

Julie Cozzi

From: Thom Ely [akthome@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 12:41 PM
To: Debra Schnabel; Steve Vick; Norm Smith; Joanne Waterman; Jerry Lapp; Stephanie Scott
Cc: Julie Cozzi
Subject: Heli-Ski Draft Ord

Dear Mayor, Assembly and Manager,

I am concerned that the provision in the current ordinance draft for map revisions by Assembly resolution will take the public out of the process. The industry has done a good job of looking out for it's interests with a major map expansion in the last ordinance revision and the added GPS confidentiality clause. This process should not be dependent on which way the political wind is blowing at the moment.

At this time I don't feel that any further map expansion is warranted. Several seasons of GPS data needs to be acquired and tracked to determine areas that can be added to the allowable ski zone and areas that need to be removed. I feel that more than 30% of the area that was just added will not be utilized by the industry and can be removed.

While the Assembly has the final say on ordinance revisions I feel that a more equitable process for the stakeholders is to have a map committee that can review the data and propose any changes to the Assembly. The committee should be comprised of one industry rep, one non-motorized recreation rep, one assembly member or admin rep, and a Takshanuk Watershed Council rep. based on consensus.

Thanks for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely
POB 1014
Haines, AK 99827
907-314-0860

November 5, 2012

To: Haines Borough Assembly Members and Mayor
From: Carolyn Weishahn
Re: Ordinance 12-10-306

I am writing in regard to the heli-ski ordinance up for its second public hearing. Unfortunately the map changes were not included for public comment during the first public hearing, so I am requesting that you hold another hearing so map change proposals will have two public hearings as is expected in the ordinance process. I am recovering from laryngitis so this letter will be my comment for this public hearing.

Skier Day Allocation fees: Instead of waiting until 2014 to implement the \$5/skier day allocation fee, I think the fee schedule can be phased in starting in 2013 at \$2.50/skier day, then rising to \$5/skier day in 2014. State and federal land managers charge user fees to recoup part of the cost of administration. When BLM land becomes available for heli-skiing, there will be fees charged immediately. The borough should begin recovering some of the administrative costs starting next heli-ski season.

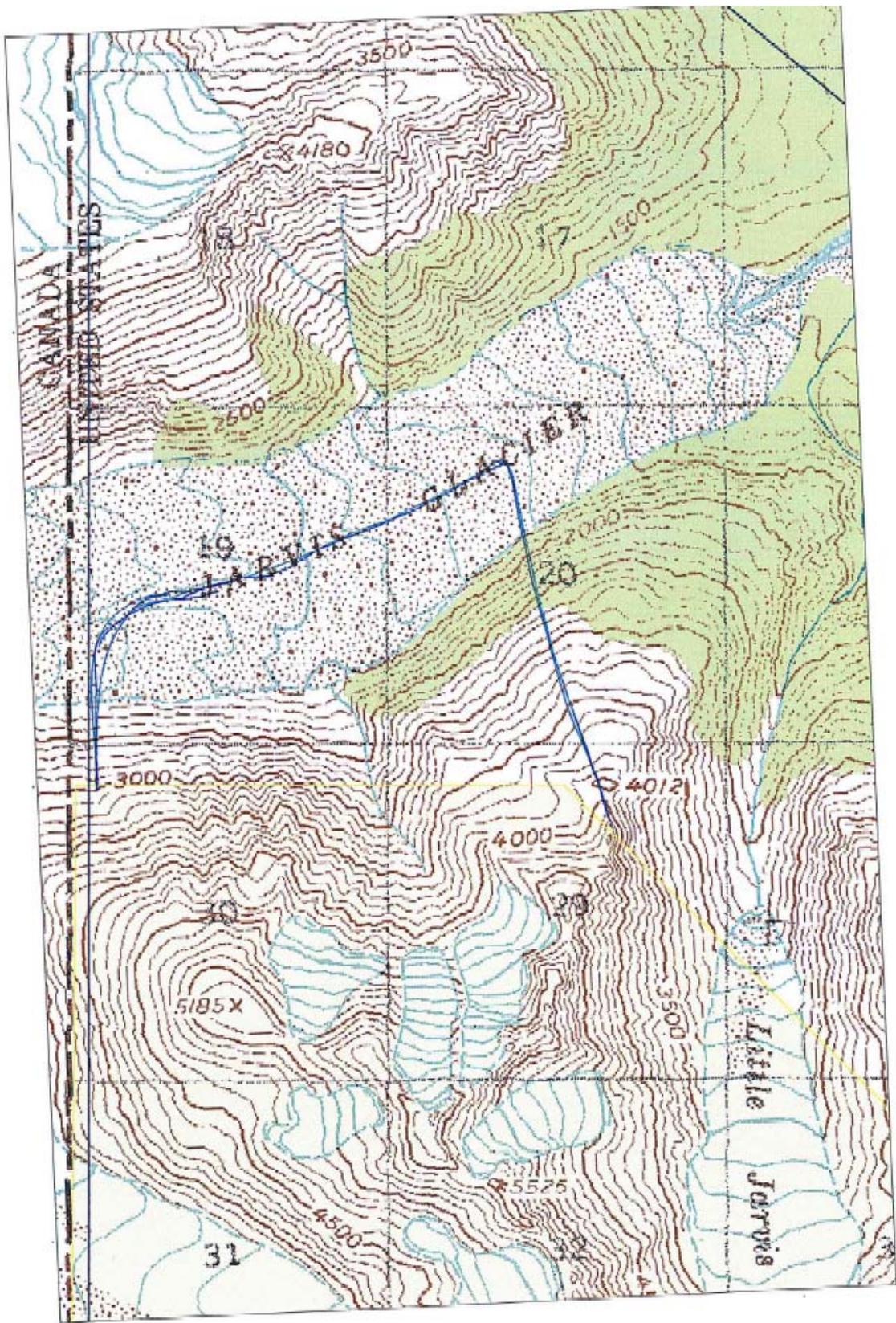
Amend heli-ski map by Resolution: As proposed, there would be no public hearing on map changes and the public would get at most four or five days to review and comment on the changes, depending on when the packet is publicly available. Heli-ski terrain is one of the most critical components of heli-ski management. At minimum, there should be at least one public hearing and more than four days notification. The original heli-ski management code allowed map changes after one public hearing.

Jarvis Glacier area map change: The map change for the Jarvis area you have in your packet is **not** the one that the manager recommended and the assembly “approved” for further action by ordinance or policy change on September 11, 2012.

The map that the assembly “approved” as part of the manager’s heli-ski recommendations was located in the upper reaches of the Jarvis Glacier. (see second page) There is a ski run there that the heli-skiers say they want added to the map, one that they say they have used for years, evidently out of compliance with the adopted map. This is a run that puts helicopters up Jarvis Creek, directly across from the U.S. Border Station and our property. With all the opportunities for ski runs in the back country, this is one run that should not be included on the map.

The **current** Jarvis area map change in this ordinance more than doubles the area that was formerly “approved” by the assembly. Not only is the area larger, it would put helicopter drop-off and pick-ups along and below a ridge that terminates in the Klehini Valley floor...even closer to the residences across the Klehini River! An explanation was given by Darsie Culbeck that this was proposed by a heli-ski company because sometimes they have to pick skiers up further down Jarvis Glacier if there are safety issues. If this run is going to be added to the map (which I oppose), the area should be for the **location of the run only** and if there is an occasion where a pick-up has to deviate beyond the boundary for safety reasons, this can be noted in the report to the borough. The borough should not add areas to the approved heli-ski map to cover every safety contingency. Heli-ski operations can deviate from boundaries if there is an occasional safety issue.

Thank you for considering my comments on this ordinance. (please see map on the second page)
Carolyn Weishahn, resident across from Jarvis Creek



Julie Cozzi

From: mark and mardell [mardiz@aptalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 8:43 PM
To: Julie Cozzi
Subject: Ordinance 12-10-306

*Julie,
Please see that Assembly members receive this in packets. Thanks so much,
Mardell*

Dear Assembly member

We are opposed to allowing heli-skiing in the newly proposed area on the ridge above the Jarvis Glacier with access to the Jarvis Glacier in Ordinance 12-10-306. We have been using the lower areas of Jarvis Glacier area for a more quiet alternative to the noisy 33-34 mile heliport area & other areas toward town. February thru May whenever the weather is reasonable the helicopters are flying and we hear them loud and clear when we are skiing and snowshoing .

The Jarvis valley and glacier is our front yard and our recreational area for snow shoeing & cross country skiing. We don't want this area designated for heli-skiing & are not pleased at all that it has been proposed. We know how this looks and sounds as we have observed heli-skiing in this Jarvis area whether it is legal or not. (Yes, they DO go outside of their designated boundaries at times!) We do not want to have this to become the norm.

Please consider your constituents in the upper valley when making this decision on the Jarvis Valley.

Mardell Gunn and Mark Kistler