

July 14, 2015

Re: Manager's 2015 Season-End Report of Commercial Skiing-Related Permits

To: Haines Borough Assembly Members and Mayor

The manager's response to my heli-ski complaint of March 20, 2015, that reported flight path deviations in front of my home states that the complaint is 'unsubstantiated.' Subsequently, the Post-event Activity Report filed by Scott Sundberg on behalf of Freeride World Tour verified that there had been several flight path deviations (due to weather conditions) on March 19, the day of the ski competition. While the manager mentions in the Season End Report that this complaint was 'substantiated', the official response to my complaint has not been changed to state this. I would appreciate that the official response to my complaint be revised to state that flight path deviations did occur on March 19 and the complaint is 'substantiated.'

The report says that spot checks were done for SEABA and Alaska Heliskiing. Were spot checks also done for Freeride World Tour and Matchstick Productions? Their permits require that they collect GPS data to ensure adherence to heli-ski regulations but it doesn't appear that there were any GPS spot checks for these companies. If no spot checks were done for Freeride World Tour and Matchstick Productions, please require that these be done before accepting the Season End Report.

The report does not report the dates of the spot checks. These should be part of the public record and included in the Season End Report. I would also like to see the GPS data displayed on the heli-ski map for Alaska Heliskiing and SEABA landings that occurred outside the map boundaries. Maps with GPS data were provided for heli-ski complaint responses but they should also be available in the public record for out-of-bounds spot checks.

I am particularly interested to see where the SEABA landings occurred outside the borough boundaries but within the BLM boundaries. All these maps are important to keep the public informed on the enforcement of heli-ski permit requirements.

Thank you for following up on my concerns,

Carolyn Weishahn