



Haines Borough Administration
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Manager's Report – Heliskiing Allocations Update

October 14, 2014

Haines Borough Code 5.18.080 establishes a maximum of 2,600 skier days to be allocated by the Manager among three heliski companies. Alaska Heliskiing (AH), Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA), and Alaska Mountain Guides (AMG) have requested a combined 3,200 skier days for the 2015 heliski season. When this occurs, it falls to the Borough Manager to decide how to allocate skier days between permitted companies. HBC 5.18.080(C)(2) lists the following factors to be considered when making allocation decisions:

- a. The quality of the operating and safety plans submitted by the permittee.
- b. The economic impact of the allocation on the permittee.
- c. The safety and well-being of the general public.
- d. Historic use of skier days by the permittee.
- e. The interests of the borough in the promotion of tourism.
- f. Past safety record of the permittee.
- g. The applicant's past record of compliance with borough ordinances related to commercial ski tours.
- h. The existence and terms of any voluntary agreement between the borough and the applicant pertaining to operational practices of the applicant.

I have decided to issue skier days for the 2015 season as follows:

	2013			2014			2015	
	Requested Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Requested Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Requested Allocation	Allocation
AH	1400	1050	1250	1400	1400	1400	1750	1450
SEABA	1000	1000	1000	1100	950	950	1000	1000
AMG	450	450	250	450	250	250	450	150
Total	2850	2500	2500	2950	2700	2700	3200	2600

These numbers represent the allocation for the 2015 season.

The reason for the reduction in Alaska Heliskiing's allocation is two-fold. AH requested 1750 days based on an erroneous assumption that there would be a requirement to apply skier days to a potential ski competition. Per code, skier days are only applied to ski tours and ski productions (HBC 5.18.010 and 5.18.080 (C)). AH subsequently reduced their request to 1500 days. The remaining reduction of 50 days is based on the findings of the Clerk's research and analysis of the company's 2013 safety/ compliance record, which notes in part the following:

Alaska Heliskiing was found in violation of **Haines Borough Code 5.04.080 Conditions applicable to all permits;** A permittee is responsible for complying with all municipal, state, and federal ordinances, statutes, and regulations applicable to the permittee's activities.

The reason for the reduction in AMG's allocation is based on historical use.

Alaska Mountain Guides used no skier days in 2014, 2013 and only 5 skier days 2012.

Any permittee receiving less than a requested allocation may appeal this initial allocation decision to the borough assembly by filing a notice of appeal with the borough clerk no later than 15 days from the date of this decision.



David B. Sosa

Borough Manager