

Myrthe Majoor (Innlevert den 04.05.2023)

Hi!

My name is Myrthe Majoor and I'm a filmmaker from the Netherlands. Last year, I visited Dovrefjell for research purposes for my next animated short film that will revolve around the musk oxen of Dovrefjell. I made sure to stay up to date on any news related to the area and stumbled upon your request for input of ideas regarding protection of the wild reindeer population.

I've been doing some thinking and compared the situation to the way the Dutch nature organisations handle protection of fragile ecosystems. The Netherlands are inhabited by a large number of people and this can threaten our small natural areas.

The Netherlands are pretty strict in their rules when it comes down to protecting the nature reserves. Some rules are:

- people are never allowed to leave the established paths. Forest rangers patrol the areas and fine everyone who doesn't obey the rules
- people are only allowed to enter natural protected areas and walk on the determined paths from sunrise to sunset (or, for example, from 9 AM to 9 PM)
- areas that are important for certain species are closed for months during critical times (e.a. breeding season or harsher times like winter)
- only biologists (or knowledgeable people) are allowed to enter certain areas

I love that I can roam around Dovrefjell and feel lost in the big open space, but I am not a biologist and my knowledge is limited. My lack of knowledge can be dangerous to fragile species. I try my best to read into topics, but I am still not an expert.

The protection of plant and animal species is more important to me than my joy of feeling lost in nature. Therefore, I, as a visitor to the area, would totally respect the closing off of large areas.

- Reinheim can be a centre for specialists, prohibited for tourists.
- People can be allowed to roam maybe 2 kilometers inward from Hjerkin-Kongsvold, but no further. Signs will say "area closed off for wildlife protection, no further entry allowed" or "entry allowed between 9AM and 6 PM, from June to September."
- Snøhetta can be closed off for at least the next few years until the reindeer population is stable.
- People can visit a small part of the area while unsupervised. To travel further into Dovrefjell, people can join tours and guided trips that can take them into the part of the area that they are not allowed to enter without a guide or knowledgeable person. This will still allow them to travel further inwards, see animals and learn about them, but under supervision from an expert.

I hope my input might benefit the protection of the wild reindeer population.

Good luck on your endeavours!

Kind regards,

Myrthe Majoor