

Michelle Webb

Subject: FW: Heliski map committees

From: Stephanie Scott
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 10:37 AM
To: DG_Assembly
Cc: Julie Cozzi
Subject: Fwd: Heliski map committees

Hi there,

I have been trying to piece together the history of the exclusion, inclusion, exclusion of areas 1 and 2 on the heliski map. As far as I can tell, the only map committee that included areas 1 and 2 was the 2013 Map Committee. These areas were then excluded by the Assembly.

The map committees began with the group of residents that worked with the state to create a Special Use Designation (SUD) for permitting heliskiing in the Haines Borough. Areas 1 and 2 were not included in the SUD map.

Then the state pulled out and locals went to work. The first committee was Bruce Bauer, Deb Vogt, and John Katzeek. Areas 1 and 2 were excluded in their first map (August 2005), but when the map was drawn by staff, a bit of Area #1 was included (Sept. 2005) and that map was approved.

Then Rob Goldberg, Sean Gaffney, and Scott Sunberg got together as described in Rob's email below. Areas 1 and 2 were not included and that map was approved.

Then the 2013 Map Committee met and recommended the inclusion of areas 1 and 2, but the Assembly did not concur and that map was approved (excluding areas 1 and 2 and 21).

Stephanie

Stephanie Scott
Mayor, Haines Borough
907-766-2231 ext.30

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rob Goldberg <artstudioalaska@yahoo.com>
Date: March 10, 2014, 10:22:30 AM AKDT
To: Stephanie Scott <sscott@haines.ak.us>, "banjorebop@yahoo.com" <banjorebop@yahoo.com>, Deborah Vogt <d2v@usa.net>, Katya <katyakirsch@hotmail.com>
Cc: Julie Cozzi <jcozzi@haines.ak.us>, "blackdoghp@yahoo.com" <blackdoghp@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: Heliski map committees
Reply-To: Rob Goldberg <artstudioalaska@yahoo.com>

Hi Stephanie,

I was asked by Borough Mayor Jan Hill to lead the map committee a few years ago. The map committee was part of a larger committee that made changes to the hell-ski ordinance. The product of that committee is essentially the ordinance we now have.

The map committee consisted of me, Scott Sundberg of SEABA, Sean Brownell of Alaska Heliskiing and Sean Gaffney of AMG. We met in the conference room at the Borough office. I unrolled the heli-ski boundary map that was in effect at the time. Scott Sundberg laid a map over the top of it and said, "Here's where I'd like to start." His map showed the Haines Townsite as off limits to heli-skiing. Everything else in the Borough was open to heli-skiing. The three of us looked at his map and then at him. Sean Brownell said, "Scott, that map isn't going to be accepted by anyone." He put it away, and the committee got to work.

The main problem with the original map was that in most areas the drawn boundary cut off the ski runs mid-slope. We went over the map in detail and moved lines to allow the runs to proceed to the bottom.

Then we started adding areas. In discussions with Ryan Scott of ADF&G we learned that mountain goats generally stay on the south facing slopes. Skiers like north facing slopes. All the areas we added were on north facing slopes and in areas that didn't affect residents. We added quite a few new areas - beyond the Ferebee along the boundary of the Skagway Borough, in the Takshanuk Range above Klukwan, in the Western Tsirku Valley, in the 4 Winds area, and others. Some of these areas were removed later due to concerns from residents of Klukwan and ADF&G.

Scott Sundberg wanted very much to have the Rainbow Glacier area and Haska Bowl added to the map. Residents had voiced objection to these areas being open to heli-skiing. Sean Gaffney and Sean Brownell said that it would be a small concession to residents to leave these areas off the map. I agreed, and they stayed off. There is one slope in that area that stayed on the map, however. It is a north facing slope behind Rainbow Glacier that curves down toward Pyramid Harbor. The slopes facing the water, and residents, are not open for heli-skiing.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,
Rob

Rob Goldberg and Donna Catotti
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From: Stephanie Scott <sscott@haines.ak.us>
To: "banjorebop@yahoo.com" <banjorebop@yahoo.com>; Rob Goldberg <artstudioalaska@yahoo.com>; Deborah Vogt <d2v@usa.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2014 3:05 PM
Subject: Heliski map committees

I would really like to reconstruct the heliski map committees: dates met, members. I've got the 2013, but what about the one before that that Rob worked with, and the one before that that Deb worked with, and the one before that that worked with the state and was supposed to culminate in an SUD? And was there one before that or inbetween? I have this sense that we need to name names of the oodles of people involved rather than just invoke "lots of people." Can anyone help?

I promise not to ask again! I will put the list in my heliski map file where it will stay until the NEXT committee convenes, perhaps in 2016.

Thanks.

Stephanie Scott
Mayor, Haines Borough
907-766-2231 ext.30