

December 13, 2016

To: Haines Borough Assembly and Mayor

Re: Manager heli-ski map recommendations

The borough manager's recommendations on heli-ski map changes are invalid and/or questionable for several reasons.

First, the heli-ski map committee's recommendations were sent to the manager before they were completed thus giving the manager and assembly incomplete/inaccurate information on which to base their decisions. Areas S1, S2, S3 and S6 were deliberated and voted on prior to receiving ADF&G comments. If these preliminary motions had been reconsidered, the vote outcomes would likely have been different. All other areas were reconsidered after receiving ADF&G input and some committee members changed their original votes so that some votes that were originally unanimous, became split votes.

Haines Borough Code requires the manager to receive the map committee's recommendations before submitting recommendations to the assembly. Since the committee recommendations were incomplete and its procedures likely violated parts of borough code, the manager could not, in good faith, complete his responsibility under HBC 5.18.080(I)(1)(f).

Nevertheless, the manager has recommended adoption of any areas that received a unanimous vote by the committee. Since the committee's work wasn't finished and all the areas were not considered in light of ADF&G comments, the manager recommendations reflect incomplete and most likely inaccurate committee information.

The manager's recommendations are also invalid and/or questionable because they may be based on committee work that violated borough code. The committee's process is currently being appealed by Dana Hallett. If any parts of this appeal are upheld by the assembly after a hearing, the committee and manager recommendations are flawed.

Due to the problems associated with the committee procedures and recommendations, and subsequently the manager's recommendations, I ask that the assembly **not** direct the manager to prepare a resolution adopting his recommendations.

Instead, any proposed changes to the heli-ski map should be delayed until after ADF&G releases detailed information on mountain goat habitat in Spring 2017 and a new committee is formed that avoids seating members that have conflict of interest issues.

Thank you,

Carolyn Weishahn