

John Downer Productions
Leighside, Bridge Road
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23. maí 2019
UST201904-282/P.V.B.

Subject: filming in Hornstrandir

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from John Downer Productions, dated April 25th, for permit to film foxes within Hornstrandir nature reserve.

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:

The aim of the project is to film young foxes playing by using animatronic arctic fox or a spycreature. The spycreature will be placed in situ when there are no animals around and film crew will retreat to a safe distance. The spycreature will then be powered up when there is activity. The spycreature will be placed at least 30 meters from the den site. The hope is that the young foxes might be curious enough to investigate it, getting closeup shots from a camera in the eye of the spycreature. This material will then be combined with material shot on 100-400 mm long lens from a good distance. The spycreature will only be used for 3 hours per day. The rest of the time the crew will be filming on a long lence in good distance from the foxes observing their behaviour. The focus will be on one den since the hope is to feature the same individuals for the documentary. The filming will be carried out under the supervision and with the approval of the guides. Filming will take place in Hornvík and the film crew will stay on the campsite there. Honda EU20i generator will be used to charge batteries at the campsite. The generator will be used for 2-3 hours per day when hikers are not in the campsite. 20 liters of fuel will be taken to the area for the generator and a spil kit will be on site. The film crew consists of 2 persons. Filming will take place in the period of June 19th-26th.

Review:

The Environment Agency of Iceland requested reviews from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. In the institue review says by adding the spy camera within a breeding territory, close enough to a den for the cubs to approach it, would increase the stress level of the parents. This is unacceptable in addition to the high stress level already in the area. The institute has already accepted to work with two other film crews in the area this summer wich is the limit for the

tolerance of the wildlife and and trvellers experience. The Institute has not the capability to aid more than two film crews this year in the area and recomends that additional permits will not be issued for this summer. The institute recommends that the filming will take place in another area where there is less stress on the arctic fox. Young fox cubs look the same wherever they are and this species is widely distributed in the country.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on wildlife and other visitors in the area due to increased stress to the animals in the area.

Conclusions

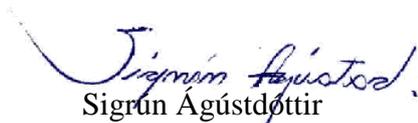
The arctic fox population in Hornstrandir nature reserve is under great stress due to high density and popularity from film crews and tourists. In order to reduce the stress level in the area guidelines about visitor behaviour near dens and number of film crews have been issued both from the Environment Agency of Iceland and the Icelandic Institute of Natural History. The Environment Agency of Iceland agrees with the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and hereby declines John Downer Productions application for filming permit within Hornstrandir nature reserve. Arctic foxes can be found all around Iceland and the filming can easily take place in a area where the arctic fox does not experince as much stress as in Hornstrandir nature reserve

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to Article 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Aministrative Procedures, based on Article 91 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation within three months from the date of this letter.

Applicationion 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 processing applications cinematography and/or photography 52.600 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

Sincerely



Sigrún Agúsdóttir
Director



Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir
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Advisor