



# Lynn Canal Conservation, Inc.

P.O. Box 964, Haines, AK 99827

January 23, 2020

**Dear Manager Schnabel, Mayor Hill, Assembly, and Map Committee Members,**

Lynn Canal Conservation's (LCC) map proposal amendment to the existing Haines Borough Approved Heli-ski Map is based on Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data that is currently available to us. This is not a proposal to add or remove specific areas to the approved heli-ski map. Rather it is intended as a first step in what would be a collaborative discussion between LCC, heli-ski operators, ADF&G, BLM, other interested parties, and Haines Borough.

GIS layers from ADF&G showing specific locations of mountain goats and brown bear denning areas are available to Haines Borough but not to the public. Therefore, the ADF&G map we suggest as the basis for the start of a civil discussion depicts current mountain goat modeled winter habitat. Much modeled winter goat habitat, along with important brown bear denning areas, does not appear to receive much or any use by heli-ski operators.

Sharing "proprietary" information regarding the specific areas in which the industry operates would be essential to an effort to fine tune the existing map. Likewise, specific locations of wintering mountain goats and denning brown bears from ADF&G (bearing in mind legal constraints) would also be essential. Such a process is more likely to succeed if specific heli-skiing areas (ski runs, pickup and drop-off

locations) are brought to the table by the industry. Management of specific ski runs rather than broad swaths of land is the norm in many areas where heli-skiing and mountain goats occur in close proximity.

We hope that all affected parties will participate in this effort, beginning with the DEC.30 Map Committee. Our goal is a flexible, adaptive heli-ski map that is protective of wildlife and allows for a thriving heli-ski industry.

Eric Holle, President

Lynn Canal Conservation