



Haines Borough Administration
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July 11, 2017

2017 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. 2017 Permits Issued
2. 2017 Heliski Allocations
3. 2017 Commercial Ski Tour Summary of Skier Day Use
4. Permitted Commercial Ski Tour Skier Day Comparison Report 2007-2017

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 1,374 used during the 2017 heliski season. Less than ideal weather conditions contributed to a shorter season with more down days.

The Borough received two complaints of possible violations that Interim Manager Brad Ryan investigated in collaboration with Takshanuk Watershed Council. The GPS data did not support the complaints, and no infractions were determined to have occurred.

Five different dates of operation for each of the three permittees were spot-checked by the interim manager, and the GPS data showed no infractions.

2017

Skiing Related Permits Issued

		Dates of Operation	Notes
Commercial Ski Tours			Maximum 3 Permits Available
	Alaska Heliskiing	2/20 - 4/18	
	SEABA	2/25 - 4/24	
	Alaska Mountain Guides	3/18 - 4/15	
Commercial Ski Production		Production Dates	Maximum 2 Permits Available either/or (between production and competition)
	n/a	n/a	
Special Ski Competition		Date of Event	" " "
	Freeride World Tour	3/24	Prep: 3/13-17; Competition Window: 3/17-25
	Alaska Heliskiing	4/18	



Haines Borough Administration
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2017 Heliskiing Allocations

October 3, 2016

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 2,600 skier days for the 2017 heliski season. 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.

An informal hearing was conducted on Friday, September 30, and the heliski companies explained and clarified their requests. I have decided to issue skier days for the 2017 season, as ultimately requested by them:

	2017	
	Requested Allocation	Manager's Allocation
AH	1425	1425
SEABA	975	975
AMG	250	250
Total	2600	2600

William Seward
Borough Manager

**2017
Commercial Ski
Tours
Skier Day Use**

	Skier Days	Reported Deviations from Flight Guidelines?	Accidents? Injuries?	Wildlife Observation?	Notes
Available	2600				
AK Heli Totals allocation	734 1,425				Days Reported thru 4/18 FINAL
SEABA Totals allocation	414 975	Yes*			Days Reported thru 4/23 FINAL
AMG Totals allocation	226 250	Yes*	Yes*		Days Reported thru 4/15 FINAL
Combined Totals	1374				

* 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/2017-helisking-information>.

Haines Borough

Permitted Commercial Ski Tours - Skier Day Use

Comparison Report 2007-2017

	<u>2017</u>	<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	2600	1200	**1200	1000	1000	
photo days available			Now included with skier days						140	**260	140	140
AK Heli skier day allocation	1425	1300	1450	1400	**1150	1490	1450	750	650	650	650	
skier days used	734	941	998	792	1103	1232	1363	659	**664	445	281	
photo day allocation				N/A				90	90	100	100	
photo days used								53	**117	122	40	
SEABA skier day allocation	975	900	1000	*1000	1000	870	750	450	350	350	350	
skier days used	414	633	647	121	868	722	560	615	**406	320	222	
photo day allocation				N/A				10	10	20	20	
photo days used								24	**11	8	20	
AMG skier day allocation	250	400	150	*200	**350	200	200	New permittee in 2011				
skier days used	226	32	0	0	0	5	8					

* 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.