

**From:** Eric Holle [mailto:banjorebop@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 7:11 AM

**To:** Mark Earnest; Stephanie Scott; banjorebop@yahoo.com; Julie Cozzi; Mark Earnest; daymond hoffman; jerry lapp; debra schnabel; Stephanie Scott; norm smith; steve.vick@gmail.com; joanne waterman

**Subject:** heli-skiing violations and manager's report

Dear Manager Earnest, Mayor Scott, and Assembly members,

GPS analysis by Takshanuk Watershed Council(TWS) has now confirmed what the public has been saying for well over a decade: SEABA and Alaska Heli-skiing operate outside their permitted areas and do so with impunity. The fact that no data was provided for violations reported on the Rainbow Glacier is of great concern. SEABA's response, in particular, is nearly unintelligible, but when deciphered, becomes ludicrous. Alaska Heli-skiing's response shows a better command of the language, but still provides no excuse for operating without regard to regulations. Please remember that the public agreed to having a REGULATED heli-ski industry in Haines.

It is encouraging to see some suggestions from the manager regarding improvement of GPS reporting and collecting user fees to help defray the borough's costs in dealing with this industry. I respectfully suggest that the borough needs to do at least periodic spot checks of heli-skiing in areas where complaints have not been filed, usually the more remote locations. This would help prevent further disturbance to mountain goats, denning wolverines and bears, and other sensitive wildlife species. If this is not done, the companies will simply continue to violate the regs when they think no one is looking.

The manager's suggestions do not address punitive measures for violations. In order to correct bad behavior, punishment has to have an impact on the offending party. Just fining these companies a few hundred dollars per violation will not change their behavior. Deducting skier days would be a better solution except that the companies have been awarded more skier days than they use, so this would not affect their behavior. Although I feel that SEABA's behavior warrants revoking their permit (as was done with Dave Button's tour) a milder but possibly effective tactic would be to deduct calendar days from the beginning date of the heli-ski season for each violation.

Please act to protect the public interest in this matter, rather than that of companies that continue to flagrantly violate borough regulations.

Sincerely,  
Eric Holle

**From:** Weishahn [mailto:weis@aptalaska.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 08, 2012 10:44 PM  
**To:** Mark Earnest  
**Cc:** Daymond Hoffman; steve.vick@gmail.com; debra.schnabel@gmail.com; JOANNE; fortseward@yahoo.com; bflipper3@aptalaska.net; Stephanie Scott; Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** Weishahn heli-ski complaint, 3-27-12

July 8, 2012

To: Mark Earnest, Manager, Haines Borough

I have read Takshanuk Watershed Council's (TWC) evaluation of my heli-ski complaint filed on March 27, 2012. Evidently, TWC did not receive, or did not completely read my complaint.

[excerpt from TWC's report, Assembly Packet, July 10, 2012, PDF 119]

**March 25 & 27 2012 Complaint**

Here are the photos I took of the ski tracks across from my home. Perhaps they were made before March 27 but that is the day I took the photos. Please let me know if you can open these attachments. Thank you for the update. As I mentioned in the complaint, I saw and photographed the tracks on March 27 but they may have been made that day or several days before. I can still see tracks at the same location so they are either the same tracks or new ones. If there was no reported heliskiing in that area on March 27, please check prior days. In addition to the start of the heli-ski run, I am particularly concerned about the pick-up locations.

TWC's analysis: There were two complaints made from the same individual for the same date range. This individual did not make a clear statement of the location of the violation and there was Helicopter skiing activities ranging from the mouth of the Chilkat River to the 33 mile Helicopter Port making analysis not practical.

My Citizen Complaint Form is in the Assembly Packet on PDF 139, email exchanges on PDF 140, and photos of the area with tracks on PDF 141-142. TWC states that I didn't identify the location of the tracks, but the area I observed with tracks is clearly described on my Complaint Form:

“On March 27, 2012, at about 11:00 a.m. **I observed ski tracks descending from a bowl in the Little Jarvis drainage across from my home.** I believe this is out of the allowed heli-ski area. When the heli-ski map was created, **the areas near the Canadian border did not include mountain drainages above the Klehini River.** I don't know which heli-ski company was operating up here today but I assume it was Alaska Heliskiing. I have photos so if you want those I can send them in an email.”

The area with the ski tracks is the Jarvis drainage near the Canadian border as stated in my complaint. I emailed two photos of the tracks to the borough clerk on March 30, 2012.

Please have TWC review the heli-ski activity in the Jarvis drainage for March 27, and several previous days in case the tracks were made prior to March 27.

Even though Alaska Heliskiing takes issue with the adopted map, claiming that the “wrong map was adopted,” (see below) their tour permit requires them to abide by the heli-ski map as adopted by the assembly. If a company is skiing outside the boundaries in the Jarvis Glacier area, the

borough should levy fines, suspend the permit, and/or allocate fewer skier days next year to that company.

Please email me regarding what action you will take to accurately evaluate my complaint of March 27, 2012.

Thank you,  
Carolyn Weishahn

[PDF 121]

March 27 2012 incident. Alaska Heliskiing explained that the area on the Jarvis Glacier was supposed to be in bounds on the Map and that the wrong map was adopted by the Assembly. The other GPS points on the Flower Mountain Ridge were spots that the heli may have set down to wait, but was not a ski area.