

Stefan Forster Photography
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Reykjavík, 2. July 2021
UST202106-266/I.M.B.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit to fly a drone within the protected areas of Fjallabak and Kerlingarfjöll

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Stefan Forster Photography, dated 23rd June 2021, for flying a drone within Fjallabak nature reserve and Kerlingarfjöll on 27th June to 31st October 2021.

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. According to the management plan rule no. 10, cf. regulation 422/2021, using an unmanned aircraft within the nature reserve during June 15 to September 15 is subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. Regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited. Permission must be obtained from the Environment Agency of Iceland for organized events and projects that need facilities, labour force or use of equipment within the protected area such as filming, at events and ceremonies.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is a permit to fly a drone at Ljótípollur, Hveradalshnúk, Hveradalir, Mænir, Hnausar, Hnausapollur, Landmannalaugar, Kylingavatn within the protected areas of Kerlingarfjöll and Fjallabak. Maps with marked flightpaths, location of take-off and landing and further information about the project on each site was attached to the application and is as following:

Ljótípollur: Four flights at 60-120m altitude. Duration 15-22 minutes.

Kerlingarfjöll: Three flights at 10-120m altitude. Duration 10-22 minutes.

Hnausar and Hnausapollur: Three flights at 30-120m altitude. Duration 2x10-15 minutes and 20 minutes.

Landmannalaugar: Four flights at 50-120m altitude. Duration 15-20 minutes

Kýlingavatn: Two flights at 60-120m altitude. Duration 2x25 minutes and 15 minutes.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative effect on the areas if the conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Stefan Forster Photography permission on its behalf to fly a drone at the areas mentioned above within the protected areas of Kerlingarfjöll and Fjallabak as described above during the periods of 11. - 16. July and 13. - 18. August 2021 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. 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.
- 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season. For rest of the year it is not allowed to fly in a closer proximity to bird cliffs than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.

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.

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

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson
advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir
advisor