

From: Sherrie [mailto:riversidealaska@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 5:24 PM

To: Stephanie Scott; Debra Schnabel; Dave Berry; Joanne Waterman; Diana Lapham; Jerry Lapp; George Campbell; David Sosa; Leslie Ross

Cc: Julie Cozzi

Subject: Proposed Ordinance 14-08-390

Dear Mayor Scott, Members of the Assembly and Manager Sosa,

I am writing to oppose the passage of Proposed Ordinance 14-08-390.

I urge you to respect the 18 years of diverse input, effort and compromise that went into the creation of the current heli-ski map boundaries.

The current boundaries attempt to some extent to protect peace and quiet in nearby residential areas as well as areas historically used by non-motorized users and important to wildlife and to identify areas appropriate for commercial heli-skiing.

It is a mistake to render the current map meaningless by allowing commercial heli-skiing to occur virtually anywhere in the Haines Borough for almost a month of each season for undefined special ski events.

The Municipal code should be amended to include any special ski competition in the 2600 skier day limit. Any decisions to be made by the Manager regarding out of boundary heli-skiing should be done in consultation with Alaska Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management as is currently required for permanent map changes. Compliance with the current map should be closely monitored.

Thank you.

Sherrie Goll

Sherrie Goll
P.O. Box 261
Haines, AK 99827
Cell 907.314.0961

October 13, 2014

To: Haines Borough Assembly Members, Mayor, and Manager

Re: Ordinance 14-08-390

As you are probably aware, this ordinance proposal has raised some questions about how to implement heli-ski regulations for special ski competition events or commercial ski productions. It is important that these questions be resolved before (or at the same time), especially since this ordinance proposes doubling the number of special ski competitions (from one to two). This may require a third public hearing but when inconsistencies or ambiguities are found in code that would affect the consequences of an ordinance currently before the assembly, they should be addressed concurrently with the proposed ordinance.

I was on the map committee when the skier day limit was increased to 2600 days. Part of the increase was the conversion of photographer days into skier days. If 55.18.080(B) Skier Day Limits, does not include commercial ski productions (formerly called photographer days) it should be amended to include "commercial ski productions." Special Ski Competitions should also be included in Skier Day Limits since any helicopter supported skiing/photography has the same impacts to residents, other skiers, residents, and wildlife. If Special Ski Competitions are over and above the skier day limits, there should be no more than **one** allowed.

Heli-ski management needs to be applied **equally to all entities** engaged in heli-ski activity (skiers and photographers).

55.18.080(F) General Permit Conditions and Regulations, should be required of all heli-ski activity whether providing a competition, photography of heli-skiers, or recreational heli-skiing. The Commerce Committee's recommendation to add "Every Permit holder" to 5.18.080(F) General Permit Conditions and Regulations, would apply these regulations to all heli-ski activity.

The original ordinance (ORDINANCE 05-03-098) establishing heli-ski management clearly defined "heli-skiing operations" and all operations were required to meet basic regulations.

"Heli-skiing operations" means a commercially guided heli-ski tour conducted for the purpose of guiding clients who ski or snowboard, and includes a helicopter operation that is related to the commercial filming of such activity, or to downhill skiing or snowboard competitions. It is a commercial tour and requires a permit.

No heli-ski activity should be allowed outside the permanent map boundaries as these represent careful consideration of the issues by all concerned. If (G) is retained in code, **the minimum** requirements for an application should be spelled out in code. (see below)

G. Temporary Additions to Approved Commercial Ski Tour Areas.

1. A permittee may request the addition of territory to the “Haines Borough Approved Commercial Ski Tour Areas” map for a special ski competition event. All such requests shall be made **before the heli-ski season** and shall expire at the end of that season. Requests shall be submitted to the manager. All requests shall be **in writing on a form designed by the Borough which includes a diagram showing the proposed additional area with reasonable specificity and shall explain the reasons for the proposal.**

Requests should clearly show the area as well as the reasons and should be required by code. Other requirements could also be on the form designed by the borough. Since permits are not available for “a special commercial ski production,” this part of the draft ordinance should be removed.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Carolyn Weishahn

From: Weishahn [mailto:weis@aptalaska.net]

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 2:08 PM

To: Debra Schnabel; Dave Berry; Joanne Waterman; George Campbell; Diana Lapham; Stephanie Scott

Cc: David Sosa; Julie Cozzi; Leslie Ross; Ron Jackson; Thecases; Janhill

Subject: Article: Skier Dies of Injuries Sustained on Freeride World Tour, 3-2-11

(Julie, please put this in the public record. Thank you.)

Hello assembly members and mayor,

As we consider welcoming heli-ski competitions to our community, please be aware that the risk factor for accidents and fatalities that are inherent in heli-skiing are amplified in highly competitive events such as Freeride World Tour. As in any competitive sport, skiers push the envelope to rise above their competitors.

Any heli-ski competition, as well as recreational heli-skiing, should be required to meet all regulations in the borough's management of heli-skiing. While accidents and fatalities cannot be prevented, the borough should exercise all due diligence through the management tools at its disposal.

Please see below for an article about Freeride World Tour fatalities including one in Alaska.

Carolyn Weishahn

~~~~~

<http://www.firsttracksonline.com/2011/03/02/skier-dies-of-injuries-sustained-on-freeride-world-tour/>

### **Skier Dies of Injuries Sustained on Freeride World Tour**

March 2, 2011

**Kirkwood, CA** - Ryan Hawks, a competitor in the North American Freeskiing Championships held this past weekend at Kirkwood ski area in California as part of the Freeride World Tour, has succumbed to the injuries sustained in a crash during the event." The entire resort is devastated by the news," Kirkwood officials said in a statement published on the ski resort's website. "Ryan was an incredible person and an inspiration to many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Ryan."

Hawk was executing a back flip off a cliff in the middle section of The Cirque at Kirkwood Sunday afternoon when the crash occurred, while taking part in the competition. He died Tuesday while in intensive care at Renown Health Center in Reno treating for his injuries. The 25-year-old was a member of the Green Mountain Freeride Team, based in Vermont.

The incident marks the second fatality on the Freeride World Tour following the death of John Nicoletta in a competition held at Alyeska Resort in Girdwood, Alaska, in 2008.

Hawks skied with Sugarbush, Vt.'s Diamond Dogs Freestyle Team for four years during his high school years before earning an engineering degree from the University of Vermont in Burlington.

“We called him ‘Ryan Red’, because there were several Ryans in the program, and he was the one who always wore the red jacket,” remembers Kevin Wry, Diamond Dogs Team founder. “Ryan was the guy who showed up early to take runs before the program started, and skied until the lifts closed. He had an incredible enthusiasm for the sport. He’ll be sorely missed.”

Hawks’s father, Peter Hawks, is an outback guide for Sugarbush. “The Sugarbush community extends its deepest sympathies to the Hawks family,” Candice White of Sugarbush Resort said Wednesday in a prepared statement. “This Saturday’s Castlerock Extreme Bump Competition will be dedicated to Hawks.”