarvatn. The law also protects the water catchment area of Mývatn and Laxá. The Icelandic Environment Agency is responsible for the surveillance of the area and ensures that its ecology is not disturbed.

Lakagígar are within Vatnajökull National Park. Permission from the National Park is needed for filming in that area.

Project description:

The purpose is to film material for a documentary. The topic will be puffins, arctic tern and on current research on volcanic activity. Filming in Mývatn Region will take place 14th-17th July and in Ingólfshöfði in 23th-23rd July. There will be 3 employees on location accompanied with an expert on the subject filming in that area and in remote places a tour operator. When going off road on foot the filming crew will be accompanied by ornithologist or tour operator. In Mývatn area the plan is to also use a drone.

Impact assessment:

Based on the information from the applicant the Environment Agency of Iceland does not consider the measurements or the cinematograph likely to have negative impact on the areas.

Due to number of visitors on the Mývatn region, flying a drone can have negative impact on the visitor's experience. Therefore the best time to film is early in the morning or in the afternoon when there are fewer visitors on site.

In Borgarfjörður Eystri the puffin colony is not within protected area.

Conclusions and conditions

The Environment Agency of Iceland has concluded, based on the information given by the applicant, that the project is not subject to a permit from the Environment Agency for Ingólfshöfði area since it is not considered that the filming will have negative impact on the site.

Rangers have to be notified before flying a drone at lake Mývatn.

Permission is hereby granted for filming with a drone in Mývatn protected area on following conditions:

- Keep this permit with you during your filming in within the protected areas.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- All disturbance to the environment should be minimal.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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. During early morning and late afternoon, there are less people visiting the sites.
- If the material filmed during the project is to be published on the internet, it must be specified that a permission for filming with a drone, within the protected areas, was acquired from the Environment Agency of Iceland and certain rules apply to those areas.
- 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.
- Liability for the use of unmanned aircraft/drone goes by Act no. 60/1998.

Please keep the following in mind:

A special permission from the Transport Authority is needed if the unmanned aircraft/drone weighs more than 5 kg. Permission is also required from ICETRA to fly the drone at a height of more than 130 metres (430 feet). Furthermore, a permission is required from an aerodrome operator to fly the aircraft/drone within

2 km from the boundary of aerodromes with scheduled air services, except where the drones are flown below the height of the highest structures in the immediate vicinity of the flight trajectory of the drone.

Permission from the municipalities or/and the landowners is required for filming with a drone in other areas.

Permission fee:

The Environment Agency of Iceland notes that the agency charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas on the basis of Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee is according to the agency's tariff no. 535/2015, 52.600 iskr.

Sincerely



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