

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** joe@joeordonez.com  
**Subject:** RE: Planning commission

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**From:** Joe Ordonez [<mailto:joeorga@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 07, 2013 9:09 PM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Cc:** Heather Lende  
**Subject:** Planning commission

Hi Tracy,

Could you please include my comments below in the package for the Planning Commission?

Dear Planning Commission:

I am writing in favor of excluding ATVs from the Chilkat Beaches from Carr's Cove to River Road. We often take our Rainbow Glacier Adventure photography groups there, and they enjoy the quiet nature of the location. They also enjoy and photograph the vegetation. ATVs are known to disturb intact soil and vegetation.

While this has been a "de facto" non-motorized area for years, I think it is a good move to make this official. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Joe

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**Joe Ordonez**  
Rainbow Glacier Adventures LLC  
P.O. Box 1103  
Haines, Alaska 99827  
Phone: 907-766-3576  
Fax: 907-766-3580  
[joe@joeordonez.com](mailto:joe@joeordonez.com)  
[www.tourhaines.com](http://www.tourhaines.com)

To the Haines Planning Commission:

In regards to ATV use on the Chilkat River beach in the townsite:

I oppose the use of ATVs on this beach.

I frequent the Chilkat River beach—in all four seasons— with one or more dogs 5-7 days per week (sometimes twice a day.) It is my first choice for dog walks in the valley. It is a rare hour, in any season, when the beach is deserted. There are usually other individuals, or groups on the beach, strolling, dog walking, having picnics or taking photos.

The terrain is unique because: The relatively level landscape, away from the road, close to town, is well suited *for all ages* of walkers, *at all levels of physical conditioning*.

In the spring, the bird watching and photography opportunities are world-class.

In the winter, it is an easy place to walk without snow when the tide recedes.

In the fall, mornings and evenings, the bears roam freely and undisturbed along the river, digging roots and fishing.

The quiet uses and the ecology of this beach should be preserved.

Thank you for your consideration of disallowing motorized vehicles on this beach.

Sincerely,

Beth MacCready

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** James Alborough  
**Subject:** RE: Chilkat Beach

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**From:** James Alborough [<mailto:james@bearstar.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 10:20 AM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Subject:** Chilkat Beach

Hi Tracy,

I would like to express my support of the proposed ordinance to keep the Chilkat River beaches non-motorized.

About a decade ago, the Borough placed logs and boulders across the main motorized access points and posted "non-motorized access only" signs. Since then, residents of the area have assumed that this area is non-motorized access only and we would like that be confirmed and set into ordinance.

Those beaches are heavily used by families and kids, folks walking their dogs, joggers and walkers, kite surfers and even sun-bathers!

Keeping ATVs from accessing the beach makes sense from a safety perspective and a quality of life perspective. I shudder to think what would happen if an ATV careened into a family picnicing behind a berm, or sitting in an area obscured from the view of an ATV driver!

ATV use is incompatible with other pre-established and habitual uses of this area.

Thank you for forwarding this letter of support for the proposed ordinance to the planning commission for their consideration.

Thanks,  
James

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James Alborough  
907-766-2082

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** alexandra feit  
**Subject:** RE: Non-motorised vehicles

-----Original Message-----

From: alexandra feit [<mailto:hikeralex@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 10:42 AM  
To: Xi Cui  
Subject: Non-motorised vehicles

I support Chilkat River Beaches being non-motorized for recreation. Thanks Alexandra feit

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"Tell me  
what it is you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life"  
Mary Oliver

Oct. 8, 2013

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for proposing to officially make the Chilkat Beaches non-motorized, something we believed they have been for at least 10 years, and that our neighbor and 30 year-plus beach resident Betty Holgate tells us is much longer, thanks to she and her late husband's efforts in stream and habitat restoration. They rehabilitated the creek at one mile with their own funds and were largely responsible for the earliest locally enforced bans on motorized vehicles.

Like Betty, we love the beaches for all the reasons she and dozens of regular users do-- the dog walkers, bird watchers, picnickers, babies and elders, boaters, kites, joggers, skiers, snowshoers, mountain bikers, and photographers-- the visitors and locals alike who agree it's a jewel for the easy access, the scenery, the birds and wildflowers. The sunshine, sand, and sea. ATVs are simply not compatible with these values and users.

As a former planning commissioner, Chip knows the job of the commission (and planning and zoning) is to minimize conflict over land uses. If everyone in the borough wanted to live in trailers, then there would be no need for trailer parks. If the entire population agreed that organic farming was our reason for being, all the land could be zoned agricultural. In this case, it is easy to minimize the conflict, since the vast majority of users agree the beach should remain as it has appeared to be for years- non-motorized. Promoting ATV use in the area which has not seen any to speak of in a decade or more, and is so heavily used, would actually create a huge conflict, especially since beach users are passionate about the Chilkat Beaches.

Thanks again for minimizing the conflict, and for helping make "as is" the way it will be in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Chip and Heather Lende

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Gene & Renee  
**Subject:** RE: ATV Use on Chilkat River Inlet Beaches

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**From:** Gene & Renee [<mailto:genevdp@centurylink.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 2:25 PM

**To:** Andy Hedden; Danny Gonce; Dean Olsen; Don Turner III; Joanne Waterman; Rob Goldberg; Rob Miller; Robert Venables; Xi Cui

**Subject:** ATV Use on Chilkat River Inlet Beaches

Dear Haines Borough Planning Commission;

My wife and I own Lot 1 of U.S. Survey 3 of the Chilkat Trail Subdivision, where we built the log house on the beach. We bought our property in 1989, when it was out of town and a destination as a party place - littered with broken beer bottles and other debris, the beach torn up by people doing doughnuts with their vehicles.

That was then - this is now. All the beach lots have houses on them - their front yards are the beach. We have frequent walkers using the beach - most all are respectful of the beach and our privacy. Now that we are within the city limits the responsibility of preserving this sensitive habitat falls to the City of Haines.

Therefore, we strongly support the proposed draft ordinance to prohibit motorized vehicle use in the Chilkat River Beaches Recreational Zone by amending HBC 18.70.030 to define Recreational Zone and adding HBC 12.50.010.1 to prohibit motorized use in the Chilkat River Beaches Recreational Zone.

Eugene VanDePutte

[genevdp@centurylink.net](mailto:genevdp@centurylink.net)

[genevandeputte@gmail.com](mailto:genevandeputte@gmail.com)

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Cynthia Allen  
**Subject:** RE: Recreational Beach use

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**From:** Cynthia Allen [<mailto:cynthiaallen@aptalaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 3:12 PM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Subject:** Recreational Beach use

Hello Tracy,

Just want to give my strong opinion that there be no motorized access to the river-front areas along Mud Bay Road at the foot of Cemetary Hill.

thanks,

Cynthia Allen

Haines Borough Planning Commission

October 8, 2013

Dear Planning Commission,

I support by putting into code an ordinance that would prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the Chilkat River beaches. The language for this restriction is already in State and Municipal planning documents for this area. It is also the wish of the residents that live and own property along these beaches.

Many residents and visitors use this area for walking and biking and to enjoy nature in a place that is close to town. Migrating birds congregate in this area. It is also a sensitive intertidal and wetland habitat, not conducive to motorized recreation. The ADF&G has also requested that this area be off limits to motorized vehicles.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Thom Ely  
POB 1014  
Haines, AK 99827

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Deborah Vogt  
**Subject:** RE: Chilkat beaches

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**From:** Deborah Vogt [<mailto:d2v@usa.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 08, 2013 5:49 PM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Cc:** Heather Lende  
**Subject:** Re: Chilkat beaches

Hi, Tracy

Heather Lende let me know that the subject of motorized use on the beaches of the Chilkat River is before the planning commission at their next meeting. Please see that these comments reach the Commission. I live on River Road, and I am strongly opposed to the use of motorized vehicles on these beaches.

These are quiet residential areas where the loud, intrusive noise of an ATV is truly jarring. Perhaps more important than the impact on folks who live here would be the impact on local recreational -- and commercial -- users. These areas are heavily used, by walkers and runners and skiers and just folks who want to sit and contemplate the incredible place that is Haines. By mud-surfers on hot days; by cozy bonfire makers on a chilly fall evening. Tourists sign up for photography classes, or for the van tour that takes them to the beaches. Herpetologists (well, maybe one) study the pollywogs. Kids go tidepooling. Bears fish for salmon, or the remains thereof. People gather rose petals or iris or beach greens. Artists paint the incredible scenes. Kite boarders venture out in the absolutely worst weather.

I speculate that almost to a person, the folks involved in these activities would be loathe to hear an ATV interrupt their activity.

And I didn't even mention the birds use, or the bears. The spring bird migration relies heavily on these beaches. The bears use them all fall.

It was my understanding, the last time this issue came up, that the use of a wheeled vehicle in or crossing a salmon producing waterway is prohibited. That means that ATV use must be substantially confined to the areas above the tidal flats, like the roads.

Please recommend that the Chilkat River beaches, from Klukwan to Carr's cove, be closed to motorized use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Vogt

## Xi Cui

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**To:** tracy mikowski  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for Planning Commission Meeting - Oct. 10,2013

-----Original Message-----

From: tracy mikowski [<mailto:llmastiffs@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 8:35 AM  
To: Xi Cui; Kathy Friedle  
Subject: Comments for Planning Commission Meeting - Oct. 10,2013

I understand that the Planning Commission will be discussing motorized vehicle usage (on the beach/flats in the area of Lower Mud Bay Road) at their regular meeting Thursday, October 10, 2013.

I have some comments and concerns on this issue that I would like to share with the commission. I would greatly appreciate it if you would share a copy of this email with the commission members as I will not be able to attend the meeting in person.

First of all, I don't see any need for motorized vehicles on this particular area of the river and beach. The area is very easily accessible by foot with parking available at several different locations along the entire length of the road. In addition, this is not an access point to reach any other areas. Motorized vehicles would be limited to the same beach area used by pedestrians.

That said, I would like to list a few disadvantages to motor vehicle usage in this area:

1. Disruption to wildlife, in particular, migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. This is a very important area to these birds that are stopping to rest and re-fuel.
2. Erosion and damage to vital beach grasses and other flora.
3. Numerous safety concerns with motorized vehicles, pedestrians, dogs and small children sharing an area that can be rather small (high tide) with plenty of blind spots caused by hills, rocks, trees etc.
4. Noise and disruption to those that enjoy the area to walk quietly and safely, also to those who enjoy viewing and photographing the wildlife (including all those people from the cruise ships).
5. Negative impact on beachfront homeowner's property values.
6. Exhaust fumes and the potential for fuel/oil to end up on the beach or in the water.

Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns.

Tracy Mikowski  
69 Chilkat Trail Rd.  
Box 1356  
Haines, AK 99827  
(907) 303-0235

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Kathleen Menke  
**Subject:** RE: No to Motorized Vehicles on Chilkat Beach

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen Menke [<mailto:ci@akmk.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 11:42 AM  
To: Xi Cui  
Subject: No to Motorized Vehicles on Chilkat Beach

Dear Tracy:

Please forward to planning commission members.

Motorized vehicles should not be allowed on Chilkat Beach because:

#1 Chilkat Beach has many wild and edible greens growing there that are harvested by locals for food (beach greens, oyster leaf, goosetongue, beachpeas, yarrow, & more). There are also wild iris, shooting stars and other fragile wildflowers on this beach. Motorized vehicles are likely to damage these important resources.

#2 Chilkat Beach is a serene, peaceful beach that people enjoy for walks and for walking their dogs. Motorized vehicles are in conflict with this experience.

#3 There is a road right there alongside the beach for motorized vehicles, so there is really no need for motorized vehicles to access the beach, other than for a lark and disturbing others.

#4 There are lots of places in Borough for motorized vehicles. Very few places with good public access for people walking, dog walking, serenity, and wild plant harvesting.

#5 Chilkat Beach and access to it are important to folks who live in the neighborhood and improves everyone's property values. Motorized vehicles on the beach are in conflict with that.

Regards, Kathleen Menke

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Elizabeth Lyons  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed motor vehicle traffic on wetlands adjacent to Lower Mud Bay Road

-----Original Message-----

From: Elizabeth Lyons [<mailto:spenthen@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 12:17 PM  
To: Xi Cui  
Subject: Proposed motor vehicle traffic on wetlands adjacent to Lower Mud Bay Road

Dear Ms. Xi Cui "Tracey":

Please forgive my informal salutation as I was unsure how to properly address you. I am writing to you to express my grave concerns about the potential for motor vehicle traffic along the open spaces between Lower Mud Bay Road and the Chilkat River. I would greatly appreciate it if you could pass along my comments to the other members of the planning commission.

Allowing motor vehicle access (including ATVs, motorcycles, snow machines, etc) to this biologically diverse and productive area is a terrible idea for a variety of reasons, summed up as follows:

1. This ecologically fragile area is offers permanent/temporary sanctuary to a variety of wildlife species including migratory waterfowl and other birds, as well as terrestrial and marine mammals. Motorized vehicles could disrupt these animals during physiologically demanding periods, such as seasonal feeding and migration, resulting in potential injury and death.
2. This geologically fragile area, subject to tidal influence, could be drastically damaged by heavy machinery traffic and subsequent erosion due to physical degradation and elimination of vegetation vital to the area's integrity.
3. For those of us who utilize this accessible and safe area frequently to savor the isolation, solitude, and stunning beauty while walking or running, with or without dogs or children, would be adversely affected by the intrusion of motorized vehicles.
4. Noise, high speeds, and careless navigation are too often a feature of these vehicles' operation. This could also negatively impact the safety of visitors to the area.

Please encourage the planning commission to keep this pristine area intact for the benefit of the community - and not allow the use of motorized vehicles here.

Thank you for your help and the opportunity to express my views. If there are any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (907) 766-2325 (home phone) or via email at : [spenthen@hotmail.com](mailto:spenthen@hotmail.com).

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Lyons DVM, MS  
PO Box 1417  
Haines AK 99827

Dear Haines Borough Planning Commission:

My wife, Fran, and I purchased our lot (Lot 2 of US Survey 3) in 2003 and have resided there since having our home built in 2004. We have enjoyed the peace, serenity, and natural beauty of this location since that time.

We are very much in favor of the recreational zoning presently in place for our beach (HBC 18.70.030, Title 12.5), which specifically prohibits motorized vehicles on Chilkat River beaches.

Our primary concern is for the migrating waterfowl and numerous species of fish, as well as the many other indigenous wildlife species who call the Chilkat River their home. Scarring the beach and casting mud into the Chilkat River can only harm this wildlife and disrupt the quiet setting enjoyed by so many people and wildlife.

Many Haines residents and visitors to Haines also enjoy the Chilkat River beach as a place to have family cookouts, hike, and walk their pets. Some even choose to kiteboard in the river. We feel as a family none of these activities is compatible with motorized vehicle use. We strongly urge the planning commission to continue enforcing the recreational zoning already in place for our beach.

Fran and Rodger Tuenge

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** John Hagen  
**Subject:** RE: Chilkat River Recreation Area

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**From:** John Hagen [<mailto:higgie76@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 09, 2013 8:39 PM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Subject:** Chilkat River Recreation Area

Dear Ms. Cui,

I am a near daily user of the Chilkat River Recreation Area. I use the area as to walk my dog, to photograph, occasionally to fish (One Mile Creek has a small run of cutthroat Trout, though I have yet to catch one) or just to walk. I support the prohibition of motorized vehicles in this recreation area.

Not everyone chooses or is able to enjoy the wilderness areas of the Haines Borough on foot. I suggest the borough planning commission work with area motorized vehicle groups to establish a recreation area capable of supporting both motorized vehicles and non-motorized vehicle users, if only on a seasonal basis (snow mobiles in the winter).

I feel that the rec area should be improved to accommodate more users. Perhaps a trail should be formalized in the area, and widened to accommodate disabled users of the area. Most trails in the area are very rugged and much of the Haines Borough wilderness area is inaccessible to people who have limited mobility or are wheelchair bound.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
John S. Hagen  
535 Mud Bay Rd.

## Xi Cui

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**From:** Tom Ganner [tom@majorproduction.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2013 9:22 AM  
**To:** Xi Cui  
**Cc:** hlende@aptalaska.net; Joe Ordonez  
**Subject:** Please forward to Planning Commission

To the Haines Planning Commission

Re: ATV Use on Chilkat River Beaches in Townsite

I would like to express my concern about the use of motorized vehicles, such as ATV's on the Chilkat Beaches from River Road to Carrs Cove, as this issue is currently on the agenda for consideration. This area is pristine waterfront well used by pedestrians who wish to enjoy the unspoiled beauty and magnificence of the Chilkat environment. It is an area of very limited length, that affords pedestrians a leisurely outdoor experience of quiet and peace. Should ATV's be allowed to use this area, the ATV user's experience would be limited to a short run, or more likely they would expand their recreational opportunity by running up and down and back and forth and all around (as I have often seen ATV owners exercise their machines) which would impact that environment through damage to the unsullied beauty of the tidal and intertidal zones and completely compromise the experience of peaceful beauty that pedestrians hope to enjoy. There is a time and place for everything, but I do not believe the Chilkat beaches are the place for motorized recreation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Ganner

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Margaret Friedenauer, KHNS News  
**Subject:** RE: Chilkat River Beaches

Oct. 10, 2013

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to comment on the agenda item having to do with the Chilkat River Beaches. For about two years, I have been a near daily user of this area. I own a home nearby and walk to and on the beach in every season and every type of weather. This beach was a major factor in choosing to purchase our home on Mud Bay Road.

Throughout the seasons, there's a variety of activities that take place along the beach, including picnicking, windsurfing, dog walking, jogging, berry and spruce tip picking, skiing and kayaking. That's not to mention the variety of wildlife that nest, roam and use that stretch of beach throughout the year.

It would be an odd place for any motorized vehicles to access. I always assumed berms were placed at access points to prevent motorized vehicles. The trails along the beach are foot or bike paths, not wide enough for motorized vehicles. The stream crossings and private property would seem to make it difficult to use by motorized vehicles. And, I believe it's a sensitive enough area that motorized vehicles should not be allowed.

At previous meetings about this topic, it was suggested by prohibiting motorized vehicles, the borough would be over regulating, which I do not agree with. Designations are not the same as regulations or prohibitions - designations should be about finding the best use for the spaces. If we establish that this area should be non-motorized, then I would fully support finding an area that would allow motorized recreation, if folks that enjoy motorized recreation feel like they need more designated recreation space.

I don't believe, in every instance, that sharing space among all users is always the best experience for all users. As a planning commission, you have authority to help establish recreations areas for all types of users. In this case, it is an established recreation area for non-motorized users, and I would appreciate it remaining so and making that designation formal to ensure the user groups can continue enjoying it as they have for years.

Thank you for your time.

Respectively,

Margaret Friedenauer  
535 Mud Bay Rd.

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Margaret Friedenauer  
News and Public Affairs Director  
KHNS-FM Radio  
Haines, Skagway, Klukwan, Alaska  
907-766-2020 x2  
907-983-2853 x2 (from Skagway)

**Xi Cui**

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**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** RE: ATV use on Chilkat river beach

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**From:** Len Feldman [<mailto:lenfeldman@aptalaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2013 8:46 AM  
**To:** Julie Cozzi  
**Subject:** ATV use on Chilkat river beach

Hello,

I would like to comment on the proposed ordinance to prohibit ATV use on the Chilkat River beach.

I have lived across the street from that beach for 13 years. I regularly walk that beach with my young children and our dog. We meet many other regular walkers and dog walkers. It is a great walking beach. It is peaceful and beautiful.

One day I was walking along the trail by the small pond there, and an ATV could be heard rapidly approaching us. I was accompanied by my wife, our 5 and 9 year old daughters, and a puppy. The driver of the ATV did not see us until the last moment. I physically blocked the trail, to keep him from running over our family.

ATV use on the beach there is not compatible with the usual activities there, and should be prohibited. I strongly support the ordinance.

Len Feldman

Planning Commission  
Haines Borough

October 10, 2013

We would like to comment on the action item concerning ATV Use on Chilkat River Inlet Beaches in the Townsite Service Area. I urge to Commission to adopt the ordinance and protect this important bird habitat and recreation area from uses that have a detrimental impact. This spring the beach and shoreline water was a resting and foraging place for thousands of migratory seabirds, ducks and shorebirds. All summer we observed songbirds nesting in the trees, bushes and grasses along the beach. We enjoy walks and beach visits all year long along with many residents and dogs. This is one of the best local recreation areas in Haines.

ATVs are fun and useful, but in this place they could cause extensive damage to wetlands, shores and the beach with even limited activity. The speed and noise associated would impact every other recreational use the area offers.

I urge you to protect this valuable area, pass the ordinance, and maintain foot only access.

Sincerely,

Deborah Gravel

Peter Dwyer

Oct. 10, 2013

TO: Haines Borough Planning Commission,  
RE: 1 mile Mud Bay Rd. BEACH ACCESS

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support in favor of enforcing a NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ordinance on beach and wetlands along the Chilkat River Beach in the Townsite. I walk, bike and ski on this beach regularly and I am aware of how popular this beach is to non-ATV users. Thanks for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

John White

Po Box 1377 HX15

Phone 766 2696

Oct. 10, 2013

To: The Haines Borough Planning Commission  
From: Sid Moffatt  
PO Box 428  
Haines AK 99827

RE: ATV use on townsite Chilkat River Beaches

Dear Commissioners -

I am writing to express my support for local enforcement of the state's plan to keep the state's beaches along the Chilkat River ~~along~~<sup>inside</sup> the townsite non-motorized. I am a long-time recreational user of the area and very much appreciate ~~the~~ having access for walking, skiing, biking, photography and as a wildlife corridor.

Thank you-

Sid Moffatt  
766-2696  
Sidmoffatt@hotmail.com