

Mary Simpson

Reykjavík, July 22nd 2024
UST202407-006/S.V.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit to fly a drone at Fjallabak Nature Reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Mary Simpson, dated 29th of July 2024, for photography with a drone at Fjallabak Nature Reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th - September 15th is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The applicant requests to fly a drone to photograph around non-populated areas near Landmannalaugar, i.a. Brennisteinsalda and possibly along road F225 Landmannaleið, during 3rd and 4th of September 2024.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the environment. The droneflight might have negative impact on other visitors experience in the site but if conditions of the permit are followed the impact can be reduced.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Mary Simpson permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak Nature Reserve as described above on 3rd and 4th of September 2024 on the following conditions:

Drónaleyfi ferðamanna

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 24 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.

- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- 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.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- 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 and never be flown in close proximity to people
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- 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 licensee 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/>).

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 droneflight for recreational flight in up to two areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Sincerely

Valdimar Kristjánsson
advisor

Sigrún Valgarðsdóttir
advisor