



## HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA

P.O. BOX 1209

HAINES, AK 99827

(907) 766-2231 \* FAX (907) 766-2716

### Memorandum

**Date:** Wednesday, October 26, 2016  
**To:** Haines Borough Heliski Committee  
**From:** Holly Smith, Borough Planner

**Re:** Proposed Changes to Heliski Map from August 23, 2016 Assembly Packet

As requested by the committee, attached is the Approved 2014 Heliski Map showing proposed changes from Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA) and Alaska Helisking. These proposals are from the August 23, 2016 Assembly Packet, which are the only proposed changes I have received to date. I hope this first draft of the Heliski Map proposals can be used to foster productive discussions within the committee and the community at large.

The proposals can also be viewed on Google Earth by going to the committee website and downloading the .kmz file (please contact the planner for the file).

#### SEABA PROPOSALS

- S1. According to SEABA, this area is part of the BLM Provisional Area, but was left off the Approved 2014 Map.
- S2. This area is less than a 1h of a sq mile and tucked behind the front range of the Chilkat inlet. It would provide more safety and option for pick up while
- S3. This is just one valley north of #2 and has been historically used for 13 years, without any complaint. This would simply allow the industry to provide more efficient and safe landings for it customers.
- S4. This area I believe was suppose to be included in the changes in 2013, but the mapping was done incorrectly. The original hand drawn maps were lost, but at this time since the area is in the trees, there are no pickups and this has rendered this general area unusable for the past three years. It needs to be added.

- S5. This was also a case with#%, terrain was removed from this area, but too much was taken so that landings on top of this peak that has always been apart of the map, was removed and made unusable. It created a situation that over 6 sq mile of ski terrain was removed from the map accidentally because of no top landing; Needs to be added back in.
- S6. This area is highly used by snow cat, snow machine and by heli skiers, at least above the orange boundary, we simply want to drop the line to extend terrain and have lower pickups. This would only create more low angle terrain for safe skiing.
- S7. **(Not Shown on Map)** The BLM provisional area should be removed from the map since the borough has no authority over regulating it.

### ALASKA HELISKIING PROPOSALS

- AH1. This proposal shows that the border of the approved area should follow the peak tops.
- AH2. This area contains high safe spots where the helicopter can safely perch and see skier activities on slope. Being able to watch from a safe vantage point adds increased safety for guides and guests because the helicopter can respond to incidents more quickly.
- AH3. This area has trees on slope which will allow for good visibility for pilots and guests and increase safety when the weather is not ideal.
- AH4. This area is one of the more sought after film runs in Haines and is one of the runs that has helped make Haines as famous as it is. It's a real shame that we lost this run. Residents of Mosquito Lake assumed that we would be skiing down into the slopes above their homes if this area was open. The reality is that we are not skiing down into this Mosquito lake area and staying well above and to the north. Activity here will go unnoticed. This is on the backside north face of Four Winds Peak. Our filming customers eagerly await the good news of being able to access this peak again (storm troopers).
- AH5. We would like to confirm if this line follows the peak tops; it's hard for us to be sure on your map.
- AH6. This area on Takhin Ridge is a relatively tight, high mountain valley that has helicopter activity occurring in it already. We land near the bottom of this valley and for pickups. Allowing us to ski a handful more slopes in this area will make this zone more user friendly. Completing this horseshoe shape gives variety of aspects to ski, enhances safety, and will improve the quality of life experience for guests.

**AH7.** No goats have been observed in this area, little vegetation exists, and the slopes are gentle and low angle. From mid February to mid March this area could provide additional mellow fun terrain for the intermediate skier. It is also easier to mitigate avalanche hazards that may exist early in the season. It's a safer zone to ski when there aren't many stable options. We wish to ski this early in the season before March 31.

## **FUTURE SUBMISSIONS**

There may be areas on the first draft this proposal that were not intended as part of the original August 23 Assembly Packet. To avoid small mistakes like this for the next draft, please remember that all submissions from the committee must come to me via email:

- At least one week before the committee meeting date.
- As attached .kml files or .kmz files, which can be created using Google Earth. ( If you need help creating the files, please set up an appointment with me at least one week prior to your next meeting.)
- With an explanation as to why you think the proposed change is needed.

If you or a member of the public disagrees with any proposed change, I strongly encourage you to submit your comments to me via email one week before the next Heliski Committee meeting so that staff and members may have sufficient time to respond.

Thank you kindly.



**Holly Smith**

**Borough Planner**

Haines Borough

103 Third Avenue S.

PO Box 1209

Haines, AK 99827

[www.hainesalaska.gov](http://www.hainesalaska.gov)

[hsmith@haines.ak.us](mailto:hsmith@haines.ak.us)

Phone: (907) 766-2231 ext. 23

Fax: (907) 766-2716

map attached