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### **Permit to fly a drone in Fjallabak nature reserve**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Javier Lafuente, dated August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, for a permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. Construction work, extraction of minerals, disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area from June 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

#### ***Description of the project:***

Purpose of the drone flight is to film landscape with no people in the frame. It is requested to fly the drone at Hnausapollur, Ljótípollur, Stútur and Landmannalaugar September 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. Map that shows the spots where the drone will be used was attached to the application. Flight altitude will be 100-110 meters. If people will be on site when arriving drone flight will be postponed until they have left.

#### ***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the filming not likely to have negative impact on the area if conditions of the permit are met. The droneflight is considered likely to have negative effect on visitors experience.

#### ***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Javier Lafuente permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve as described above on September 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 on the following conditions:

- 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 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.
- Licensee should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The licensee 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 licensee 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.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The licensee is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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.
- 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.

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/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

***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

Hákon Ásgeirsson  
team leader

Þórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
advisor