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Finland

Reykjavík, 7. apríl 2022  
UST202204-043/P.V.B.  
09.04.00

**Subject: permit to fly a drone at Hornstrandir**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Ursus One, dated April 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, for a permit to 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:***

Drones will be used to film the scenery, the skiers and the location of the snow pits that are dug for a snow profile research. Drone is not used to photograph wildlife. The shooting locations are in the immediate vicinity of Jökulfirðir. Possible flightpaths were shown on a map that was attached to the applicaiton, however only 5-6 of these would be utilized depending on the conditions and weather. All flights above land will be at a minimum of 40 meters altitude. All flights above sea will be at a minimum of 20 meters altitude. If any bird nesting locations or nesting cliffs are noticed, a minimum of 200 meters distance will be kept. The drone flight would take place in the period of April 11<sup>th</sup> til May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022. Number of employee is 2-5 persons depending on dates. The film crew will have accommodation on a sailboat.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the area if conditions of the permit area followed. Few guests are in the area this time of year but if there are any it is important to minimize flight time of the drone near them.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

Flight paths 8-10 are not within Hornstrandir nature reserve an no permitt from the Environment Agency is needed to fly there. The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Ursus One permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve on flightpaths 1-7 and 11 as described above on April 11<sup>th</sup> til May 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- If eagles or falcons are seen in the site it is not allowed to use the drone.
- It is not allowed to chase animals with the drone.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Crew members should only sky on snow.
- 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. It is not allowed to film other visitors in the area if they are not part of this expedition.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

***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  
advisor

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
advisor