



## Haines Borough Administration Debra Schnabel, Borough Manager

### Final Commercial Heli-skiing 2019 Season-End Report

Compiled June 6, 2019 in compliance with Haines Borough Code 5.18.080 (F)(6).

1. Permits Issued.

Three operators were permitted for the 2019 season February 1 through May 3, 2019:

Operator	Start Day	End Day
Alaska Heli-skiing	March 6	March 12
Alaska Mountain Guides	March 12	April 29
SEABA	February 23	April 30

2. In-season regulatory changes.

By the authority of HBC 5.18.080 F. (repealed by Ordinance 18-9-512) the daily operating hours were amended on March 20 2019 as follows:

6:30 am to 6:30 pm March 23-April 4

6:00 am to 6:30 pm April 4 – April 21.

3. Skier Day Use.

Total 2600 skier days were available, allotted and used as follows:

Operator	Days allotted	Days Used	% Used
Alaska Heli-skiing	1225	49	4%
Alaska Mountain Guides	375	161	43%
SEABA	1000	331	33%

Unusually warm temperatures in February curtailed safe operating conditions. The season was generally plagued with poor weather and snow conditions.

4. Enforcement

Borough code mandates the borough manager conduct 5 spot-checks for each heli-ski operator throughout the season. Alaska Heli-skiing operated less than six days; only one spot check was conducted. Six spot checks were made of Alaska Mountain Guides and SEABA, as shown in the following table.

4. Enforcement, Cont.

Operator	Date	Results
Alaska Heli-skiing	March 12	No indication of out of bounds activity
Alaska Mountain Guides	March 25	No indication of out of bounds activity
Alaska Mountain Guides	March 28	No indication of out of bounds activity*
Alaska Mountain Guides	March 31	No indication of out of bounds activity*
Alaska Mountain Guides	April 1	No indication of out of bounds activity*
Alaska Mountain Guides	April 11	No indication of out of bounds activity*
Alaska Mountain Guides	April 25	No indication of out of bounds activity
SEABA	February 24	No indication of out of bounds activity
SEABA	March 7	No indication of out of bounds activity
SEABA	March 19	No indication of out of bounds activity
SEABA	March 27	No indication of out of bounds activity*
SEABA	March 28	Indicated of out of bounds activity resolved**
SEABA	April 27	No indication of out of bounds activity*

\* Significant activity on adjacent BLM land

\*\* Speeds indicated on the legend to not correlate with mapped spot speeds. Conference with operator concluded that snow conditions would not allow landing in that area; mapped speed spots indicated flights, not landings.

5. Complaints and Comments

No complaints were filed.

Inquiry was made by Cary Weishan on March 27 requesting the Borough to name “zones” used by the operators on the Borough’s heli-ski map. The Borough does not identify zones nor does it allocated zones. The names of zones are presumed to be generated by operators for their own reference.

Additional information including Skier Day Use Reports may be accessed at <http://www.hainesalaska.gov/administration/2019-heliskiing-information>.

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Haines Borough

**Permitted Commercial Ski Tours - Skier Day Use**

Comparison Report 2007-2019

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	
skier days available	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	2600	1200	**1200	1000	1000	
photo days available	Now included with skier days										140	**260	140	140
<b>AK Heli</b> skier day allocation	1225	1325	1425	1300	1450	1400	**1150	1490	1450	750	650	650	650	
skier days used	49	240	734	941	998	792	1103	1232	1363	659	664	445	281	
photo day allocation	N/A										90	90	100	100
photo days used	N/A										53	117	122	40
<b>SEABA</b> skier day allocation	1000	975	975	900	1000	*1000	1000	870	750	450	350	350	350	
skier days used	331	591	614	633	647	121	868	722	560	615	406	320	222	
photo day allocation	N/A										10	10	20	20
photo days used	N/A										24	11	8	20
<b>AMG</b> skier day allocation	375	300	250	400	150	*200	**350	200	200	New permittee in 2011				
skier days used	161	144	226	32	0	0	0	5	8	New permittee in 2011				
	541	975	1574	1606	1645	913	1971	1959	1931	1351	1198	895	563	

\* On 2/19/14, the borough manager approved a transfer of 50 skier days from AMG to SEABA.

\*\* On 4/19/13, the borough manager approved a transfer of 100 skier days from AMG to AK Heli.

\*\*\* 2009 - Emergency Ordinance 09-04-205 added 200 skier days and 120 photo days to the code-allowed 1,000 and 140. The ordinance did not stipulate specific operator allocations. AK Heli and SEABA both used some of the additional days allowed under the emergency ordinance, so they did not inappropriately exceed their initial allocation.