

Jillian Anna Gregory/Noviur Rahman

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10.02.01

Efni: permit to fly a drone in protected areas in Iceland

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Jillian Anna Gregory, dated March 2nd 2025, for permit to fly a drone within Fjallabak and at Háifoss.

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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to fly a drone at Háifoss and within Fjallabak nature reserve in the period of July 4th-16th 2025. In Fjallabak region the flights would be at Brennistiensalda/Bláhnúkur, Hnausapollur and Ljótípollur.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation value on all sites. The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature. The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on other visitors experience on all sites but if the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Jillian Anna Gregory and Noviur Rahman permission on its behalf to fly a drone within Fjallabak and at Háifoss as described above on July 4th -16th 2025 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the trip.
- The permit holder 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 Nature Conservation Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The permit holder should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The permit holder must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Off-road driving in Iceland is strictly prohibited.
- The permit holder is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- The permit holder should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- 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.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation 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.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Nature Conservation Agency.

Daníel Freyr Jónsson

advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

advisor