

## Julie Cozzi

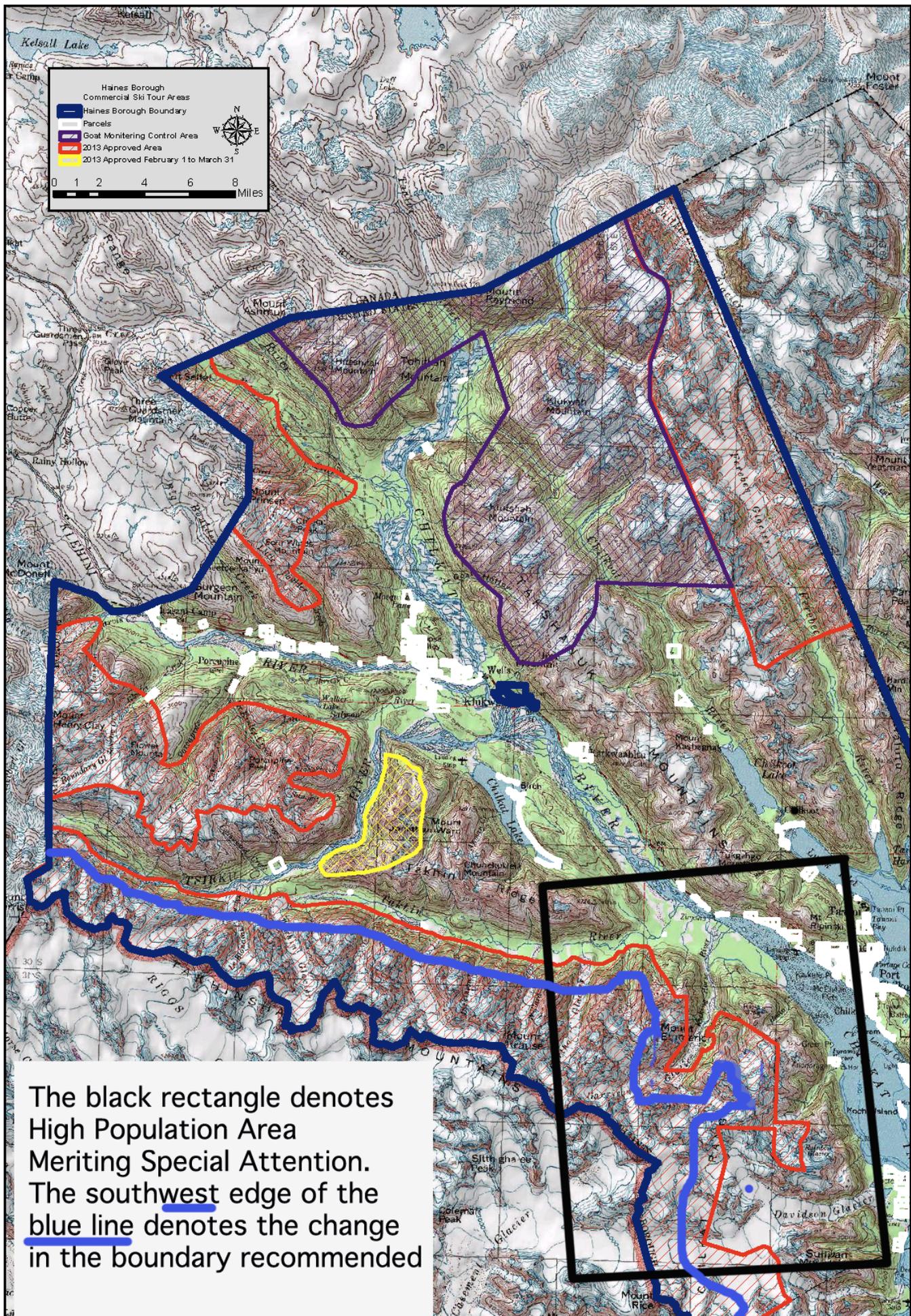
---

**From:** Thom Ely [akthome@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:36 PM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi; Mark Earnest; Stephanie Scott  
**Cc:** Norm Smith; Joanne Waterman; Steve Vick; Jerry Lapp; Dave Berry; Debra Schnabel  
**Subject:** Heli-Ski Map  
**Attachments:** Heli-ski map.pdf

Please include this map with my recently submitted comments on this issue. Unfortunately this has turned into a campaign of getting more versus less votes. While I would like to see certain areas removed from the map, GPS data made public so we really know how many violations there are and compliance from the operators. I feel that the Borough would be making an extremely poor decision to do anything with the heli-ski operating area based on the recent boundary violations brought to light, multi fatalities in the past year and the BLM's pending decision on the Ring Of Fire Plan.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely  
POB 1014  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-314-0860



Haines Borough  
POB 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

May 22, 2013

Dear Mayor, Assembly and Manager,

It is time to pause on further expansion or modifications to the heli-ski ordinance in the Haines Borough. There have been three fatalities due to this activity in the past year. A survey of two days of GPS data brought to light six violations. The industry has expanded beyond their ability to properly manage themselves and the safety of their clients. The industry needs to slow down, pay attention and show that they can operate safely within the existing boundaries and laws.

While I would like to see a minimum of 30% of the allowable operating area removed from the map, specifically the terrain around Rainbow Glacier, the slopes facing Chilkat Inlet and the lower elevations in the river valleys, I would prefer to see the operators show that they can conduct business and respect the rules. In the past thirteen years this has yet to happen.

I am discouraged that some operators in this industry refuse to compromise and let things be, while continuing to challenge the boundaries. Their relentless cry for more while they flaunt the regulations, warrants a harsher response from the Borough and the State of Alaska. Rewarding them with additional operating areas would be a farce.

It would be prudent to wait on the decision from the BLM regarding the Ring of Fire Plan before taking any action on map additions or deletions. With these lands most likely to be reopened to commercial helicopter landings, the industry shall have all the terrain necessary to conduct business within the existing map. It is critical that large tracks of land in the Borough remain off limits to commercial helicopter recreation.

Thom Ely  
POB 1014  
Haines, AK 99827