

HAINES BOROUGH HELISKIING COMPLAINT FORM

P.O. Box 1209 ♦ 103 Third Avenue S.
Haines, Alaska 99827
Ph: 907-766-2231 ♦ Fax: 907-766-2716
www.hainesborough.us

Today's Date: 5/9/15

Your Contact Information

Name: (first, middle initial, last)
Nicholas Szatkowski

Mailing Address: (address, city, state, zip code) HC 60 #2621, Haines, AK 99827	Physical Address: (address, city, state, zip code) Eagle Bluff Drive, 26-Mile
---	---

Home Phone: (include area code) contact via email	Work Phone: (include area code) contact via email	Email: glaciallogic@gmail.com
---	---	---

Complaint: Please describe the alleged or suspected violation in detail, including who, what, when, where and why. **Helpful details include helicopter color and tail numbers, exact location, number of skiers, date, and time.** (Attach additional pages or use the backside of this form, if necessary.) If you have photos, please email them to info@haines.ak.us or bring them to the Haines Borough Administration Building.

During the period from March 7-March 17, helicopters utilizing the temporary heliport at SEABA/BSV's property at 26-mile were observed regularly and systematically violating flight rules for minimum flight elevation. This flight behavior was not related to takeoff/landing, but was instead typical of their entire flights to and from heliskiing areas. This was especially true, and particularly observable, when helicopters were transiting the area within 3 miles of the temporary heliport. The flight rules agreed to by the permittee require gaining/maintaining a minimum elevation of 1500 feet AGL as soon as is practicable, and 1/2 mile (i.e., 2650 feet) AGL over the valley floor. Despite the fact that helicopters were flying to destinations at least 4800 feet ASL, in every flight observed during this period, they chose to cruise in level flight just a few hundred feet AGL over the valley floor for miles to or from the temporary heliport. This is no way necessitated by safe flight requirements. Indeed it actually is somewhat less safe behavior than maintaining the legally required altitudes. It is also a violation of regulations of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, a portion of which the helicopters regularly flew over. This systematically illegal behavior changed the sound signature of the helicopters, which was being observed and recorded during the same period, creating a false data for the Borough-funded noise study. Please ensure that ALL gps records are obtained for ALL helicopters operating from this site during the time period in question (more than one on some days). I have audio/video recordings for some of these days.

For Borough Use Only

Date Received by Borough Manager: 11 May 2015	Forwarded for Response or Investigation to: Date:
Copy given to: Date:	

Results of Investigation: This complaint covers items that were addressed in three previous complaints investigated by the Borough and posted on the Borough website. I do not see any new information that has not been addressed. I consider this matter closed unless new evidence is provided that warrants a new investigation.

[Signature]

Action Taken

- ♦ Complainant Contacted regarding Results of Investigation:

<u>Borough Manager</u>	<u>11 May 2015</u>
Contacted by	Date
- ♦ Action: (attach additional pages, as needed)
 Matter addressed in other investigations

Form Received by: *Julie Conroy, Clerk*
 Date Stamp: **RECEIVED Haines Borough**
 MAY 11 2015
 Clerk's Office
 Date-stamped copy given to complainant