

Historic Dalton Trail Road Maintenance Service Area Commercial Fees

Authority

Haines Borough Code: 7.08.050 D. Commercial Use. The service area board shall develop a fee schedule for commercial users. These funds shall be used for capital improvements and repairs.

Background

Historically commercial users have often created congestion of the river, roads and other areas within the service area (predominantly by the rafting companies). Taxpayers within the service area and through borough expenditures have incurred significant expenses, rerouting the access road to the Tsirku River, culvert replacement and maintaining the landing. Also, brushing is required for safety because of the larger buses traveling the road. Costly work has been done along the Porcupine Road and Kleheni River recently to protect the borough's road and maintaining access for the public and industry. Very few of the commercial users contribute toward these expenses, necessitating implementation of a commercial fee structure.

Rationale

The State of Alaska charges \$3.00 per person for use of the Bald Eagle Preserve. Funds are needed each year to brush, grade, cold patch and provide general maintenance. Commercial businesses often use buses, trailers and multiple trips causing additional wear on roads. The "cost causer" should participate as the "cost-payer" of expenses incurred for maintenance, repairs.

Recommendation

A fee of \$.50 per head shall be collected for all commercial tourism companies for the first 1,000 passengers, then \$.10 per person thereafter. Businesses with tour permits to operate within the service area shall be charged \$50 per year for each commercial (company-owned, licensed) vehicle used within the service area.

In absence of a PILT agreement, mining companies shall be charged \$25 per Haines Borough employee and \$50 for each commercial (company-owned, licensed) vehicle annually.

Forestry-based businesses will be charged a \$1.00 per cord fee and a \$50 per year for each commercial (company-owned, licensed) vehicle used within the service area.

Enforcement

The Haines Borough will issue a vehicle sticker annually for every DMV-licensed vehicle owned, or leased by commercial entities and used to conduct business within the Historic Dalton Trail Road Maintenance Service Area. Commercial vehicles operating within the service area without the borough sticker will be fined \$200.

Payments in Lieu of Commercial Fees

Commercial businesses may perform needed maintenance on borough-owned roads within the service area with the consent of the borough manager. The services provided, along with a statement of value shall be provided to the borough after the maintenance work is completed.