



Dr. Lynn Soreghan

SAKSBEHANDLAR: MARIA COLLETT KNAGENHJELM

ARKIVKODE: 2014/2479 - 432.3 DATO: 01.07.2014

JOSTEDALSBREEN NATIONAL PARK- PERMISSION FOR GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Jostedalsgreen National Park Board has approved your application to conduct geological research in Jostedalsgreen National Park on certain terms. The decision is written on page three of this letter.

Right to submit complaint

Involved parts in this matter can register a complaint about the decision in this letter within three weeks from the letter has been received. The complaint shall be sent to Jostedalsgreen National Park Board, but addressed to The Ministry of Climate and Environment.

Sincerely

Ivar Kvalen (sign.)

head of bord

Maria C. Knagenhjelm (sign.)

secretary

Copy:

Luster kommune

Sogndal kommune

Fylkesmannen i Sogn og Fjordane

Miljødirektoratet

Statens naturoppsyn v/Anne Rudsengen

Arkivsaksnr: 2014/2479-0

Saksbehandlar: Maria Collett Knagenhjelm

Dato: 23.06.2014

Utval	Utvalgssak	Møtedato
Jostedalsbreen nasjonalparkstyre	14/14	26.06.2014

Jostedalsbreen National Park- Permission for geological research

Recommendation from the secretariat

The University of Oklahoma, by Dr. Lynn Soreghan, gets permission according to The Nature Diversity Act, section 48, to install dust traps along the rivers in Langedalen, Austerdalen and Snauedalen in Veitastrond, and Supphelledalen in Fjærland, within the National Park.

The permission is given on terms that

- There is no need of permanent holes in the geological surface for the poles of the dust traps
- The permission is granted from August to November 2014
- All garbage shall be carried out from the National Park, and there shall be no traces after finished the scientific research.

We would like to inform you that you also should need permission from the property owners for the installing measurement equipment in the area.

Saksprotokoll i Jostedalsbreen nasjonalparkstyre - 26.06.2014

Handsaming i møte/During the meeting

New information appeared after the secretariat had sent the papers to the Board. The applicant, Dr. Lynn Soreghan, wish that the dust traps can stay out in the field until June 2015, not November 2014, as the secretariat wrote in the papers.

Proposal from Board Member Eline Orheim:

An additional term that if there will be produced a report from the field work, as well as for field studies from the recent years (results/findings etc.), Jostedalsbreen National Park Board would like to receive a copy of this for use in the website.

Fully agreed in the Board Meeting, including the decision to leave the dust traps until June 2015, and the additional term on a copy of the findings.

Vedtak/Decision

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Case circumstances

Relevant documents:

- Application for field work and installation of dust traps, signed Dr. Lynn Soreghan, Professor of Geology, University of Oklahoma. Application dated 14. June 2014.
- The Nature Diversity Act
- The Jostedalsbreen Management Plan

The Application:

Dr. Lynn Soreghan is applying permission for a number of research-related activities in Jostedalsgreen National Park. She is applying on behalf of the research group that will come to the National Park, consisting of herself, Dr. Megan Elwood Madden (professor of geochemistry), and Dr. Young Ji Joo (Postdoctoral Research Associate). They have contact with Dr. Jacob Yde at the University College in Sogndal, to exchange experiences. The University College in Sogndal will help collect the dust traps during the autumn of 2014.

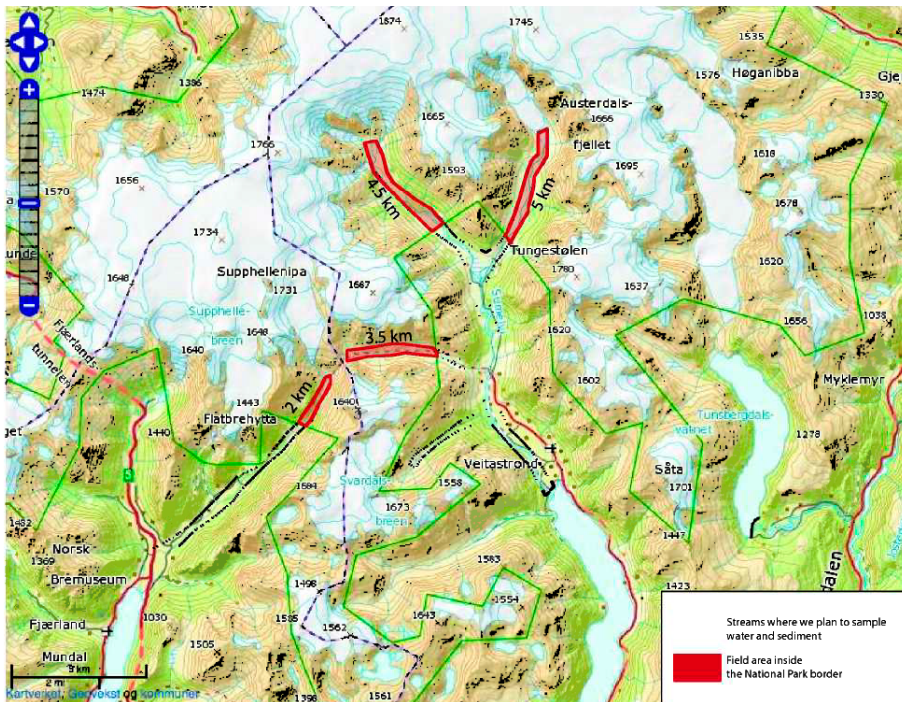
The goal of the research is studying sediment weathering in different types of climate. Jostedalsgreen National Park could meet the researchers' demand for a cold-wet area, for comparable analysis to other relevant sites with similar rock types.

The field work is described in the application like this:

"The field work will entail collecting ~500g-1kg of sediment from 1 or 2 stream(s) draining glaciers—the Storelvi River (primarily), and possibly the Supphellelvi River as well. (...) These collections will be conducted at ~500 m intervals over a total distance of ~10 km, and shorter distances on tributary systems that contribute to the main systems. The sediment will be collected using a hand scoop and placed in plastic bags. In addition to the sediment collections, we will collect water samples at ~1.5 km intervals along the same transects. The water will be collected by submerging a plastic water bottle (500 ml - 4l volume, depending on conditions of suspended sediment load) in the stream. Finally, if possible, we would like to explore the possibility of installing dust traps in proximal, medial, and distal locations along the targeted streams. If this is allowed, we would install two traps (of slightly varying design— using metal and plastic mesh) in each location. These consist of a cake pan affixed atop a fence post. We would plan to install these in inconspicuous locations. (...) The most critical collections are the sediment and water collections; the dust collections are desired, but if trap installation is not allowed, we would still like to conduct the other collections. (...)"

The research group will work in field in Jostedalsgreen between 31st of August and 6th of September. The dust traps will need to be collected later by staff/students from the University College in Sogndal.

There is no need of motorized transportation for the necessary field work.



National Park regulations:

Scientific research in Jostedal National Park is permitted. Collecting sediment and water samples at such a small scale is not in conflict with park rules. What needs a permission, is the installation of the dust traps. They will be non-permanent, but will be in the park for possibly several weeks, and therefore need a consideration. A permission will have to be granted according to section 48 in the Nature Diversity Act, which replace the national park statues, pt. VI.

Consideration

According to the Nature Diversity Act, section 48, an exception from the National Park Rules can be made if the activity is not ambivalent to the purpose of the National Park, and as long as it will not substantially influence the nature. The purpose of Jostedal National Park is, among others, to protect a large area in its original condition, without any major human interference. Also the National Park shall be a place for simple outdoor life.

In the management plan for Jostedal National Park scientific research is regarded as valuable in order to increase knowledge of nature, with a precaution that the activity does not alter the ecology. In this case I evaluate the impact on nature as small, and the advantages of the research as exceeding the disadvantage for nature, since the impact will be small and of temporary character.

There are quite a lot of people walking both Austerdalen and Langedalen for recreational purpose. Snauedalen and Supphelledalen are less visited. They are all valleys surrounded by steep mountains and glaciers, and have both biological and geological characteristics which are vulnerable to human activity. There can be found grazing sheep in the whole of Veitastrand, in Supphelledalen there can also be found cattle in the lower areas.

Langedalen has an area north-east of the river of avalanche influenced meadow characterized as “very important” (“svært viktig” rasmårkeng). Austerdalen has an area on both sides of the river of glacial river prairie characterized as “important” (“viktig” breelvslette/sandur) according to Naturbase. The knowledge base is considered to be good (Nature Diversity Act, section 8).

The activity derived from the research will not lead to an increase in the cumulative environmental effects, and the pressure on the ecosystem in this area is not considered to be too great (see Nature Diversity Act, section 10). The Nature Diversity Act, sections 9 and 11, are not considered as relevant in this case.

I have however recommended a term for the dust traps, that they should be installed in the National Park without any permanent holes on the geological surface. They will be deinstalled after use and leave no traces in the ground, which seems to be the best environmentally sound techniques and methods (see Nature Diversity Act, section 12).

There is a prerequisite that the activity derived from this application does not cause any substantial harm on the environment. This is stated in the communication between Dr. Lynn Soreghan and the secretariat, and it is also a prerequisite for a permission. All though the special dust traps could occur as items that one might not expect to find in a protected area, I assume there is a high tolerance for studies on a topic that is related to the purpose of the National Park. I therefore consider the research activity as not being ambivalent to the purpose of the National Park, and that it will not substantially influence the nature or biodiversity.