



Haines Borough Administration  
William Seward, Borough Manager  
(907)766-2231 • Fax (907)766-2716  
wseward@haines.ak.us

**July 12, 2016**

**2016 Season-End Report of Commercial Skiing-Related Permits**

Haines Borough Code 5.18.080 (F)(6) Commercial ski tours, commercial ski productions and special ski competition events states the following:

"The borough manager shall compile a season-end report to be submitted to the borough assembly annually during the first meeting in July. The report shall include the number of skier days used by each permitted company as compared to previous years, and it shall include any verified permit infractions along with correspondence and other information documenting reasons for the infractions."

Attached are the following documents:

1. 2016 Heliski Allocations
2. 2016 Commercial Ski Tour Summary of Skier Day Use
3. Permitted Commercial Ski Tour Skier Day Comparison Report 2007-2016
4. Infraction Complaint (4/18/16) and Investigation Results

Summary:

Of the 2,600 available number of skier days to the three companies operating under HBC Title 5, all 2,600 skier days were allocated, with a total of 1,606 used during the 2016 heliski season. The Borough did receive one complaint of a possible violation that Interim Manager Brad Ryan investigated. As a result, one penalty fine was issued to Alaska Heliskiing for \$250 based on a review of the GPS data. The borough collaborated with Takshanuk Watershed Council in investigating the infraction.

	2014			2015			2015 <del>2016</del>	
	Requested Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Requested Allocation	Initial Allocation	Final Allocation	Requested Allocation	Allocation
AH	1400	1400	1400	1750	1450	1450	1450	<del>1250</del> 1300
SEABA	1100	950	950	1000	1000	1000	1000	900
AMG	450	250	250	450	150	150	650	<del>200</del> 400
Total	2950	2700	2700	3200	2600	2600	3100	<del>2350</del> 2600

*Amended by Assembly motion following an appeal on 10/27/15.*

These numbers represent the allocation for the 2016 season.

In making this determination the Manager reviewed all of the items denoted earlier in this document. Particular attention was paid to historical usage for the past three years. In the case of Alaska Heliskiing and SEABA the apportionment represents more than 100 days over the highest usage between 2013 and 2015. Alaska Mountain Guides allocation was increased based on their providing a contract with a vendor that indicates that for FY 16 they will have use. Given AMG's failure to use any days in the last three years they were awarded 450 fewer days than they requested. It should be noted that there is a **reserve of 250 skier days** available. These days may be awarded if it is determined that there is a need for more days by any or all of the heliski companies.

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.

*D.B. Sosa*

David B. Sosa

Borough Manager

**2016**  
**Commercial Ski**  
**Tours**  
**Skier Day Use**

	<b>Skier Days</b>	<b>Reported Deviations from Flight Guidelines?</b>	<b>Accidents?</b>	<b>Wildlife Observation?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Available	2600				
<b>AK Heli Totals</b> allocation	<b>941</b> 1300		Yes*		Days Reported thru 4/21 FINAL
<b>SEABA Totals</b> allocation	<b>633</b> 900	Yes*			Days Reported thru 4/21 FINAL
<b>AMG Totals</b> allocation	<b>32</b> 400			Yes*	Days Reported thru 3/21 FINAL
<b>Combined Totals</b>	<b>1606</b>				

\* See specific bi-weekly activity reports and/or GPS spot check reports for more information.  
 The reports are available at: <http://www.hainesalaska.gov/administration/2016-helisking-information>.

Haines Borough

**Permitted Commercial Ski Tours - Skier Day Use**

Comparison Report 2007-2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
skier days available	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	1200	**1200	1000	1000
photo days available			Now included with skier days				140	**260	140	140
<b>AK Heli</b> skier day allocation	1300	1450	1400	**1150	1490	1450	750	650	650	650
<b>skier days used</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>1232</b>	<b>1363</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>**664</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>281</b>
photo day allocation			N/A				90	90	100	100
<b>photo days used</b>							<b>53</b>	<b>**117</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>SEABA</b> skier day allocation	900	1000	*1000	1000	870	750	450	350	350	350
<b>skier days used</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>**406</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>222</b>
photo day allocation			N/A				10	10	20	20
<b>photo days used</b>							<b>24</b>	<b>**11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>AMG</b> skier day allocation	400	150	*200	**350	200	200	New permittee in 2011			
<b>skier days used</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>				

\* On 2/19/14, the borough manager approved a transfer of 50 skier days from AMG to SEABA.

\*\* On 4/19/13, the borough manager approved a transfer of 100 skier days from AMG to AK Heli.

\*\*\* 2009 - Emergency Ordinance 09-04-205 added 200 skier days and 120 photo days to the code-allowed 1,000 and 140. The ordinance did not stipulate specific operator allocations. AK Heli and SEABA both used some of the additional days allowed under the emergency ordinance, so they did not inappropriately exceed their initial allocation.

## 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:** 4/18/16

**Your Contact Information**

**Name:** (first, middle initial, last)  
Carolyn Weishahn

**Mailing Address:** (address, city, state, zip code)  
HC 60 Box 3977, Haines, AK 99827

**Physical Address:** (address, city, state, zip code)  
40 Mile, Haines Highway, Haines, AK 99827

**Home Phone:** (include area code)  
907-767-5552

**Work Phone:** (include area code)

**Email:**  
weis@aptalaska.net

**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](mailto:info@haines.ak.us) or bring them to the Haines Borough Administration Building.

Today, April 18, 2016, I saw a helicopter flying on the "highway side" of the mountain range across from my home near the U.S./Canada border at about 2:23p.m., flying from the border toward Glacier Creek (approximately west to east). The flight was well below the mountain ridge and in the Klehini River drainage. The weather was clear and winds calm.

This is in violation of the "Flight Operations" agreement all the heli-ski companies signed to protect the residences near the border from undue helicopter noise during heli-ski operations. The agreed upon flight path is to fly on the other side of the mountain range (not in the Klehini River drainage) across from residents of 37 Mile to 40 Mile, Haines Highway, thus avoiding the Klehini River drainage. This reduces the helicopter noise as the flight path is not directly in the Klehini River drainage.

The flight agreement states:  
From the 33 Mile heliport--Use Porcupine Creek, McKinley Creek or Glacier Creek to access Porcupine Peak and Flower Mountain areas. Avoid Jarvis Creek, and the Klehini River to keep noise away from residences. ...

Please review the flight records in this area for April 18, 2016, and take enforcement action on the responsible heli-ski company.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Weishahn, resident, 40 Mile, Haines Highway

**For Borough Use Only**

Date Received by Borough Manager:

4/19/16

Forwarded for Response or Investigation to:  
Date:

Copy given to:  
Date:

Results of Investigation:

**Action Taken**

♦ Complainant Contacted regarding Results of Investigation:

Contacted by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

♦ Action: (attach additional pages, as needed)

Form Received by: Julie Cozzi  
Date Stamp: 4/19/16 a.m.

Date-stamped copy given to complainant  
via email



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA

P.O. BOX 1209

HAINES, AK 99827

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

3 June 2016

Ryan Johnson  
P.O. Box 1448  
Haines, AK 99827

Dear: Mr. Johnson,

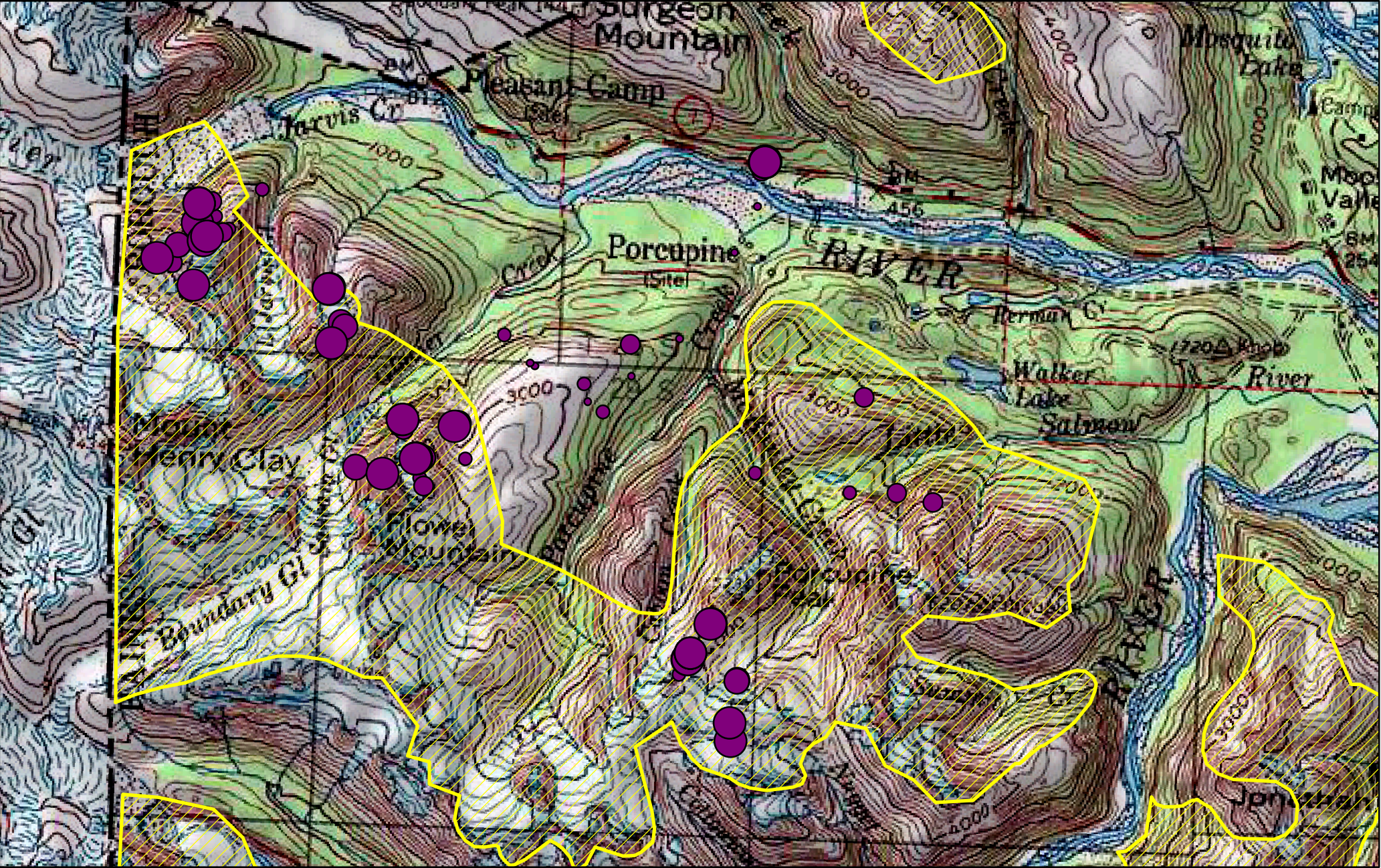
As we previously discussed the Haines Borough received a complaint about helicopters operating outside of the agreed upon flight paths to support heli-skiing operations. You informed me that you were aware of the incident and it was your company (Alaska Heliskiing) that had operated outside of the flight path. You supplied the GPS data for the date of the complaint (April 18<sup>th</sup> 2016) and the borough confirms the flight data matches the complaint. Per the Agreement Regarding Flight Operations and Practices of Commercial Ski Tours signed by an Alaska Heliskiing representative on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 the Haines Borough is required to levy a fine of \$200 for this violation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BRAD A. RYAN", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad A. Ryan  
Haines Borough Interim Manager





**Haines Borough  
Commercial Ski Tour - AK Heliskiing**

**AK Heliskiing Commercial Ski Tour Data**

