

Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #480
AGENDA

January 9, 2024 -6:30pm

Location: In Assembly Chambers and on ZOOM

Thomas Morphet
Mayor

Natalie Dawson
Assembly Member

Gabe Thomas
Assembly Member

Kevin Forster
Assembly Member

Debra Schnabel
Assembly Member

Ben Aultman-Moore
Assembly Member

Craig Loomis
Assembly Member

Annette Kreitzer
Borough Manager

Alekka Fullerton
Borough Clerk

Kiersten Long
Deputy Clerk

Haines Borough ZOOM information (You must download Zoom first)

Webinar ID: 820 7958 3456

Passcode: 777594

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

[The following Consent Agenda items are indicated by an asterisk () and will be enacted by the motion to approve the agenda. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an assembly member or other person so requests, in which event the asterisk will be removed and that item will be considered by the assembly on the regular agenda.]*

Consent Agenda:

3A - Approve Minutes from 11/28/23 Regular Assembly Meeting

3B - Approve Minutes from 12/12/23 Regular Assembly Meeting

3C - Approve Minutes from 12/22/23 Special Assembly Meeting

11C1 - Confirmation of Norman Hughes to PHAC and Jenty Fowler to LAB

- *3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** -Approve the following minutes:

A. 11/28/23 Regular Assembly Meetings minutes

B. 12/12/23 Regular Assembly Meetings minutes

C. 12/22/23 Special Assembly Meeting.

- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – [For any topics not scheduled for public hearing. Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes unless another yields 3 minutes to the speaker in advance] *Note: during this section of the agenda, the assembly will listen and take notes. No official action will be taken at this time.*

5. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

6. MAYOR’S REPORT AND COMMENTS

- A. Proclamation for Community Builder Award- Four Winds Resource Center**

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Ordinance 23-11-663 – Second Hearing
an Ordinance of the Haines Borough, Providing for the Addition or Amendment of Specific Line Items to the FY24 Budget.**

Proposed Motion: Amend Ordinance 23-11-663 to appropriate \$10,000 to oppose the APT rate increase and then adopt the ordinance.

8. STAFF/FACILITY REPORTS

- A. Borough Manager Report – January 4, 2024**

9. COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS & APPROVED MINUTES –

- A. Property Tax Assessment Ad Hoc Advisory Board- 11/30/23 and 12/11/23 Minutes**
- B. Planning Commission – 11/9/23 Minutes**
- C. Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee – 11/16/23 Minutes**

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions (Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes unless another yields 3 minutes to the speaker in advance)

1. **Resolution 24-01-1082**

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a change order with Agnew::Beck for an additional \$78,130 to complete the Comprehensive Plan Revision.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 24-01-1082

2. **Resolution 24-01-1083**

Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting Efforts to Improve Competitiveness and Resilience of the Alaska Seafood Industry.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 24-01-1083

B. Ordinances for Introduction – None

C. Other New Business

*1. **Boards and Commissions: Confirmation of Mayor’s Reappointment of Norman Hughes to the Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee with a seat termination date of 11/25 and Jenty Fowler to the Library Advisory Board with a seat termination date of 11/26.**

2. **Comprehensive Plan Update** – *Verbal*

3. **Motion for Reconsideration Regarding Borough Attorney RFP**

Assembly Member Loomis has indicated he would like to move to reconsider the motion regarding the Borough Attorney RFP. The motion for reconsideration is timely and allowed since HBC 2.10.170 provides that the motion must be made at the original meeting or the next meeting, must be made by an individual on the prevailing side and must not have passed out of the hands of the Assembly. If the motion for reconsideration is successful, the debate shall resume before the vote was taken, the matter may be amended and debate shall be limited to 25 minutes (with an individual assembly member limited to 5 minutes).

4. **Motion to Refer Development of Anti-Bullying Policy to the Government Affairs and Services Committee**

Assembly Member Loomis would ask the GAS Committee to explore a Borough Anti-Bullying Policy.

5. **Amendment of Heliskiing Flight Rules, GPS Data Collection, Submission, and Compliance Policy.**

The Manager has recommended changes to the existing policy.

6. **Draft Response Letter to Chilkat Indian Village**

Mayor Morphet was asked to draft a response letter to CIV for Assembly approval.

11. NEW BUSINESS

C. Other New Business - *Continued*

7. **Lutak Dock Update/Discussion including Borough Attorney – Possible Executive Session**

The Mayor requests the assembly by motion move into executive session in order to discuss Lutak Dock with the Borough Attorney.

Motion: Move into executive session as allowed by AS 44.62.310(c)(1)(a) to discuss with the borough attorney matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the government unit; the Borough Manager, Borough Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Borough Attorney are invited to attend.

8. **Assembly/Manager Communications – Executive Session**

The Mayor requests the assembly by motion move into executive session in order to discuss (1) Assembly/Manager Communications, (2) Assembly/Manager procedures and 3) Manager workload.

Motion: Move into executive session as allowed by AS 44.62.310(c)(1)(b) to discuss with the borough manager subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; the Borough Manager and Borough Clerk are invited to attend.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

A. **DNR Public Notice - Requesting Input on a Proposed Relinquishment of State Entitlement Lands**

B. **HEDC Report- Haines Homebuilding Report**

13. SET MEETING DATES

A. **Manager Evaluation/Review**

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS/DIRECTION TO OFFICERS

16. ADJOURNMENT

Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #479
November 28, 2023
MINUTES

Draft

3A

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL:** Mayor **MORPHET** called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.

Present: Mayor Thomas **MORPHET**, Assembly Members Gabe **THOMAS**, Debra **SCHNABEL**, Kevin **FORSTER**, Craig **LOOMIS**, Natalie **DAWSON**.

Absent: Ben **AULTMAN-MOORE**

Staff Present: Alekka **FULLERTON**/Clerk, Kiersten **LONG**/Deputy Clerk, Jila **STUART**/Finance Director.

Visitors Present: Tammy **PIPER**, Thom **ELY**, Joe **PARNELL**, Blythe **CARTER**, Paul **ROGERS**, Brenda **JOSEPHSON**, Kim **ROSADO**, Gershon **COHEN**, Don **TURNER** Jr., Glenda **GILBERT**, Kathleen **MENKE** and others.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

Absent objection, item 10A was moved to the end of the agenda.

Motion: **THOMAS** moved to "approve the agenda and the consent agenda" and the motion carried unanimously.

*3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from 11/14/23 Regular Assembly Meeting**

Note: The Minutes were approved by approval of the consent agenda: "Approve minutes from 11/14/23 Regular Assembly Meeting".

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

PIPER: Supports Lutak Dock

ELY: Supporting a Severance Tax

ROSADO: Wants new Assessor, Personnel Committee, Supporting Lutak Dock

TURNER: Waterfront Industrial Zone at Lutak

PARNELL: Derelict Buildings on the Fort

5. **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS:**

SCHNABEL- Assessor contract was not renewed, Severance Tax in Commerce

LOOMIS – Would like written reports from Lobbyist and Attorney's contract

DAWSON – Statement in solidarity with Wrangell

6. **MAYOR'S REPORT and COMMENTS:**

The Mayor discussed the Alaska Municipal League conference next week; 4 - trash cans for winter for public use downtown (unfortunately many are depositing their household garbage in the community garbage cans); working on resuscitating the Alaska Bald Eagle Preserve Council; letter in support of Wrangell; working on strategic planning/retreat; lighting of the Fort; deadline for Boards and Commissions is Thursday; Lutak Dock updates.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. **Rehearing on Appeal of a Planning Commission Decision
Glacier Construction Inc., dba Southeast Road Builders –
Conditional Use Permit #23-87 for Resource Extraction**

The Borough received a request from Appellants to postpone the appeal due to a missing assembly member (when a supermajority is required per charter). Pursuant to HBC 2.10.190(D) the Mayor postponed the rehearing absent objection.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - Continued

B. Ordinance 23-10-660 – Second Hearing

An ordinance of the Haines Borough adopting the restated Port of Haines Terminal Tariff No. 3.

The Mayor opened and closed the public hearing at 6:56 pm since no member of the public has chosen to speak with respect to this ordinance.

MOTION: SCHNABEL moved to "Adopt Ordinance 23-10-660,

Primary Amendment: SCHNABEL moved to amend the Ordinance as requested by the Harbormaster (*Lutak Dock Port Security/Tie up Rates- Regularly scheduled staff time (8-5 Mon – Sun) \$50.00 per hour and Non-regular hours --including Haines Borough observed holidays-- \$100.00 per hour*)," and the amendment motion carried unanimously.

The motion to adopt the ordinance, as amended, carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

C. Ordinance 23-10-661 – Second Hearing

An Ordinance of the Haines Borough amending Haines Borough Code Title 2 to clarify the Assembly Agenda.

The Mayor opened and closed the public hearing at 7:05 pm since no member of the public chose to speak with respect to this ordinance.

MOTION: THOMAS moved to "Adopt Ordinance 23-10-661," and the motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

8. STAFF/FACILITY REPORTS

A. Borough Manager Report – None

B. Finance Director Report – FY24 First Quarter Financial Report

9. COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS & APPROVED MINUTES

A. Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee- 10-5-23 Approved Minutes

B. Tourism Advisory Board - 9-13-23 Approved Minutes

C. Commerce Committee - 10-17-23 Approved Minutes

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Executive Session for Consideration of Community Builder Award Nominations.

Motion: THOMAS moved to "Move into executive session as allowed by AS 44.62.310(c)(2) to discuss the qualifications, reputation and character of nominees," and the motion carried unanimously.

*** After the assembly returned from executive session,*

Motion: SCHNABEL moved to "Award the 2023 Community Builder Award to the Four Winds Resource Center," and the motion carried unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

***1. Resolution 23-11-1075**

A resolution of the Borough Assembly supporting the Haines Borough Coordinated Transportation Plan, 2023 Edition.

Motion: Adopt Resolution 23-11-1075

Note: The Resolution was adopted by approval of the consent agenda: "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1075 supporting the Coordinated Transportation Plan".

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions - *Continued*

***2. Resolution 23-11-1076**

A resolution of the Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Catholic Community Services, CCS, for the Haines Care-A-Van Transportation Services for an amount not-to-exceed \$100,029.00.

Note: The Resolution was adopted by approval of the consent agenda: "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1076 authorizing the Care-a-van grant".

***3. Resolution 23-11-1077**

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Certifying that the Haines Borough Did Suffer Significant Effects During the Program Base Year from Fisheries Business Activities that Occurred within the FMA 17: Northern Southeast Fisheries Management Area.

Note: The Resolution was adopted by approval of the consent agenda: "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1077 authorizing application for the Shared Fisheries Business Tax."

4. Resolution 23-11-1078

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to purchase a 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Department for the amount of \$85,000.

No member of the public chose to speak with respect to this Resolution.

Motion: THOMAS moved to "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1078," and the motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

***5. Resolution 23-11-1079**

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly in Support of Raising the Maximum Available Alaska Department of Transportation Harbor Facility Grant to \$7,500,000 for Eligible Projects on an Annual Basis.

Note: The Resolution was adopted by approval of the consent agenda: "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1077 supporting state funding increase for harbors."

6. Resolution 23-11-1080

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a contract with AP Triton for the Operational Audit- Fire Department Strategic Planning project for an estimated amount of \$41,966.

No member of the public chose to speak with respect to this Resolution.

Motion: SCHNABEL moved to "Adopt Resolution 23-11-1080,"

Primary Amendment: SCHNABEL moved to add a "Condition that the project team identified includes the Public Safety Advisory Board," and the motion carried unanimously.

and the resolution, as amended, carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS - Continued

B. Ordinances for Introduction

- 1. Ordinance 23-11-663
An Ordinance of the Haines Borough, Providing for the Addition or Amendment of Specific Line Items to the FY24 Budget.**

Motion: THOMAS moved to "Introduce Ordinances 23-11-663 and schedule it for its first public hearing 12/12/23 and its second public hearing 1/9/24," and the motion carried 5-1 with **SCHNABEL** in opposition.

C. Other New Business

- 1. Comprehensive Plan Update - Verbal**
- 2. Lutak Dock Replacement Update - Verbal**
- *3. 2024 Assembly Meeting/Agenda Preparation Schedule**

Note: The 2024 Assembly Meeting/Agenda Preparation Schedule was adopted by approval of the consent agenda.

- 4. Boards and Commissions: Confirmation of Property Tax Assessment Ad Hoc Advisory Board.**

Motion: SCHNABEL moved to "confirm the Mayor's appointments to the Property Tax Assessment Ad Hoc Advisory Board" and the motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Amend Previously Adopted Resolution 23-06-1048 Sale of Surplus Vehicles.**

Motion: LOOMIS moved to "Amend previously adopted Resolution 23-06-1048 to allow the Manager to sell the Ambulance to a Non-Profit and to evaluate the other vehicles for retention," and the motion carried unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

13. SET MEETING DATES

A. Commercial Fisheries Board re Letnikof - TBD

14. PUBLIC COMMENT -

TURNER - Letnikof is in bad shape

BEGLEY - Assessor's contract

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS/DIRECTION TO OFFICERS- None

16. ADJOURNMENT at 8:34 pm.

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alekk Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #480
December 12, 2023
MINUTES

Draft

3B

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL:** Mayor **MORPHET** called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.

Present: Mayor Thomas **MORPHET**, Assembly Members Gabe **THOMAS**, Debra **SCHNABEL**, Kevin **FORSTER**, Craig **LOOMIS**, Natalie **DAWSON** and Ben **AULTMAN-MOORE**. At the 12/13/23 meeting, all were present except Ben **AULTMAN-MOORE**.

Staff Present: Annette **KREITZER**/Manager, Alekka **FULLERTON**/Clerk, Kiersten **LONG**/Deputy Clerk, Andrew **CONRAD**/Planner.

Visitors Present: Thom **ELY**, Joe **PARNELL**, Richard **CLEMENT**, Don **TURNER** Jr., George **HOFFMAN**, Eric **HOLLE**, Fred **GRAY**, Gershon **COHEN**, Katie Emma **BEGLEY**, Ashley **SAGE**, Ayana **YOUNG**, TJ Mason, Kathleen **MENKE** and 62 others on zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

Absent objection, item 7A was moved to be heard at item 10 and the Approval of the 11/28/23 Minutes were deferred until the next meeting.

Motion: **THOMAS** moved to “approve the agenda and the consent agenda” and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from 11/28/23 Regular Assembly Meeting**

Removed from the consent agenda and deferred to the next meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

PARNELL: Comments on the state of several buildings

CLEMENT: Experience on Planning Commission over the last year

TURNER: Support for Lutak Dock

HOFFMAN on behalf of Chamber of Commerce: Support for Lutak Dock

HOLLE: Encouraging new design for the Lutak Dock

ELY: Reconsider design of Lutak Dock

GRAY: Support for Lutak Dock

YOUNG: Reconsider Lutak Dock

5. **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS:**

LOOMIS: Fort area is a National Historic Landmark.

FORSTER: Report from AML

6. **MAYOR’S REPORT and COMMENTS:**

The Mayor thanked CIA for allowing the Borough to use the Parade Grounds for the Lighting of the Fort; The Lynn Canal Players for the Snow Dragon in the Parade, and reminded the public about the Holly Jolly Follies this weekend; Reported on the Assessor RFP; reported on his conversation with MARAD; Swimming pool will be open December 27, 28 and 29 and the School Gyms will be open from 10:00 – 2:00 pm the week before; Proposal for an Assembly Retreat sometime January 24 – 31st; proposal to move assembly meetings to 5:30 pm; Meeting to discuss with the Manager about priorities; discussed the Alaska Municipal League conference – learned that Valdez pays \$60,000 to manage State Parks in Valdez; property values are skyrocketing statewide; seek an essential freight subsidy; Request a VPSO in the Upper Valley; Haines can require disclosure of real estate sales; Grant funding is high for rural Alaska; AML has a grant writing service we can hire; Sitka tried to hire Superintendent Roy Getchell and Mr. Getchell rejected the offer; CIV request letter.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. Rehearing on Appeal of a Planning Commission Decision - Glacier Construction Inc., dba Southeast Road Builders – Conditional Use Permit #23-87 for Resource Extraction ** *This matter was heard at item 10.*

B. Ordinance 23-11-663 – First Hearing
An Ordinance of the Haines Borough, Providing for the Addition or Amendment of Specific Line Items to the FY24 Budget.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:23 pm and the following member of the public chose to speak: Katie Emma **BEGLEY**

The public hearing was closed at 7:25pm since no other member of the public chose to speak with respect to this Ordinance.

MOTION: FORSTER moved to “amend the Ordinance to provide \$800 for the Tlingit Language signs from Fund 23,” and the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: SCHNABEL moved to “amend the Ordinance to provide \$78,130 of additional funds for the Comprehensive Plan revision,” and the motion carried unanimously.

8. **STAFF/FACILITY REPORTS**

A. Borough Manager Report – None

9. **COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS & APPROVED MINUTES** - None

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Rehearing on Appeal of a Planning Commission Decision - Glacier Construction Inc., dba Southeast Road Builders – Conditional Use Permit #23-87 for Resource Extraction**

** *This item was moved from item 7A*

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:51 pm.

Presentation by the Appellants: Gershon **COHEN** presenting on behalf of all appellants. Appellant Kathleen **MENKE** also presented her position.

Presentation by the Permittee: TJ **MASON** presented on behalf of Southeast Road Builders.

Assembly Deliberations: The following were areas of concern discussed by the Assembly:

*Two different sites presented with very different attributes—really should have been two separate applications so the criteria could be evaluated with respect to the different sites.

*Concerns about type of rock, types of cuts to enhance safety in this geologically unstable area. Hazard area of over 30% requires additional engineering.

*Safety concerns with respect to the proximity to the AMHS terminal.

*Less clear on the remand justification for Site B.

*Concern for safety during major rain events.

*Lane Closure coordination and coexistence with other existing uses.

*Concerns about the value of the project for any bond or reclamation.

*Concerns that the engineering and additional information should have been provided prior to the permit issuance rather than after approval.

*This is appropriately a planning decision and the planning commission is best situated to rehear and make this decision.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- Rehearing on Appeal of a Planning Commission Decision - Glacier Construction Inc., dba Southeast Road Builders – Conditional Use Permit #23-87 for Resource Extraction - Continued

Public Comments: TURNER, ELY, WILLARD, KERMOIAN, COHEN, MASON

MOTION: SCHNABEL moved to remand the permit to the Planning Commission with the requirement that Southeast Road Builders resubmit the permit application with different permits for Site A and Site B,” and the motion carried 5-1 with **THOMAS** in opposition.

Direction to the Planning Commission: With the remand to the Planning Commission, as the subject matter experts with respect to approval criteria for conditional use permits, the Planning Commission is empowered to resolve the matter in any way it could resolve the original permit applications. Both the appellants and the permittee may provide additional information and need not be limited by the existing information. The Planning Commission may approve the permit, deny the permit, or grant the permit with modifications, including granting the permit for one site and denying it as to the other. If the Planning Commission’s decision is an outright denial of all permit rights, it constitutes vacation of the existing permit. If the commission grants *any* permit rights, that is best accomplished as a modification of the existing permit. Site A should be referred to as Conditional Use Permit 23-87A and Site B should be referred to as Conditional Use Permit 23-87B.

*** Per HBC 2.10.010 this meeting was recessed at 10:00 pm and will be continued at 6:30 pm tomorrow (Wednesday, December 13, 2023 to finish the agenda.

****The December 12, 2023 meeting recommenced at 6:30 pm. All Assembly members were present except Assembly Member Ben AULTMAN-MOORE.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

- 1. Resolution 23-12-1081
Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a purchase order for a Caterpillar Snow Bucket for an amount not to exceed \$42,755.**

No member of the public chose to speak with respect to this Resolution.

Motion: THOMAS moved to “Adopt Resolution 23-12-1081,” and the motion carried 4-1 with **LOOMIS** in opposition in a roll call vote.

B. Ordinances for Introduction – None

C. Other New Business

- 1. Comprehensive Plan Update – Verbal**
- 2. Lutak Dock Replacement Update – Verbal**
- 3. Boards and Commissions: Confirmation of Mayor’s Appointments to Boards and Commissions.**

Motion: FORESTER moved to “Confirm the Mayor’s appointments to Boards and Commissions including Darsie Culbeck for Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Dennis Geason and Dave Nussbaumer to the Letnikof RMSA,” and the motion carried unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

C. Other New Business - Continued

4. Heliski Report Recommendations

5. Assembly member Craig Loomis Requests:

a. Borough Attorney Contract Review

Motion: LOOMIS moved to "End the Borough Attorney's Contract effective 12/31/23," Adopt Resolution 23-12-1081," and the motion carried 4-1 with **LOOMIS** in opposition in a roll call vote.

Motion: DAWSON moved to "Direct the Manager to create an RFP for Future Legal Counsel,"

Primary Amendment: SCHNABEL moved to amend the motion for the distribution of the RFP by 5/1/24," and the motion carried 4-1 with **THOMAS** in opposition.

And the main motion carried 4-1 with **THOMAS** in opposition.

b. Borough Lobbyist Contract Review

i. Ted Popley

ii. Windward Strategies- Jay Sternes

Motion: LOOMIS moved to "Not renew the lobbyist contract until we get a report on what they are doing,"

Primary Amendment: LOOMIS moved to add "as of 12/31/23," and the motion FAILED 3-2 with **DAWSON** and **LOOMIS** in favor.

And the motion FAILED 3-2 with **DAWSON** and **LOOMIS** in favor.

Motion: FORSTER moved to "refer to GASC to discuss lobbyists," and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Assembly member Natalie Dawson Requests:

Motion: DAWSON moved to "Suspend the rules to hear 6C before 6A," and the motion carried unanimously.

THOMAS requested any assembly members disclose any potential conflicts of interest- **FORSTER** disclosed that his Wife works for CIV; **DAWSON** disclosed that she works with CIV as a partner.

a. FEMA and Porcupine Road.

b. Update from Manager on current activities from lobbyists.

c. Lutak Dock.

**** This matter was taken up first.

d. Constantine North Update.

e. Glacier Creek Bridge and Baby Brown Timber Sales

f. Update on current Grant Applications.

g. Update from the manager on the MOU with Four Winds Resource Center

7. HEDC Presentation

11. NEW BUSINESS

C. Other New Business - Continued

8. AP&T Proposed Rate Increase - Executive Session

The manager requests the assembly by motion move into executive session in order to discuss AP&T proposed rate increase and Borough Attorney's advice thereon.

Motion: SCHNABEL moved to "Move into executive session as allowed by AS 44.62.310(d)(1)(a) and (c) to discuss with the borough manager matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the governmental unit; the Borough Manager, Borough Clerk and Finance Director are invited to attend.

Motion: DAWSON moved to "Suspend the rules to hear Item 14 Public Comment to after item 11 before moving into executive session," and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion: SCHNABEL moved to "allocate \$10,000 to oppose the APT rate increase," and the motion carried unanimously.

12. CORRESPONDENCE - None

13. SET MEETING DATES - None

14. PUBLIC COMMENT: TURNER: Mayor should not be contacting MARAD himself; new agenda items are cumbersome; supporting Lutak Dock

GRAY: On PHAC – worried about public safety- supporting Lutak Dock

HOFFMAN: Supporting the Lutak Dock project; APT rate increase – please push back on it

ELY: Meetings are too long; Heliski recommendations

MYREN: Lutak Dock caution

LAPHAM: Supporting Lutak Dock

PLACHTA: Stop Lutak Dock

SZYKOWSKI: Stop Lutak Dock

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS/DIRECTION TO OFFICERS

SCHNABEL: Clarification of CUP

FORSTER: Wondering if we have heard from FEMA re Porcupine

16. ADJOURNMENT at 10:00 pm.

ATTEST:

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Aleka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

Haines Borough
Borough Assembly SPECIAL Meeting
December 22, 2023
MINUTES

Draft

1. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL:** Mayor **MORPHET** called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm in the Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Tom **MORPHET**, Assembly Members Ben **AULTMAN-MOORE**, Kevin **FORSTER**, Natalie **DAWSON**, Craig **LOOMIS**, Debra **SCHNABEL**, and Gabe **THOMAS**.

Staff Present: Annette **KREITZER**/Borough Manager, Kiersten **LONG**/Deputy Clerk, ED **COFFLAND**/Public Facilities Director, Shawn **BELL**/Harbormaster.

Visitors Present: Don **TURNER**, Bill **THOMAS**, Glenda **GILBERT**, Chris **THORGESEN**, Ashley **SAGE**, Michael **GANEY**, Cheryl **STICKLER**, Jake **ECKHARDT**, Fred **GRAY**, Tim **WARD**, Amy **THORGESEN**, Kathy **PARDEE-JONES**, Diana **LAPHAM**, Jennifer **CANFIELD**, Donald **PORTER**, Jason **DAVIS**, Robynne **THAXTON**, Cynthia **JONES**, James **SZYMANSKI**, Richard **CLEMENT**, Lee **ROBINSON**, John **FLORESKE**, Nicolas **SZATKOWSKI**, Gina **St. CLAIRE**, Bill **BROSTE**, Jessica **PLACHTA**, Stacie **EVANS**, Michael **BALISE**, Russ **WHITE**, Marvin **WILLARD**, Russ **LYNMAN**, Kimberly **STRONG**, Jerry **LAPP**, DAN **FITZPATRICK**, Laurie **DADOURIAN** and 87 others on zoom.

3. **APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Motion: **SCHNABEL** "remove item 4 public comment from the agenda" and the motion carried 5-1 with **THOMAS** opposed

Primary Amendment: **THOMAS** moved to "end the meeting at 5:30 and no action may be taken at this meeting" and the amendment FAILED 3-4 with **THOMAS**, **SCHNABEL**, **AULTMAN-MOORE** in favor; **LOOMIS**, **DAWSON**, **FORESTER** in opposition and with Mayor **MORPHET** breaking the tie in the negative.

Motion: **SCHNABEL** moved to "approve the Special Meeting agenda as amended" and the motion carried 5-1 with **THOMAS** opposed.

**Clerk's Note: item 4 public comments was removed from the agenda*

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Lutak Dock**

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

TURNER – Supports existing project

GRAY – Supports existing project

LAPHAM – Supports existing project

STICKLER – Supports existing project

BROSTE – Supports existing project

B. THOMAS – Supports existing project

CARLSON – Supports existing project

JONES – Supports existing project

CLEMENT – Supports existing project

O'RILEY – Thanks for showing up

ROSADO – Supports existing project

PLACHTA – Opposes existing project

EVANS – Opposes existing project

LAPP – Supports existing project/supporting Porcupine Road
WHITE– Asked a clarifying question
SZATKOWSKI – Opposes existing project/opposed to Porcupine Road
BALISE – Move forward with the dock project with options for voters
WILLARD – Asked the mayor some clarifying question
MENKE – Opposes existing project
ROBINSON – Supports existing project
STRONG – Thank you to the previous Assembly and the new Assembly
LYNMAN – Opposes existing project
COFFLAND – Dock will function with no maintenance 50 yrs/minimal maint 100 yrs+
FITZPATRICK – Opposition to dock is opposition to mine
DADOURIAN – Opposes existing project/wants resource extraction tax
ST. CLAIRE – Needs to be another meeting

7. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS: LOOMIS, AULTMAN-MOORE

8. ADJOURNMENT at 6:23 pm

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

Office of the Mayor
Haines Borough, Alaska

Proclamation

Honoring the Four Winds Resource Center for the 2023 Community Builder



WHEREAS, on September 26, 2023 the Haines Borough through Resolution No. 23-09-1060 established the Community Builder Award, a program that honors the value of community and recognizes the unique and positive efforts or contributions of community members to build upon the quality of life for Haines Borough residents, and

WHEREAS, Four Winds Resource Center at Mosquito Lake School was duly nominated to receive this first annual award, and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Assembly considered the unique and positive efforts and contributions the Four Winds Resource Center at Mosquito Lake School makes to enrich the lives of Haines Borough residents through visioning and generating a diverse array of programs that encourage people to work and play and learn and recreate together as a community, including

- Reimagining a surplus school building as a community multi-purpose space to support
 - weekly yoga classes, children’s play groups and seasonal art camps, and
 - monthly game nights and seasonal dances,
 - celebration of the arts and artists through an annual gallery event;
- Committing to a program of food security by
 - planting and maintaining 6000 sq. ft. of community garden,
 - distributing produce directly to food-insecure residents and service organizations,
 - hosting an annual conference for exploration of local solutions to food insecurity; and
- Encouraging independence and self-reliance through a community tool-sharing program, and

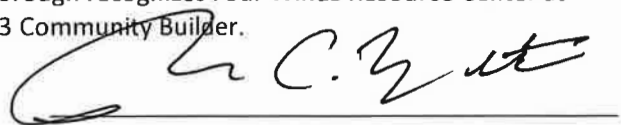
WHEREAS, Four Winds Resource Center at Mosquito Lake School is exemplary in emulating community building through engagement or partnerships with Rural Cap, Chilkat Valley Community Foundation, the Salvation Army, Ecotrust, Lynn Canal Conservation and the Haines Senior Center and Haines Borough, and

WHEREAS Four Winds Resource Center at Mosquito Lake School, in the words of its nominator “nurtures a sense of belonging and foster responsibility to take charge of creating a community space for all” solely with volunteer support,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haines Borough recognizes Four Winds Resource Center at Mosquito Lake School as the recipient of the title 2023 Community Builder.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, MMC Borough Clerk


Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor



7A

**Haines Borough
Assembly Agenda Bill**

Agenda Bill No.: 23-1310
Assembly Meeting Date: 1/9/24

Business Item Description:	Attachments:
Subject: FY24 Budget Amendment	1. Ordinance 23-11-663 2. CFO Memo
Originator: Borough Manager	
Originating Department: Administration	
Date Submitted: 9/21/23	

Full Title/Motion:
Motion: Amend Ordinance 23-11-663 to provide \$10,000 to oppose the APT rate increase, then adopt the Ordinance.

Administrative Recommendation:
This resolution is recommended by the Borough Manager.

Fiscal Impact:

Expenditure Required	Amount Budgeted	Appropriation Required	Projected Impact to Future Operating Budgets
\$ As attached	\$	\$ As attached	N/A

Comprehensive Plan Consistency Review:
Comp Plan Goals/Objectives: _____
Consistent: Yes No

Summary Statement:
Proposed FY 24 Budget Amendment attached.

Referral:
Referred to: _____ Referral Date: _____
Recommendation: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Assembly Action:
Meeting Date(s): 1/9/24
Public Hearing Date(s): 12/12/23 and 1/9/24
Postponed to Date: _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE HAINES BOROUGH, PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OR AMENDMENT OF SPECIFIC LINE ITEMS TO THE FY24 BUDGET.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Section 3. Appropriation. This appropriation is hereby authorized as part of the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Section 4. Purpose. To provide for the addition or amendment of specific line items to the FY24 budget as follows:

(1) To appropriate \$36,500 from the Harbor Enterprise fund to replace the water line at the small boat harbor.

		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
92-50-00-7392	Project Expense – Harbor Water line	\$0	\$36,500	(\$36,500)

(2) To appropriate an additional \$25,000 of Capital Improvement Project sales tax funds for purchase and delivery of a new police patrol vehicle. \$60,000 was already appropriated in the adopted FY24 budget. This amendment would make a total appropriation of \$85,000 which would include all costs including the vehicle, equipment, graphics, and delivery to Haines.

		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
50-01-00-7392	Project Expenditures	\$60,000	\$85,000	(\$25,000)

(3) To appropriate \$5,000 of Economic Development & Tourism Promotion sales tax funds for expenses which went to support the annual Bald Eagle Festival in 2023.

		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
23-02-00-7392	Events & projects	\$10,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)

(4) To appropriate \$800 of Economic Development & Tourism Promotion sales tax funds to purchase bilingual Tlingit-English street sign for the Chilkoot Subdivision.

		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
23-03-00-7230	Material & Equipment	\$0	\$800	(\$800)

Haines Borough
Ordinance No. 23-11-663
Page 2 of 2

(5) To appropriate an additional \$78,130 of Economic Development & Tourism Promotion sales tax funds to fund additional work on the Comprehensive Plan. The original contract amount was \$99,621 and there is currently \$80,000 in the FY24 budget for this purpose.				
		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
23-03-00-7312	Professional Services	\$0	\$78,130	(\$78,130)

* A positive amount in this column is favorable. A negative amount is unfavorable.

ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY THIS 9th DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

ATTEST:

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Aleka Fullerton, Borough Clerk

Date Introduced: 11/28/23
Date of First Public Hearing: 12/12/23
Date of Second Public Hearing: 01/09/24

Memo

Date: January 4, 2024
To: Mayor, Assembly
Cc: Annette Kreitzer, Borough Manager
From: Jila Stuart, Chief Fiscal Officer
RE: Proposed Amendment to ORD#23-11-663 FY24 Budget



The Manager is recommending the following amendment to the FY24 Budget Amendment Ordinance #23-11-663 currently before the Assembly:

To appropriate \$10,000 for an Assembly Appropriation pursuant to a December 12, 2023 Assembly action to "allocate \$10,000 to oppose the APR rate increase".				
		Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Fund Balance Increase / (Decrease)*
01-01-11-7710	Appropriations from Assembly	\$76,000	\$86,000	(\$10,000)

MANAGER'S REPORT

January 15 – Martin Luther King Day

DATE: January 4, 2024
TO: Mayor and Borough Assembly
FROM: Annette Kreitzer, Borough Manager

Assembly Follow-up:

1) Work with the Friends of Mosquito Lake School & Community Center/Four Winds Resource Center to produce a new MOU for administration of the Borough facility known as the Mosquito Lake School. – *We currently have an MOU with the FOMLSCS/FWRC, however we are still negotiating over funds raised and costs to the Borough vs other Borough facilities. Requested comparison information on all borough facilities and reviewing that in light of the MOU. Reviewed the draft, crafting a counter proposal.*

Administration

HIRING:

- We are evaluating:
 - Police Chief position – Scheduling meetings with PSAB and Friends of Police
 - IT support for the Library and potentially some position restructuring
 - Fire Chief position – We anticipate AP Triton to begin the Operational Audit-Fire Department Strategic Planning project this month. Following advice from Fire Chiefs and Administrators of other departments which have been either all volunteer or a mix of volunteer/paid staff, I initiated a request for proposals to assess the fire department's current practices and culture and to provide a road map for the next five years. This will assist the Fire Chief, Manager and Assembly in strengthening the department.

GRANT UPDATES:

SS4A – Safe Streets for All: The Haines Borough and Chilkoot Indian Association entered into an MOU in July 2023 to leverage our expertise and resources to make Haines Borough roads safer by applying for a grant to complete a joint Safety Action Plan. The Assembly adopted Resolution 23-06-1046 in support of the effort. We received word in mid-December that our proposal was selected for an award of \$ 198,768.00 in Federal funding to develop an Action Plan.

We are compiling a comprehensive list of grants undertaken by all Borough departments. In addition to our Contracts & Grants Administrator, we have Master Contracts with three grant writing firms based on their areas of expertise:

- HDR – used for BRIC (property buy-out Beach Road/2020 disaster)
- proHNS LLC – Transportation, water/sewer, utilities, Denali Commission
- R&M Consultants – Port Security and Harbors

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

- January 12 is the deadline for providing comments on the Interactive Comment Map at this link: <https://hainescompplanrevision.com/>
- A revised project schedule should be available soon, which builds on work already accomplished. Watch for it on the link given above, and I'll announce it as well.

OTHER ISSUES:

- Regulatory Commission of Alaska – The Borough, after consulting with Skagway's attorney and our own, will be supporting Skagway's opposition to the rate increase proposed by Alaska Power Co., for AP&T (Assembly appropriated \$10,000). Following a conference call with Skagway on December 18, and a further conversation with Mayor Morphet, and our Borough Attorney (who also participated in that call) I recommend that we enter into a Participation Agreement with Skagway that would make the Manager and Mayor available for consulting with Skagway and its attorney.

Lands/Assessment/Permitting

- We are about 2-3 weeks behind on updating new construction/% completes. We had extensive iPad issues and illness which put staff behind. The iPad issues have been resolved. Updates from the Border to about Piedad/Sawmill have been accomplished. In the next two weeks Townsite properties with new or partial construction will be updated.
- Once all of the data is collected, it will be entered into MARS and the residential estimator program – Marshall & Swift.
- In the six-year assessment cycle, the Chilkat lake area is on schedule for inspections.
- In the last few years, we have worked to institutionalize agreements with property owners, e.g., snow storage agreements. The FEMA citywide culvert project resulting from the 2020 storm damage requires agreements with property owners to place culverts on private property. Planner Andrew Conrad will be contacting the six affected property owners to discuss the need and placement of the culverts.
- Brownfields grant application for Borough property at 34-mile. This is property where contaminated soil was stored in 2000, and it's unclear who provided the authorization. The cost to the Borough is staff time and potentially a cover for the soil. Planner Conrad has put together the following schedule:

- 1/11/24 Public Hearing, Planning Commission (PC)
- Brownfields Application requires a designated re-use of the site and documented community support. Will be requesting comments from the community for “uninhibited recreation, e.g. dog walking, snow machining, xc-skiing, and similar activities” typically performed at this site.
- 2/15/24 Application Deadline– ADEC has committed support
- Coordinate BMP Control Measures – ADEC indicated a cover may be required.
- If accepted, State will complete:
 - Analysis of Brownfield Cleanup Alternatives – 30d review period, PC Public Hearing, Alternatives Selection
 - Cleanup & Disposal
- Change in Planner Conrad’s schedule to office days being Monday and Thursday. The Borough is a family-friendly employer and we accommodate employee needs due to child care or other family support issues, while accomplishing our missions.
- Haines Friends of Recycling’s proposal for a new recycling location has changed its request for Borough property away from the Public Safety Building lots to a lot closer to Community Waste Solutions.

Tourism

- Many residents have likely noticed the number of cruise ships that call on Haines and tender visitors in smaller vessels to the lightering dock. The Port Chilkoot dock is at least two feet taller than other docks used by cruise ships in Southeast Alaska. We are contracting for a conceptual design for a floating dock facility that will allow more flexibility for the cruise ships to offload passengers. For a pleasant visitor and resident experience, the facilities, restaurants, tour operations, and general infrastructure of Haines will accommodate generally the smaller cruise ships. The conceptual design will be presented to the Tourism Advisory Board, the Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission before going to the Assembly.
- We’re expecting to have statistics on 2023 visitor numbers soon, Tourism Director Rebecca (Reba) Hylton is looking forward to sharing the report.

Public Facilities/Public Works/Grants Administration

- Porcupine Road work and FEMA: Mayor Morphet, Ed Coffland and I met with our State DMVA-DHS&EM partners January 2, along with proHNS to discuss the parameters of an appeal to FEMA’s deobligation of funding for Phase I of disaster repairs to Porcupine Trail. The Borough has 60 days to respond to the Determination Memo once it is posted in FEMA’s official portal online. We walked through the process, merits and basis of an appeal, and will provide an outline to the Assembly in time for its January 23 meeting as long as all documents are made available to us by FEMA in time to meet that deadline. The purpose of the outline and accompanying documents will be for the Assembly to determine if it wishes to pursue an appeal.
- Projects that Public Works Director Ed Coffland reports are going out for bid shortly include:
 - 1) The Harbor (used) oil shed

- 2) Jenaë's Playground
- 3) Lily Lake Water Treatment Plant
- 4) Administration/Library and Piedad generators – at conceptual/35% design to Planning Commission
- 5) Water system model getting into ARCGIS
- 6) School Roof Phases 2 and 3
- 7) FEMA 2020 Disaster Projects
 - a. Dalton St.
 - b. Citywide Culverts
 - c. Second Ave.
 - d. Cathedral View

Ports & Harbors

- Lutak Dock – Project Team met January 3 to review answers to questions MARAD has proposed regarding Turnagain Marine's November 17, 2023 letter about steel commitments.



Haines Borough Flood Repairs: January 2024 Engineering Update

FEMA Project	Site Notes	Project Status
Chilkoot Loop Retaining Wall Project No. 437599	Scope of work included complete replacement of block wall.	Project completed and closed.
Young Road Project No. 435785	Project includes repairs to gravel and asphalt pavement surfacing along Young Road, as well as replacement of culverts, portions of sidewalk, and mitigation work to prevent future damages.	Project completed and closed.
Totem Street Project No. 437600	Project includes repair/replacement of asphalt pavement and roadway structural section on Totem Street from Fort Seward DR to Beach RD.	Project completed and closed.
Porcupine Trail Road Phase I Project No. 435787	Phase 1 scope of repairs includes resurfacing of ~5 miles of the 7 mile stretch of Porcupine Trail Road, from the end of the asphalt to the Porcupine Creek Bridge, with E-1. Work includes ditch restoration.	Project completed and closed. HB to provide response to State for FEMA determination memo regarding deobligation.
Soap Suds Alley Project No. 437575	Project includes repair of street structural sections, asphalt pavement, curbing, and culverts on Soap Suds Alley and Tower Road. Includes local improvements funding (Haines Borough) for water system/service repairs & replacement.	Awarded to Southeast Road Builders for \$1,528,937.50. SOW Change Request for additional funding to total of \$1,382,816.13 was approved. Remainder is considered local improvements and not funded by FEMA. Construction began 8/14/23. Final punch list issued. Seeding and project closeout to occur spring 2024.
Beach Road Project No. 184410	Project includes new culverts, ditching, minor repairs, and paving of Beach Road from bottom of hill at end of DOT ROW to furthest of slide limits.	Awarded to Southeast Road Builders for \$1,193,305.00. Construction began 7/18/23. Final punch list issued. Seeding and project closeout to occur spring 2024.
Haines Borough Citywide Culverts and Minor Road Repairs Project No. 437603	Project includes replacement/repair of; 3 fish culverts on Chestnut Drive, 1 fish culvert on East Fair Drive, Moose Lane Culvert, Anway Culvert, Mink Way Culvert, N. 1 st Ave. Culvert, Highland Drive Culvert, Oslund Drive Culvert, Piedad WTP Access Road, Sunshine Road, and. E. Fair Drive Rd.	95% plans approved at 4/13/23 PC Meeting. Received Alaska F&G Habitat Permits for Fish Culverts. Combing plans for multiple sites into single project. SOW change request may be required based on actual bid prices. Target 2024 bidding & 2024 construction. Waiting on easement documentation and State Review process.
Dalton Street Project No. 437601	Project includes repair/replacement of asphalt pavement, roadway structural section, and surface damages on Dalton Street from 2 nd Ave. to Front St.	95% plans approved at 1/12/23 PC Meeting. FEMA approved SOW change request. Target 2024 bidding & 2024 construction. Waiting on State Review process.
Second Avenue Project No. 435786	Project includes repair/replacement of asphalt pavement, roadway structural section, and surface damages on 2 nd Ave. from Mud Bay Rd. to Main St.	95% plans approved at 4/13/23 PC Meeting. FEMA approved SOC change request. Target 2024 bidding & 2024 construction.
Cathedral View Drive Project No. 437570	Project includes repair of gravel surfacing and repair/replacement of culverts on Cathedral View Drive and Hooter Lane.	95% plans approved at 4/13/23 PC Meeting. SOW Change Requested, sent to State 3/10/23. Awaiting FEMA approval. Target 2024 bidding & 2024 construction.



Haines Borough Flood Repairs: January 2024 Engineering Update (continued)

FEMA Project	Site Notes	Project Status
<p>Porcupine Trail Road Phase II Project No. 435787</p>	<p>Phase II encompasses ~600-foot-long washout of road near Mile 3. Full scope of repairs and cost for Porcupine Trail Road Phase 2 TBD. FEMA/State have not yet obligated full A&E and construction services funding for this phase.</p>	<p>Repair alternatives analysis and concept design report presented to PC on 12/08/22. Amended report issued 12/20/22 to HB, recommending Alt. 2 Floodplain Bypass Road. HB to provide response to State for FEMA determination memo regarding deobligation.</p>
<p>Porcupine Trail Road Phase III Project No. 435787</p>	<p>Phase 3, near Mile 6, includes 6 sites where the roadway shoulder/embankment has sloughed into the river below due to erosion. Full scope of repairs and cost for Porcupine Trail Road Phase 3 TBD. FEMA/State have not yet obligated full A&E and construction services funding for this phase.</p>	<p>Submitted letter to State/FEMA for approval of budget for design and construction of permanent repairs and hazard mitigation strategies. HB to provide response to State for FEMA determination memo regarding deobligation.</p>
<p>Lily Lake Road Project No. 437579</p>	<p>Project includes stabilization of roadway shoulder geotechnical failure at 1 location (2nd site with similar damages to be added via SOW Change Request).</p>	<p>Design not started, lowest priority project. FEMA approved SOW change request. Target 2024 bidding & 2025 construction.</p>

Property Tax Assessments Ad Hoc Advisory Board
November 30, 2023 5:30 pm

Members: Glenda Gilbert, Stacey Prior, Dan Humphrey, Paul Rogers, Kevin Forster

Others present: Mayor Tom Morphet, Assembly Member Debra Schnabel, CFO Jila Stuart, Clerk Alekka Fullerton, Kim Rosado, Lori Smith, Brenda Josephson, Blythe Carter

On zoom: Don Turner Jr., Donna Lambert, Emma Begley, Roy Josephson, Sheri Loomis

Introductory comments by the Mayor.

Paul Rogers was unanimously appointed as the Chair; Glenda Gilbert will be the vice chair.

The meeting was a free-form brainstorming session discussing ideas and priorities for the committee.

Some questions/ideas raised were:

1. How many houses have not been reassessed in the last 10 years?
2. Parcel Viewer- can it show the date of the most recent assessment (or inspection date)?
3. Assessment notice date- March 1? Code does not specify a date but provides that it must be done prior to 30 days before the BOE hearing (HBC 3.72.080).
4. Make up of BOE. Code currently provides that the BOE shall be the assembly unless the Assembly appoints another board by April 1. Discussion was had regarding the advisability of having a non-political BOE. What would that look like? Would there be specific trades/occupations solicited? How many BOE members? Would there be a rotating pool?
5. Assessment Notice: Content. Can the assessment notices provide more information specific to the property? Is this possible in MARS? Can there be a QR code with the foundational information regarding the latest assessment. The goal is to provide the property owner with the specific information to support the assessment so that the property owner will have more information, earlier, to aid them in the decision to appeal (or not). There was also discussion about including a statement of why we are collecting the taxes. Scott will try to obtain Assessment Notices from other jurisdictions.
6. Assessment Notice: Printing/Mailing. Assessment notices must be mailed by USPS. Discussion revolved around how they were printed and where they were mailed from. Some ideas were printing in house (costly); mailing from Haines (while printed elsewhere); remaining with the current contractor; seeking quotes from a printer in Juneau.

Next Meetings: 12/11/23 at 5:30 pm
 12/13/23 at 5:30 pm
 1/3/24 at 5:30 pm

Property Tax Assessments Ad Hoc Advisory Board
December 11, 2023 5:30 pm

Members: Glenda Gilbert, Stacey Prior, Dan Humphrey, Paul Rogers, Kevin Forster

Others present: Mayor Tom Morphet, CFO Jila Stuart, Deputy Clerk Kiersten Long, Kim Rosado, Blythe Carter, Katey Emma Begly, and Scott Hansen

On zoom: Brenda Josephson, Assembly Member Debra Schnabel, Donna Lambert, Diane La Course.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

*November 30, 2023 Minutes

Motion: Forster moved to “approve the agenda and the consent agenda” and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

Mayor Morphet – The assessment issue is big in other communities. The State Assessor spoke at AML about how we can opt to be a disclosure city rather than a non-disclosure city.

Hansen – Please come talk to Borough staff about the assessment process.

Carter – In the proposed code for Structures Exempt from property tax, change the word from existence to private industry or cottage use.

Rosado – Fix problems

Begly - 4B composition of the BOE suggestion of desire of many members of the public don't want elected officials it should be appointed members instead of unelected.

4. Old Business

a. Review Mayor Morphet's Recommendations

b. Board of Equalization Membership

c. Initial Notice to Property Owners

1) Detail

a) Post Card vs Detailed Information

b) Possible link to Borough Data for Appellant

2) Mail from Haines vs Out-of-State

3) Deadline for Mailings

d. Exchange of Information between Assessor & Appellant

1) Minimum Timeframe

Old Business – Continued

Motion: Gilbert moved to “recommend HBC 3.72.XXX Exchange of Information to the Assembly for approval” and the motion carried unanimously.

**Clerk’s note: The advisory board didn’t address items 4e, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, and 5e due to time constraints.*

- e. Status of Short-term Assessor Contract.
- 5. New Business (Time permitting)
 - a. Assessor Selection Process
 - b. Review 2023 Assessments – Open all/or some appeals, rescind & start over
 - c. Assessor Licensing and/or Certification
 - d. Assessment Priority
 - e. Full and true value
- 6. Public Comment:
 - Rosado** – Process shouldn’t be changed midstream, file should be updated, agrees with the 10 days.
 - Begly** – Notices should be post marked in Haines, loved the AI idea.
 - Carter** – Procedures shouldn’t be changed, but if some are the changes should be mailed to the appellants. 10 days is good.
 - Josephson** – Supports the 10 day notice, transparency is super important.
 - Hansen** – All property folders are public knowledge
- 7. Committee Member Comments:
 - Forster**
- 8. Set Meeting Dates

Adjourned 8:09 pm

Haines Borough
Planning Commission Meeting
November 9, 2023
MINUTES

9B

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL: Mayor **Morphet** called the meeting to order at 7:56 pm in the assembly chambers and on zoom, and led the pledge to the flag.

Present: Brian **O'Riley**, Dan **Schultz**, Derek **Poinsette**, Eben **Sargent**, Erika **Merklin**, Rachel **Saitzyk**, Patty **Brown**

Staff Present: Annette **KREITZER**/Borough Manager, Kiersten **LONG**/Deputy Clerk, Alekka **Fullerton**/Clerk, and Mayor **Morphet**.

Visitors Present: Travis **Eckhoff**, Joe **Parnell**, Shelly **Wade**/Agnew::Beck, Margaret **Friedenaur**/Agnew::Beck, Greg **Lockwood**/DOT&PF

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA: The following Items were on the published consent agenda indicated by an asterisk (*)

3 – Approve Minutes from 3-28-23 Regular Planning Commission Meeting

Motion: **Brown** moved to “pull the minutes from the consent agenda” and the motion carried 6-1 with **Sargent** in opposition.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: **Brown** moved to correct the 10/12/23 minutes to add her concern about the Storm Water Permit to her comments regarding the CUP for Resource Extraction, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eckhoff – following up on a written comment submitted

Parnell – Nuisance buildings in Haines

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT: None

6. ASSEMBLY LIAISON REPORT: None

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

8. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Brown – Land and Waters acknowledgement at the beginning of every meeting

Saitzyk – wants to explore Eckhoff’s proposal of an Ad hoc committee

9. STAFF REPORT:

Shelly with **Agnew::Beck** gave a verbal presentation on the comprehensive plan

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of Planning Commission Chair

Motion: Poinsette moved to "elect **Patty Brown** Planning Commission Chair" and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Brown moved to "elect Derek **Poinsette** as Deputy Chair" and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Haines Highway Reconstruction Milepost 20 to 25 95% Designs

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Poinsette – Supports Eckhoff's proposal

Motion: Sargent "schedule a work shop to discuss how the Haines Borough deals with slope stability analysis."

Amendment: Poinsette moved to "add this topic to the next planning commission meeting" and the amendment carried unanimously

And the motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

Brown – Thank you Mayor

Sargent – Level of the Planning Commission on reviewing state projects

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Assembly New Public Policy

16. SET MEETING DATE: December 14, 2023 at 6:30 in the Assembly Chambers and on Zoom

17. ADJOURNMENT: 9:15pm

Patty Brown, Chair

ATTEST:

Aleka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

MINUTES

Port and Harbor Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

Date of Approval: December 28, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** A meeting of the Haines Borough Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee took place at 10:30 am, November 16, 2023, Jake Eckhardt as Chair.

2. **Roll Call:**

Members in Attendance: Turner, Gray, Hughes, Ackerman, Eckhardt, Dunbar

Members Not in Attendance: Upton

Others in Attendance: Alekka Fullerton/Clerk, Kiersten Long/Deputy Clerk, Annette Kreitzer/Borough Manager, Brian O'Riley, Margaret Friedenauer/Agnew::Beck, Rebecca Hylton

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: Turner moved to "approve the agenda" and the motion carried unanimously

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion: Gray moved to "approve the October 5, 2023 minutes," and the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Public Comment:** None

6. **Harbormaster's Report:**

- A. Port Tariff Status
- B. Harbor Gangway Float Water Line
- C. Lutak Dock Design Progress
- D. Aging Report

7. **Unfinished Business:** None

8. **New Business:**

A. Comp Plan discussion with Agnew::Beck

Motion: Eckhardt moved to "Add Comp plan discussion to the next meeting agenda" (No Second)

B. Oil Waste Processing Shed Updated Drawings

C. Letnikof Harbor Preliminary Pipe Float Drawing

9. **Public Comments:**

O'Riley – Work Floats and mooring floats bathrooms and showers in the 10 year plan

**10. Committee Comments:
Eckhardt, Gray, Turner, Ackerman**

11. Set Meeting Dates: Next PHAC Meeting December 28, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

12. Adjournment: 11:38am



11A1

Agenda Bill No.: 24-1341

Assembly Meeting Date: 01/09/24

Business Item Description:	Attachments:
Subject: Agnew:: Beck Comp Plan Change Order	1. Resolution 24-01-1082 2. Agnew:: Beck Proposal
Originator: Borough Clerk	
Originating Department: Lands Department	
Date Submitted: 12/12/23	

Full Title/Motion:
Motion: Adopt Resolution 24-01-1082

Administrative Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:			
Expenditure Required	Amount Budgeted	Appropriation Required	Projected Impact to Future Operating Budgets
\$ 78,130	\$ 99,620	\$ None	\$0

Comprehensive Plan Consistency Review:	
Comp Plan Goals/Objectives:	Consistent: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Summary Statement:
The funds for this change order have already been appropriated. This Resolution is required since the change order exceeds \$25,000 per HBC 3.60.190.

Referral:	
Referred to:	Referral Date:
Recommendation:	Meeting Date:

Assembly Action:	
Meeting Date(s): 1/09/24	Public Hearing Date(s): 01/09/24
	Postponed to Date:

HAINES BOROUGH
RESOLUTION No. 24-01-1082

Draft

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a change order with Agnew::Beck for an additional \$78,130 to complete the Comprehensive Plan Revision.

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Assembly awarded the contract for the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan Revision to Agnew::Beck per Resolution 23-04-1036 on April 25, 2023 in the estimated amount of \$99,621; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Assembly provided \$78,130 additional funds in its FY24 Budget Amendment contained in Ordinance 23-11-663 to complete the Comprehensive Plan Revision; and

WHEREAS, these services will be paid for out of Fund 23 – Economic Development, and available monies are sufficient; and

WHEREAS, Haines Borough Code Section 3.60.190 provides that all change orders in excess of \$25,000 require assembly approval,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly authorizes the Borough Manager to execute a change order with Agnew::Beck for \$78,130 to complete the Comprehensive Plan Revision.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 9th day of January, 2024.

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:

Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk



Proposed Revised Schedule, Budget Amendment & Rationale

Submitted to Borough Manager, Annette Kreitzer: November 26, 2023

Overall Rationale for Proposed Amendment

Since the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan Revision project started in May 2023, the Consulting Team has conducted three multi-day community visits (June, July, September 2023), over 30 interviews, a communitywide survey, and numerous other stakeholder engagements, including development and regular updates to a project website. This investment of robust engagement, beyond what was originally scoped leading up to plan development, was decided collectively with Borough staff in response to high levels of community interest and involvement in the comprehensive planning process. This has necessitated more frequent and expansive in-person community engagement with residents, business owners, community and Tribal organizations, and Borough leadership and staff, including newly elected Planning Commissioners and Assembly Members in October 2023. This robust investment in project staff time and related resources has led to a thus far successful planning process and initial deliverables, including the communitywide survey (with over 600 responses) and community snapshot (September 2023), a compilation of inputs to date that have resulted in preliminary plan policies. The proposed revised schedule and budget outlined below is necessary to continue beneficial high levels of in-person community engagement through plan development and adoption.

Revised Schedule

- **Mid-November/December 2023:**
 - Launch comment map tool (week of November 27th, open through January 5th).
 - Complete stakeholder interviews.
 - Complete relevant documents, reports, studies review. Checkout [Draft Literature Review](#).
- **Early to mid-January 2024:** Review Draft Plan with Core Team.
- **Mid-to late January 2024:** Release Public Review Draft (for 30 to 45-day comment period).
 - **Conduct Community Visit #4** to share/get initial feedback on the draft, including topic-specific work sessions (e.g., land use to review draft future land use maps).
- **Mid-to late February/early March 2024:** Close Public Review Draft Plan comment period.
- **Early to mid-March 2024:** Prepare recommended revisions to finalize the plan based on public comment, share, get confirmation and direction from Core Team.
- **Mid-March/early April 2024:** Finalize the Plan; initiate adoption process.

- **April/early May 2024:** Conduct adoption process.
 - **Conduct Community Visit #5** for Planning Commission work session, public hearing, and related outreach.
 - Work with Borough team to prepare for Assembly work session and hearings.
- **End of May 2024:** Contract concludes.

Revised Budget & Rationale

• Summary:	
➤ Current Budget Total:	\$93,030
➤ Proposed Amendment Total:	\$78,130
<hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/>	
➤ Proposed Revised Budget Total:	\$171,160

Haines Comprehensive Plan Revision Agnew::Beck Consulting, Proposed Budget Amendment & Rationale <i>Submitted to Borough Manager, Annette Kreitzer: 11/26/23</i> <i>For Remaining Tasks & Extended Timeline through May 2024</i>		CURRENT BUDGET by TASK & TOTAL	PROPOSED AMENDMENT by TASK & TOTAL	NEW BUDGET by TASK & TOTAL	RATIONALE
TASK					
1. Project Kickoff and Ongoing Project Management					To conduct weekly Core Team meetings; bi-weekly Consulting Project Team meetings; and, project invoicing/progress reporting.
		\$11,700	\$7,400	\$19,100	
2. Background Research and Analysis					N/A
		\$18,680	\$0	\$18,680	
3. Community and Stakeholder Engagement					To prepare, conduct, and document: a) two community visits (approximately 4 days/visit and 3 Consultant Team Member participation); b) up to 10 additional interviews; and, c) continued project website updates, e-updates, and other community outreach for the draft and final plan.
		\$30,950	\$29,450	\$60,400	
4. Draft and Final Plan					To develop the complete Public Review Draft Plan; to revise and finalize the Draft Plan based on community, Borough leadership and staff, and other stakeholder input; and, to conduct and document Planning Commission, Assembly, and adoption process work sessions and hearings on the Final Plan.
		\$31,700	\$35,280	\$66,980	
Travel & Expenses		\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	For travel, lodging, per diem, and related supplies to conduct to two additional community site visits.
TOTAL		\$93,030	\$78,130	\$171,160	



11A2

**Haines Borough
Assembly Agenda Bill**

Agenda Bill No.: 24-1342
Assembly Meeting Date: 01/09/24

Business Item Description:	Attachments:
Subject: Supporting Efforts to Improve Competitiveness and Resilience of the Alaska Seafood Industry.	1. Resolution 24-01-1083 2. Email Request from Pacific Seafood Processors Assn 3. Status of the AK Seafood Industry 4. UFA 2024 Policy Platform 5. PSPA Position
Originator: Borough Clerk	
Originating Department: Borough Assembly	
Date Submitted: 12/26/23	

Full Title/Motion:
 Motion: Adopt Resolution 24-01-1083

Administrative Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Expenditure Required	Amount Budgeted	Appropriation Required	Projected Impact to Future Operating Budgets
\$	\$	\$ None	\$0

Comprehensive Plan Consistency Review:
 Comp Plan Goals/Objectives: _____
 Consistent: Yes No

Summary Statement:

Referral:
 Referred to: _____ Referral Date: _____
 Recommendation: _____ Meeting Date: _____

Assembly Action:
 Meeting Date(s): 1/09/24 Public Hearing Date(s): 01/09/24
 Postponed to Date: _____

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting Efforts to Improve Competitiveness and Resilience of the Alaska Seafood Industry.

WHEREAS, efforts to improve global competitiveness of Alaska commercial seafood have benefits to the entire seafood industry, including harvesters, processors, and support businesses, as well as communities and the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood comprises more than 60% of U.S. harvested seafood and is a critical part of food production for the United States; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood is also exported to about 100 countries; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood is subject to global market factors directly affecting its value, whether it is sold in the U.S. or exported; and

WHEREAS, Alaska seafood currently faces exceptional national and global challenges including trade policy and non-reciprocal tariffs that favor other nations, high supply/inventory, high costs/inflation, reduced consumer demand, and global competitors that are less regulated, less sustainable, and/or have lower operating costs than domestic seafood producers; and

WHEREAS, these challenges affect the economic viability of fishermen, processors, and local communities dependent on fish landing taxes across the state of Alaska, and

WHEREAS, seafood is not fully integrated into USDA policies or programs designed to ensure domestic food security, supply chain integrity, and support for harvesting and processing businesses similar to other domestic protein sources; and

WHEREAS, the lack of domestic seafood recognition in U.S. trade policy objectives and priorities results in market conditions that reduce the value of Alaska seafood and accessibility to global markets, and creates an unlevel playing field; and

WHEREAS, current Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend two to three servings of healthy seafood a week per person, yet domestic consumption rates remain less than half that level; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office issued a 2022 report finding that while nutritional guidelines recommend school-aged children receive between four and ten ounces of seafood per week, the National School Lunch Program only delivers roughly three ounces of seafood per year to these students; and

WHEREAS, 30% of duties collected on imported marine products is deposited into the Saltonstall-Kennedy (SK) Fund, 60% of which by law is designated to fund the SK grant program to promote and develop US-produced seafood, yet less than 5% is used to fund the SK grant program; and

WHEREAS, NOAA is currently creating an implementation plan for the National Seafood Strategy which necessitates collaboration across multiple national agencies that affect the viability of Alaska seafood; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government's Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee issued the 2023 National Export Strategy that includes a chapter on Seafood Industries, highlighting forthcoming efforts to improve interagency coordination and global market competitiveness for domestic seafood producers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly supports efforts by the federal government to:

Improve and expand existing agency functions that support US seafood, including:

- Improve coordination and collaboration across multiple federal governmental agencies that affect the economic viability of Alaska seafood via the implementation plan for NOAA's National Seafood Strategy and Chapter 9 of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee's 2023 National Export Strategy
- Expand use of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service trade missions and other export market development assistance to include seafood
- Improve the efficacy (e.g., timing, scope) of and maintain or increase the use of government purchasing programs for Alaska produced seafood
- Improve the utility and applicability of governmental policies on recapitalization, vessel construction, tax structures, workforce accessibility, energy, and infrastructure
- Increase government funding for new product development, testing, promotion, and marketing of US produced seafood (e.g., NOAA's Saltonstall-Kennedy grant program)
- Strengthen government planning for and execution of fisheries science and management, especially as needed to improve our understanding of and response to climate impacts on living marine resources

Integrate US seafood production into national food policy strategies and USDA programs designed to support domestic food production, including:

- Create an Office of Seafood Policy and Program Integration within USDA to fully integrate US seafood into USDA policy strategies and programs designed to ensure domestic food security, supply chain integrity, and support for harvesting and processing businesses, similar to other terrestrial sources of protein; coordinate USDA seafood support programs with seafood-related programs of other agencies; and provide a point of entry for seafood producers to more effectively engage with USDA
- Increase re-investment in US seafood producers and related support businesses via expanding eligibility of USDA low-interest loans or loan guarantees to fishermen and processors
- Fully integrate seafood and seafood nutritional guidance into national strategies for improving public health and nutrition

Restore fairness and reciprocity for international trade in U.S. seafood products, including:

- Embed and improve seafood expertise and leadership in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to coordinate seafood trade objectives among USTR offices, coordinate USTR seafood trade programs with seafood efforts of other agencies, and provide a point of entry for seafood producers to more effectively engage with USTR
- Improve trade policy via USTR and other agencies to create a more reciprocal tariff structure for seafood exports and imports, reduce burden and risk associated with non-tariff barriers, and develop more effective tools for monitoring supply chain traceability and deterring Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Resolve the unbalanced and unfair seafood trade relationship between Russia and the United States

Haines Borough
Resolution No. 24-01-1083
Page 3 of 3

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 9th day of January, 2024.

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:

Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk

From: [Alekka Fullerton](#)
To: [Alekka Fullerton](#)
Subject: FW: action to support Alaska seafood industry
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 9:21:55 PM
Attachments: [Status of the AK seafood industry 2023-12-22 FINAL APPROVED.pdf](#)
[PSPA position to improve global seafood competitiveness and resilience of the Alaska Seafood Industry 2023-10.pdf](#)
[UFA 2024 Policy Platform 2023-10-24.pdf](#)
[Resolution - Alaska Seafood Competitiveness - DRAFT 2023-12-19.docx](#)

From: Julie Ann Decker <julied@pspafish.net>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 5:46 PM
To: Tom Morphet <tmorphet@haines.ak.us>; Annette Kreitzer <akreitzer@haines.ak.us>
Cc: Julie Ann Decker <julied@pspafish.net>; Nicole Kimball <NicoleK@pspafish.net>
Subject: action to support Alaska seafood industry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Haines Borough. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Morphet and Manager Kreitzer,

I am sure you are aware of the challenges facing the Alaska seafood industry right now and know how it is negatively impacting communities and businesses in Alaska.

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) is working with a variety of stakeholders to provide information and actions at the federal government that can help turn things around. United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) has a similar policy platform.

I have attached the following documents, for your information and use:

- Status of the Alaska Seafood Industry – Summary of the problem and federal government solutions
- PSPA Position to Improve Global Competitiveness and Resilience in the Alaska Seafood Industry
- UFA National Policy Platform
- Resolution - DRAFT

Please consider sending a resolution (draft attached) or letter supporting the federal actions outlined in the attached positions to the Alaska Congressional Delegation and Governor Dunleavy.

I'd be glad to touch base by phone as we work through this and to better understand your immediate concerns, so please feel free to call or email me. I will be working through the holidays.

Julie Decker, President
Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)
Cell: 907-305-0586

julied@pspafish.net





2023: A perfect storm of economic circumstances hits Alaska seafood

Many coastal communities in Alaska depend on Alaska seafood for food security and for an economic foundation that sustains their economies. Often, the health of the Alaska seafood industry and the health of these communities are interdependent. In 2023, the culmination of multiple economic factors has created dire economic conditions, resulting in a free-fall of seafood prices, millions of dollars in losses and, in some cases, processors had to stop buying fish to reduce further losses.

Experts estimate the state and its coastal communities lost \$2 billion in 2023: \$1 billion in lost first wholesale revenues and \$1 billion in decreased spending on vessels and facilities. Fishermen and processors have borne the brunt of these impacts to date. With conditions [unlikely to notably improve in 2024](#), the effects will continue to affect communities and more businesses and residents across the state. The Alaska seafood industry is facing economic conditions unlike any since the collapse of salmon value in the 1990s, except this time, it is across multiple species.

The higher standards in the U.S., for fisheries management, environmental and social considerations, and worker safety, mean it costs more to produce seafood compared to countries with lower standards. In Alaska, those costs are even higher due to the remote location of most of the fisheries and processing operations. These safeguards help keep our fisheries sustainable and ethical, yet, we face an uneven playing field from countries that harvest seafood without similar regulatory costs.

Today's problems are a result of the confluence of at least a dozen global and national economic factors occurring simultaneously, a few of which include:

1) Increased costs

- Total statewide wages for seafood processing workers increased [30% from 2021 to 2022](#). They had previously [doubled from 2002 to 2020](#).
- Operational costs for fishermen and processors increased due to historically high inflation in 2021 and 2022.
- Shipping [costs increased between 113% and 1000%](#), depending on route, 2020 to 2022.
- Supply chain of custody costs to ensure the sustainability and social responsibility of US fisheries mainly due to other 'bad actors', such as China
- Cost of compliance with U.S. environmental standards relative to other countries

2) Excess inventories of several abundant species harvested in Alaska and other countries in 2022 and 2023, including sockeye and pink salmon, sablefish, and pollock, [which will likely continue into 2024](#).

3) Decreasing demand as consumers react to inflation and post-COVID conditions

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- 4) **Russian war on Ukraine**, leading Russia to sell seafood on the global market at historically low prices in 2023 to secure cash, lowering seafood value overall
- 5) **Unfair trade policy**, including key trade relationships that reduce the value of Alaska seafood relative to other countries with lower tariffs. This includes Russia's 2014 ban on importing US seafood into Russia, while [Russia exports its seafood to the U.S. via China](#)

Clearly, there's much that must be done to stabilize Alaska's seafood industry, beginning with good information about the problems we are facing today. That's why the [Board of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute explained the "extraordinary circumstances"](#) from a market perspective, and the [United Fishermen of Alaska hosted and recorded a webinar](#) with seafood processors to discuss the current challenges of seafood markets. While many must take measures to survive, we need to look beyond today and toward a future in which everyone thrives. Alaskans need to create a public dialogue about the problem and the solutions in Alaska's fishing communities, Juneau, and Washington DC. At the federal government level, [PSPA has identified several changes](#) that would help:

1. Improve and expand existing agency functions that support US seafood, including:

- Improve coordination and collaboration across multiple federal agencies that affect the economic viability of Alaska seafood via the implementation plan for NOAA's National Seafood Strategy
- Include seafood in USDA Foreign Agricultural Service trade missions
- Increase government purchases of Alaska seafood
- Improve government policies to assist in recapitalization, vessel construction, tax structures, workforce accessibility, energy, and infrastructure
- Increase government funding for new product development, testing, promotion, and marketing of US produced seafood

2. Integrate US seafood production into national food policy strategies and USDA programs designed to support domestic food production, including:

- Create an Office of Seafood Policy and Program Integration within USDA to fully integrate US seafood into USDA policy strategies and programs
- Expand eligibility of USDA low-interest loans or loan guarantees to fishermen and processors
- Fully integrate seafood and seafood nutritional guidance into national strategies for improving public health and nutrition

3. Restore fairness and reciprocity for international trade in U.S. seafood products, including:

- Embed seafood expertise and leadership in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to elevate seafood in trade agreements
- Improve trade policy via USTR and other agencies to create a more reciprocal tariff structure for seafood exports and imports
- Develop more effective tools, like harvest certificates, for monitoring supply chain traceability and deterring Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Resolve the unbalanced and unfair seafood trade relationship between Russia and the U.S., including support for the Alaska delegation's efforts to block imports of Russian seafood processed in China or other countries



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Phone: (907) 586-2820

E-mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

2024 UFA National Policy Platform

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represents 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. UFA's mission is to promote and protect the common interest of Alaska's commercial fishing industry as a vital component of Alaska's social and economic well-being. Alaska seafood represents more than 60% of all seafood harvested in the U.S. and is a critical part of domestic food production, as well as export markets in about 100 countries worldwide. Alaska seafood is subject to global market factors that directly affect its value, whether it is sold in the U.S. or exported.

Alaska seafood currently faces exceptional national and global challenges including (1) trade policy and non-reciprocal tariffs that favor other nations, (2) high levels of supply and current inventory, (3) high operational costs and inflation, (4) reduced consumer demand, (5) and global competitors that are subject to less regulations with lower operating costs, but are also less sustainable than domestic seafood harvesters and processors. These challenges affect the economic viability of harvesting and processing businesses, and our local communities that are dependent on seafood commerce and fish landing taxes across the state of Alaska.

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) supports efforts to improve global competitiveness and resilience of the Alaska commercial seafood industry (including harvesters, processors, support businesses, communities and the state of Alaska). Achieving global competitiveness and resilience for U.S. seafood requires a multi-pronged approach across multiple government offices. For example, NOAA is currently creating an implementation plan for the National Seafood Strategy which necessitates collaboration across multiple national agencies that affect the viability of Alaska seafood. The Federal government's Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee issued the 2023 National Export Strategy that includes a chapter on Seafood Industries and highlights forthcoming efforts to improve interagency coordination and global market competitiveness for domestic seafood producers. To further coordinate and move that effort forward we strongly advocate for the creation of an ***Office of Seafood Policy and Program Integration*** within USDA. In addition, we identify the following as UFA's National Policy statements.

1. Alaska seafood is a valuable component of national food security, health, and commerce.

Wild seafood from Alaska is responsibly harvested, and one of the best sources of essential nutrients. In Alaska we are incredibly proud of our sustainably managed commercial fisheries, and believe our sustainability distinguishes us from many foreign competitors. This message should continue to be pushed out to the American public to encourage more domestic consumption of U.S. seafood.

Seafood is nutritious, but Americans don't eat enough of it. UFA supports integrating seafood into national strategies for improving public health and nutrition. Updated guidance from the FDA recommends increased fish consumption for a healthy diet, especially for pregnant women and children. Current Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend two to three servings of healthy seafood a week per person, yet domestic consumption rates remain less than half that level. The Government Accountability Office issued a 2022 report finding that nutritional guidelines recommend school-aged children receive between four and ten ounces of seafood per week, but the National School Lunch Program only delivers about three ounces of seafood per year to these students.

2. Integrate seafood into USDA policy strategies/programs and increase USDA Section 32 purchases of Alaska seafood.

UFA advocates for integrating seafood into U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies and programs to help ensure domestic food security, supply chain integrity, and provide support for harvesting and processing businesses - similar to that already available to other domestic protein sources. The lack of recognition for domestic seafood in U.S. trade policy objectives and priorities results in market conditions that reduce the value of Alaska seafood and accessibility to global markets. This creates an unlevel playing field that harms domestically harvested Alaska seafood.

As a way to help level the playing field UFA appreciates and encourages increasing government purchases of Alaska seafood, e.g., Section 32 purchases. UFA also suggests increased re-investment in US seafood via USDA low-interest loans and loan guarantees for fishermen and processors, and expansion of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service trade missions and other export market development assistance to include seafood.

3. Ensure U.S. seafood trade policies and strategies best support the seafood industry.

UFA seeks improved trade policy work through the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in order to create a more level playing field for Alaska seafood. We see the positive pattern in day-to-day trade policy formulation and implementation where USTR works hand-in-glove with USDA on agricultural trade. However, there is no comparable process on seafood within the Department of Commerce. We encourage expanding USTR's focus on seafood, including adding additional seafood expertise, in order to develop effective policy positions to help Alaska seafood trade. Our members also strongly support resolving the unbalanced and unfair seafood trade relationship that allows Russian-harvested seafood to continue to enter the U.S. duty free due to its "substantial transformation" in third-party countries, usually China.

4. Increase investment to improve and update domestic infrastructure for U.S. seafood.

Alaska is a commercial fishing powerhouse, but even it has aging fishing fleets and processing facilities. Our seafood industry would greatly benefit from investments to modernize our seafood infrastructure. Modernizing and replacing commercial fishing vessels would increase efficiency and safety on the water, while modernizing processing facilities would increase efficiency while creating opportunities for more value-add processing in the U.S. Concerted effort to bring more seafood processing back to the U.S., rather than continuing to ship product overseas, will create a tremendous opportunity for U.S. seafood. Updating seafood industry infrastructure will benefit our coastal fishing communities, and increase local and national food security by eliminating the need to ship product overseas. UFA also supports government policies that reduce our domestic operating costs, including policies on recapitalization, vessel construction, tax structures, workforce accessibility, and energy.

5. Fully funded fisheries science/management and industry promotion & marketing grants.

Core fishery surveys provide necessary information that underpins our entire science-based management system. Existing core surveys must continue, and NOAA should consider expanding what is considered core to account for rapidly changing ocean conditions and shifting fish stocks (for example, adding regular surveys in the Northern Bering Sea or increasing surveys in the Gulf of Alaska to occur annually). In addition, UFA advocates for increased funding to the Saltonstall-Kennedy (SK) Fund, which currently derives funding from 30% of duties collected on imported marine products. The SK act provides that 60% [of the 30%] go to the SK grant program to promote and develop US-produced seafood, however, less than 5% is currently used to fund the SK grant program. UFA supports increasing federal funding for new product development, testing, promotion, and marketing of US produced seafood through Saltonstall Kennedy Funds, provided federal funding for fisheries science and management is not compromised.



PSPA Position to Improve Global Competitiveness and Resilience of the Alaska Seafood Industry October 2023

Alaska seafood currently faces exceptional national and international challenges including trade policy and non-reciprocal tariffs that favor other nations, high global supply and existing unsold inventory for salmon and whitefish throughout the entire supply chain, high relative costs due to inflation and other factors, reduced consumer demand post-pandemic, and foreign seafood competitors that are less regulated, less sustainable, and have lower operating costs than domestic seafood producers. These global market factors directly affect the value of Alaska seafood, whether it is sold in the U.S. or exported. The recent confluence of events has lowered the value of commercial seafood across the nation, including for Alaska, and resulted in market collapse. While some challenging market conditions will improve over time, the need for federal governmental agency leadership and collaboration (Department of Commerce/NOAA, USDA, USTR, FDA) to recognize, elevate, and support the domestic seafood industry is necessary to improve our overall competitiveness and resilience, as is the need to fully maintain core data collection efforts that form the foundation of the management structure.

The Alaska seafood industry is made up of thousands of small and independent fishermen businesses, processing businesses, support businesses including transportation, brokers, buyers, and marketing for consumer/retail markets, and rural coastal communities (many of which are not accessible by road). Their well-being, as well as Alaska's economy, depends on the competitiveness and resilience of the entire Alaska seafood supply chain. Alaska produces approximately 5 billion pounds of sustainable seafood every year – more than 60% of U.S. harvested seafood – and is dependent on access to both U.S. markets and export markets to be viable. Improving the global competitiveness of Alaska's seafood benefits the entire seafood industry: harvesters, processors, support businesses, communities, and the state of Alaska.

Seafood is not currently integrated into many USDA policies or programs designed to ensure domestic food security, supply chain integrity, and support for harvesting and processing businesses, at the same level as terrestrial sources of protein. At the same time, the USDA's Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food and Drug Administration's Seafood Consumption Advice recommend increased fish consumption for a healthy diet, especially for pregnant women and children, yet domestic consumption remains less than half of the recommended levels for adults and significantly below the nutritional guidelines recommended for school-aged children via the National School Lunch Program. At the international level, the lack of domestic seafood recognition in U.S. trade policy objectives and priorities results in non-reciprocal trade relationships and market conditions that reduce the value of Alaska seafood relative to seafood-producing competitors in other countries with lower tariffs. While Alaska has absorbed significant costs in adhering to sustainable fisheries management requirements and building responsible supply chain management practices, Alaska seafood has incurred significant losses in export markets, undermining years of investment and making it increasingly difficult to rebuild a competitive position in global seafood markets.

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PSPA and its member processors support efforts of the federal government to:

1. Improve and expand existing agency functions that support US seafood, including:

- Strengthen government planning for and execution of fisheries science and management, especially as needed to improve our understanding of and response to climate impacts on living marine resources
- Improve coordination and collaboration across multiple federal governmental agencies that affect the economic viability of Alaska seafood via the implementation plan for NOAA's National Seafood Strategy and Chapter 9 of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee's 2023 National Export Strategy
- Expand use of USDA Foreign Agricultural Service trade missions and other export market development assistance to include seafood
- Improve the efficacy (e.g., timing, scope) of and maintain or increase the use of government purchasing programs for Alaska produced seafood
- Improve the utility and applicability of governmental policies on recapitalization, vessel construction, tax structures, workforce accessibility, energy, and infrastructure
- Increase government funding for new product development, testing, promotion, and marketing of US produced seafood

2. Integrate US seafood production into national food policy strategies and USDA programs designed to support domestic food production, including:

- Create an Office of Seafood Policy and Program Integration within USDA to fully integrate US seafood into USDA policy strategies and programs designed to ensure domestic food security, supply chain integrity, and support for harvesting and processing businesses, similar to other terrestrial sources of protein; coordinate USDA seafood support programs with seafood-related programs of other agencies; and provide a point of entry for seafood producers to more effectively engage with USDA
- Increase re-investment in US seafood producers and related support businesses via expanding eligibility of USDA low-interest loans or loan guarantees to fishermen and processors
- Fully integrate seafood and seafood nutritional guidance into national strategies for improving public health and nutrition

3. Restore fairness and reciprocity for international trade in U.S. seafood products, including:

- Embed and improve seafood expertise and leadership in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative to coordinate seafood trade objectives among USTR offices, coordinate USTR seafood trade programs with seafood efforts of other agencies, and provide a point of entry for seafood producers to more effectively engage with USTR
- Improve trade policy via USTR and other agencies to create a more reciprocal tariff structure for seafood exports and imports, reduce burden and risk associated with non-tariff barriers, and develop more effective tools for monitoring supply chain traceability and deterring Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
- Resolve the unbalanced and unfair seafood trade relationship between Russia and the United States



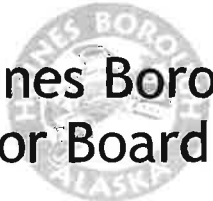
Mayoral Appointments 1/09/24

Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee

Reappointment of Norman Hughes to the Ports and Harbors Advisory Committee with seat terming 11/26. There are still two open seats on the committee.

Library Advisory Board

Reappointment of Jenty Fowler to the Library Advisory Board with seat terming 11/26. There are still two open seats on the board.



Haines Borough Application for Board Appointment

Appointment (I am not currently on the board)

Reappointment (I am currently a member of the board)

Check the board, commission, or committee for which you are applying :

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chilkat Center Advisory Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Port and Harbor Advisory Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Review Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Commission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Fishing Advisory Board (ad hoc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Solid Waste Working Group (ad hoc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Library Advisory Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism Advisory Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterfront Aesthetics Committee (ad hoc)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Service Area Board #3 (Klehini)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Ad hoc) Board/Committee:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road Maintenance Service Areas: <i>Circle one</i> Four Winds Historic Dalton Trail Letnikof Estates Riverview Drive

Name: Norman Hughes
 Residence Address: 6.5 MILE MUD BAY ROAD text here
 Mailing Address: PO BOX 1136 HAINES AK, 99827
 Business Phone: 907-723-4848 Home Phone: _____
 Fax: _____ Email: stormisurf@yahoo.com

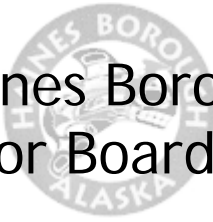
I declare that I am willing to serve as a member of the designated board, commission, or committee. Please enter my name for consideration of appointment by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the assembly. I am a registered voter of the State of Alaska and have resided within the Haines Borough for at least thirty (30) days preceding this date or the date of appointment.*

Norman Hughes
 Signature of Applicant

11-15-2023
 Date

PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS (You may attach a resume):
i am a commercial fisher, moorage user, seafood seller. i have served on the harbor committee as chair, vice chair and
commercial user seat for at least 20 years. There is still much to be done at our ports and harbors. I would like to serve for
another term.

* HBC 2.60.020 - A member of a committee, board or commission shall be a resident of the borough as defined below...a person qualifying as a borough resident shall: A) continue to maintain the person's principal place of residence within the corporate boundaries of the borough and have done so for at least 30 days immediately preceding the date of the person's appointment by the mayor; and B) physically occupy said residence for at least 30 days immediately preceding the date of the person's appointment by the mayor.
 Form Rev.11-21



Haines Borough Application for Board Appointment

Appointment (I am not currently on the board)

Reappointment (I am currently a member of the board)

Check the board, commission, or committee for which you are applying :

<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Port and Harbor Advisory Committee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism Advisory Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	Code Review Commission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chilkat Center Advisory Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Service Area Board #3 (Klehini)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letnikof Estates Road Maintenance Service Area Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum Board of Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riverview Drive Road Maintenance Service Area Board
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Library Advisory Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic Dalton Trail Road Maintenance Service Area Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	Four Winds Road Maintenance Service Area Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary (Ad-hoc) Board/Committee _____		

Name: Jenty Fowler
 Residence Address: 221 Beach Rd #A
 Mailing Address: PO Box 1523 Haines AK 99827
 Business Phone: _____ Home Phone: (907) 314-3240
 Fax: _____ Email: jentyfo@gmail.com

I declare that I am willing to serve as a member of the designated board, commission, or committee. Please enter my name for consideration of appointment by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the assembly. I am a registered voter of the State of Alaska and have resided within the Haines Borough for at least thirty (30) days preceding this date or the date of appointment.*

Jenty Fowler
 Signature of Applicant

12/29/23
 Date

PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS (You may attach a resume):

* HBC 2.60.020 - A member of a committee, board or commission shall be a resident of the borough as defined below...a person qualifying as a borough resident shall: A) continue to maintain the person's principal place of residence within the corporate boundaries of the borough and have done so for at least 30 days immediately preceding the date of the person's appointment by the mayor; and B) physically occupy said residence for at least 30 days immediately preceding the date of the person's appointment by the mayor.

From: [Craig Loomis](#)
To: [Tom Morphet](#); [Alekk Fullerton](#); [Annette Kreitzer](#)
Subject: Agenda item
Date: Saturday, December 30, 2023 8:24:27 AM

I hereby request a reconsideration of the motion from the 12/14/23 meeting to be added to the 1/9/2024 meeting regarding the drafting and posting of an RFP seeking counsel for the HB.

I don't believe it is in the best interest of the Haines Borough to impose a May deadline for RFP's. I would like to vote on an earlier deadline of 2/15/24 for new counsel for the Haines Borough. It is my understanding that a letter of interest has already been received by the Mayor and I have heard of several more interested parties. An RFP is already on file for this task and seems it could easily be distributed by staff.

My motion would be: I move we instruct the Manager to advertise RFP's for Haines Borough legal counsel with a closing deadline of February 16, 2024 for said proposals.

2.10.170 Motion to reconsider.

When a vote has been taken either passing or defeating any proposition or legislation, any assembly member who voted on the prevailing side may move for reconsideration at the same meeting or at the next succeeding meeting whenever motions are in order; provided, that the subject matter has not passed out of the control of the assembly. The term "prevailing side" includes the negative side which has prevailed because the affirmative side has failed to muster the requisite number of votes required for passage of the measure. A motion to reconsider requires a majority of affirmative votes and, if it prevails, the subject shall be open to debate and amendment in the same manner as the original question. Debates on motions to reconsider shall be limited to 25 minutes and no member shall speak for more than five minutes. No measure shall be reconsidered more than once.

The Haines Borough Code is current through Ordinance 23-05-645, passed June 27, 2023.

Disclaimer: The borough clerk's office has the official version of the Haines Borough Code. Users should contact the borough clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

[Borough Website: www.hainesalaska.gov](http://www.hainesalaska.gov)

[Hosted by Code Publishing Company, A General Code Company.](#)



Haines Borough
Administrative Policy

Heliskiing Flight Rules, GPS Data Collection, Submission, and Compliance

*PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO POLICY BASED ON MANAGER'S 2023 END OF SEASON REPORT

PURPOSE

This administrative policy has been created to administer and enforce Haines Borough Code. Haines Borough Code supersedes this administrative policy.

Applicable to: *Heliskiing companies permitted to operate commercial ski tours within the Haines Borough*

Approved by Borough Assembly: 03-08-22

Effective Date: 03-08-22

Note: This replaces the previous policy approved October 22, 2013.

GPS DATA

A. TYPE OF GPS

GPS units will be part of the helicopter, operating with flight following or tracking software and be submitted directly through the helicopter operator (e.g. Temsco, Coastal Helicopter). The term "part of the helicopter" means: installed into the helicopter, using power from the helicopter, and managed by the pilot.

*8. SUBMISSION OF DATA

When GPS data is requested by the Haines Borough, the operator will provide the borough with un-edited helicopter flight data from the entire 24-hour period of each day requested. ~~The raw data will be submitted in a common GPS data format, such as .JSON, .KML, or .KMZ, .GPS or .GSV.~~ **GPS format.GPX,**

C. DATA

GPS data points will be taken in two-minute intervals at minimum, and data submitted to the Haines Borough will include latitude, longitude, altitude, airspeed, date, and time. Latitude and longitude will be submitted in decimal degrees. The GPS data is a public record and will be available upon request.

D. HELISKI MAP

The Haines Borough shall make available digital versions of the current Haines Borough Heliski Map boundaries.

COMPLIANCE

E. GPS SPOT CHECKS

To insure compliance with the approved *Haines Borough Approved Commercial Ski Tour Areas Map*, the Borough Administration will perform a minimum of (3) GPS spot checks, per company, per season. Additional spot checks may be made as needed. Results will be posted on the borough's website.

F. INFRACTIONS

Heliskiing operators found to be operating out of bounds without acceptable explanation will be fined up to \$500 per infraction. Repeat infractions may constitute a doubling of fine amount.

G. COMPLAINTS

Complaints may trigger GPS checks of both the day before and day after. If unjustified infractions are found, additional penalties will be enforced.

H. OPERATIONS OUT OF BOUNDS

It is the policy of the Haines Borough to have low tolerance for operating out of bounds. If a heliskiing company is forced to operate out of bounds for any reason, they are required to notify the Borough Clerk in writing within 7 days of their out-of-bounds flight. Reports should include date and time, location, pilot name, and explanation. If an infraction is found that was not notified, the minimum fine will start at \$500.

AGREEMENTS

I. MUTUAL AID

All permitted Heliski Operators in the Haines Borough are required to sign and follow the Haines Borough Mutual Aid Agreement.

J. * AVALANCHE DATA

- 1. All permit holders operating in a season must purchase an InfoEx subscription for the duration of the season February – May, to enhance safety operations for all operators.**
- 2. All permit holders operating in a season must share InfoEx information among the group, with the exception of ski run data, which may remain proprietary at an operator's discretion.**

K. FLIGHT GUIDELINES

Unless weather, safety conditions, mechanical difficulties or Federal Aviation Administration requirements dictate otherwise, Heliski Operators shall:

- Follow the access routes described below:
 - From the 33-Mile heliport** - Use Porcupine Creek, McKinley Creek or Glacier Creek to access Porcupine Peak and Flower Mountain areas. Avoid Jarvis Creek, and the Klehini River to keep noise away from residences. Access the Mt. Jonathan Ward area from the Porcupine Peak area. Use a route directly behind 33-Mile to access Four Winds area.
 - From the 18-Mile heliport** - Take off and approach should be down river to avoid residences. Routes to skiing areas should go directly across the Chilkat River and into the mountains. Avoid flying parallel to the Chilkat or Klehini Rivers. When flying to and from the Ferebee Glacier area, avoid Chilkoot Lake and Lutak residents.
 - From the Haines Airport**- Fly directly up the Takhin Valley to access areas south of the Takhin and Tsirku Rivers. Fly directly across the Chilkat River and up the slope between Haska Creek and the Kicking Horse River to access areas south of Mt. Emmerich, including the Rainbow and Davidson Glacier areas. Avoid Haska Creek and Kicking Horse River. Avoid traversing slopes facing Chilkat Inlet to avoid residences.
 - Helicopters transiting between heliports** should fly on the opposite side of the valleys from residences.
- Attain as quickly as practicable after takeoff and maintain a minimum elevation of 1,500 feet above ground level ("AGL") while in flight.
- Maintain a minimum distance of one-half mile from visible wildlife on public lands while in flight and shall not hover over, circle or harass wildlife.
- Maintain a distance of 1/2 mile above the valley floors except when (1) shuttling production crew and talent from the bottom to the top of a run, or (2) during landings and takeoffs.
- Maintain a distance of 1/2-mile horizontal (ground level) distance or 1,500 feet AGL above observed recreational users except when (1) shuttling production crew and talent from the bottom to the top of a run, or (2) during landings and takeoffs.



2023 Heliski Season-End Report

Prepared per HBC 5.24.040 (F) The borough manager shall compile a season-end report to be submitted to the borough assembly annually in July. The report shall include the number of helicopters used daily by each permitted company as compared to previous years, and it shall include any verified permit infractions along with correspondence and other information documenting reasons for the infractions.

by Borough Manager Annette Kreitzer

1. Permits Issued

Four operators were permitted for the 2023 season. One operator was permitted, but chose to not operate.

Operator	Start Day	End Day
Alaska Heli-skiing	February 6	April 22
Alaska Mountain Guides	Did not operate	Did not operate
SEABA	March 3	April 22
Stellar	March 6	April 21

2. Skier Day Use

The use of skier days was repealed and replaced with helicopter usage for the 2022 season. However, HBC 05.24.040 (E)1 requires reporting of skier days used during the reporting period. Skier days don't necessarily reflect income or sales tax paid by operators. For instance, a solo skier could pay a premium to have a guide and helicopter for several days and pay more than several people skiing over that same time period.

Operator	Skier Days 2023	Skier Days 2022	Skier Days 2021
Alaska Heli-skiing	502	445	471
Alaska Mountain Guides	0	4*	32
SEABA	279	363	314
Stellar	338	254	0
TOTAL	1119	1066	817

*AMG only reported number of helicopters after initial report of 4 skier days.

3. Helicopter Usage Including Additional Usage (HBC5.24.030(B))

Operator	2023 Helicopter allotted	2022 Helicopter allotted	Add'l Usage 2023
Alaska Heli-skiing	2	2	1
Alaska Mountain Guides	1*	1	0
SEABA	2	2	0
Stellar	2	1	0

*HBC 5.24.030 Helicopter Usage and Fees: "Each permit holder has the right to use at least one helicopter during the season." Helicopter was not used for Heliskiing in Haines Borough.

4. Season Extension: Per HBC 5.24.040(B), *All activity shall be conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., except that the borough may authorize additional hours for no more than 30 days.*

No operator came close to using 30 days of hours outside of 8 am and 6 pm.

I extended the hours of operation as follows:

Steller: March 7 (didn't use); March 26-April 21 Sunrise to one hour before sunset
During this time period, Steller had 12 take-offs before 8 am on seven separate days; and 10 landings after 6 pm on eight different days.

SEABA: March 26-27 approx. 6:30am to 6 pm

March 29 6:30 am

April 3-4 approx. 7:20 am to 6:30 pm

April 11 at 6:20 am – 7 pm

April 20-22 earliest at 5:35 am

AK Heli: Additional Usage for film crew on 4/11. Sunrise to one hour before sunset
March 28 through April 18 (using nine days early lift-off, and six days late landing)

AMG: No use

Reasons for these extended hours of operation were mostly weather and safety conditions. Requesters stated that as the sun hit the slopes in the afternoon, it created less stable conditions for skiing. Allowing earlier transport and skiing contributed to a safer environment.

5. Complaints

The one written complaint received was related to the flight paths of helicopters. As the Borough does not have the authority to regulate flight paths of aircraft, it recommends flight paths in the *Heliskiing Flight Rules, GPS Data Collection, Submission and Compliance* Administrative Policy.

a. Received a complaint of helicopter flight path from Mile 18. Although the complaint was fairly general in comment, I took the issue of helicopters flying out of Mile 18 not achieving 1500' quickly as one I could follow up on. In the Heliskiing policy adopted by the Borough: *"From the 18-Mile heliport - Take off and approach should be down river to avoid residences. Routes to skiing areas should go directly across the Chilkat River and into the mountains. Avoid flying parallel to the Chilkat or Klehini Rivers. When flying to and from the Ferebee Glacier area, avoid Chilkoot Lake and Lutak residents."* It is one of the spot checks done on March 24 for Mile 18. The attached map plotting helicopter with tail number N608OR's altitude with two-minute intervals. It is clear from this snapshot that this particular helicopter took a number of minutes to achieve 1500' and it appears did not achieve it as quickly as it likely could have.

6. Spot Checks

Administrative Policy requires a minimum of three spot checks. Based on post-season debriefings, I requested the following spot checks for the following reasons:

- a. March 20 – SEABA and Stellar in same drainage – No Data Retrievable
- b. March 24 – Stellar – verify flight path and height, re: complaint about helicopter flying low over neighborhoods
- c. March 27 – Alaska Heli – selected due to number of clients and areas skied.
- d. March 29– Stellar and SEABA – both at Dickinson Glacier
- e. April 1 – Would have been a 7 helicopter day; 4 operating
- f. April 7 – AK Heli #of clients and Stellar in same area (Tsirku)
- g. April 20 – Stellar and SEABA in same area – No Data Retrievable.

Operator	Date	Results
All Operators	March 20	No data retrievable*
Stellar	March 24	Achieve 1500' in elevation more quickly before traveling across to Mt. Jonathon Ward.
Alaska Heliskiing	March 27	This is the same issue as the 2022 season – landing exactly 500' outside boundary (2) Although the reason stated for landing outside the boundary was for safety, it is believed that it is also for convenience as this is a developed landing spot for helicopters servicing the Constantine Co. \$250 fine per occurrence – total \$500 fine
Alaska Heliskiing	March 27	500' outside boundary - Tsirku \$250 fine per occurrence – total \$500 fine
SEABA, Stellar/Dickinson Glacier	March 29	No anomaly found
SEABA, Stellar, AK Heli (4 helicopter day)	April 1	No anomaly found
Stellar & AK Heli in Tsirku	April 7	No anomaly found
Stellar, SEABA in same area	April 20	No data retrievable*

*Our GIS Contractor Gary Greenberg advised that the data could have been recorded over – we are not sure why the data from these two dates was unavailable. However, we do have the reports from each operator for these two dates.

SEASON SUMMARY:

I interviewed all four operators. I have compared the actual weekly use reports against email communication and the “Helicopter Days” calendar that I maintain during the season to ensure the information in this report is as accurate as possible. Weather, availability of pilots, helicopter maintenance, and illness all play a part in last minute changes to operational plans. The end-of season report is the opportunity to audit all of this information.

Heliskiing is a sport with some risk. Following the interviews of operators from the 2022 and 2023 seasons, I thought it prudent to provide some information regarding avalanche fatalities by state and in Alaska.

As with last year’s report, there were some concerns regarding safety of operations. As might be expected, each operator has its own sense of what it considers “safe” operations. There were differing views as to the relative avalanche hazards during the season. One suggestion by an operator was to discuss a subscription to InfoEx on behalf of all operators. This year, two of the three companies operating tours were using InfoEx. InfoEx depends on the SWAG (Snow, Weather, Avalanche observation Guidelines) (in the US) to provide common understanding and descriptions of weather and avalanche characteristics. The annual cost of an InfoEx subscription is estimated at between \$600-\$650 (per Stuart Smith, InfoEx Manager). Here is a 6-minute introduction to how operators use InfoEx, with permission of SEABA to use its data: [INFOEX Application](#)

As the attached April 1 and April 7 maps show, operators can get clustered in relatively small areas. It is this proximity which makes communication among operators extremely important. InfoEx is one tool to increase the communication of weather and potential avalanche conditions.

In support of the need for operators to more fully share weather and avalanche information, I've attached data regarding avalanche fatalities in Alaska, although there are fatalities that have occurred in the Haines Borough that are missing from the list. This is to provide an overview of how Alaska compares to other states when it comes to avalanche fatalities. It is meant to facilitate the discussion about the usefulness of InfoEx.

The Borough Commercial Ski Tour Map is scheduled to be reviewed in 2025. There continues to be a lot of discussion about cleaning up the lines on the map, where there appears to be no reason for a line to be just below a ridge where a helicopter could land. The map is likely the result of a number of compromises, but in practice it should reflect appropriate topographical boundaries. There may be technical problems with how the Borough-adopted heliski map is received digitally by other map programs. Following last season and in recognition of digital anomalies, I allowed for deviations of 500 feet from a boundary. However, all of the operators were aware of the boundaries after these conversations following last season.

According to HBC 5.24.040 C - *All activity shall be conducted only in areas identified on the map labeled "Haines Borough Approved Commercial Ski Tour Areas" as provided in HBC 5.24.050.* This includes training as it is an activity in support of a Heliski operation.

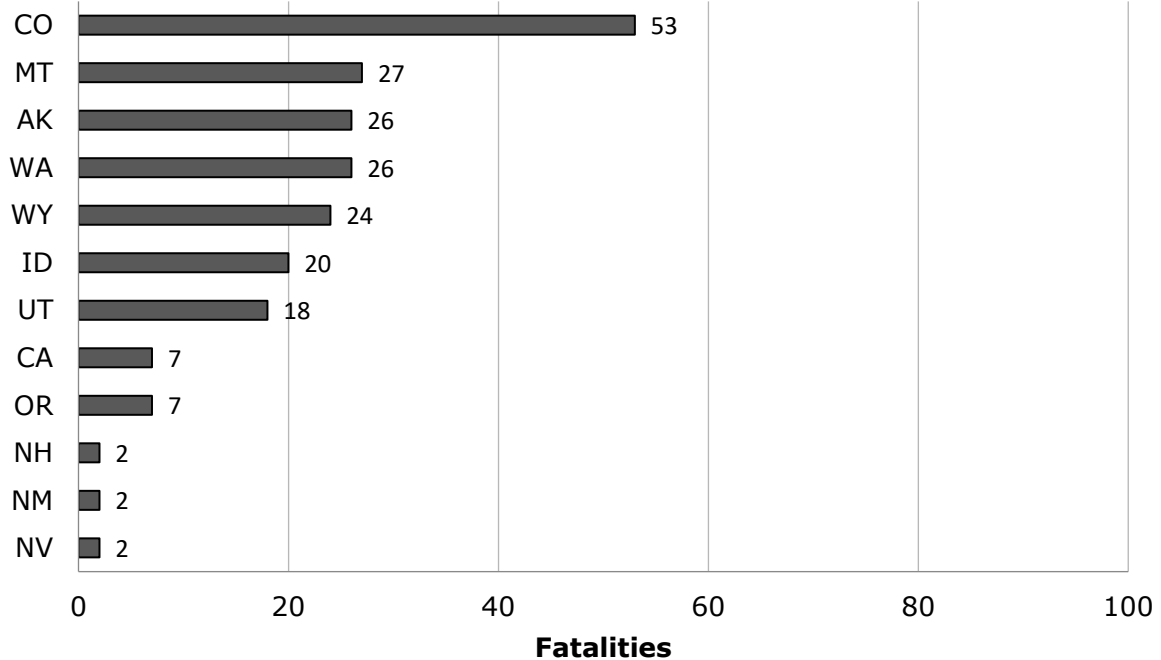
GIS contractor Gary Greenberg thoroughly reviewed the data with Alaska Heliski, and unfortunately I will have to assess fines for four out of bounds landings. There were numerous reasons Alaska Heliski believed it was operating within the bounds of the map, and therefore did not report these infractions on their Weekly Use Reports.

The Bureau of Land Management actively manages its lands for heliskiing, and its lands were removed from the map in March 2022 by the Assembly, the Alaska Mental Health Trust does not allow heliskiing on its property within the Haines Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024 SEASON:

- 1) Require all operators to purchase an InfoEx subscription for the duration of the season February-May, 2024. (Requires Administrative Policy change)
- 2) Require all operators to share all of that information with the exception of ski run data (shareable, if operators choose to share with one another). (May require Administrative Policy change).
- 3) Ensure that all operators are using the same form with the helicopter tail number and number of skier days (still required to be reported). (Requires Borough review of form and ensuring all operators have current form before 2024 season)
- 4) Remove the requirement that names of helicopter pilots be provided. It is too difficult to follow when pilots have to be changed out. The name of the company, color(s) of the helicopters, and tail numbers are sufficient to follow up on complaints. The name of the pilot has not proven to be useful information for the Borough's needs. (Requires Code change)
- 5) Although one operator (AMG) renewed its permit in 2023 for two years, it chose to not operate heliski tours in 2023. The Code guarantees each permittee one helicopter. (Could be Code change to make clear that if a permittee does not operate in a season that the permit automatically is terminated.)
- 6) Require all operators to submit GPS data in .KML format. Allowing operators to use different formats requires extra expense and time for the GIS contractor. (Requires Administrative Policy change)

US Avalanche Fatalities by State 2012-13 to 2021-22



Provided by Colorado Avalanche Information Center – obtained from CAIC website 10/1/23. This is not a total count of fatalities in the Haines Borough. There are other fatal accidents not included in this data. The graph appears to have not counted two fatalities. It is for relative comparison only.

2021-2022 Season: 1 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20220425: Southeast of Thompson Pass, 1 heliskier caught and killed

2020-2021 Season: 6 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20210513: Ruth Glacier, Denali National Park, 2 climbers caught in serac fall, one killed

20210327: Matanuska Glacier, 1 heliskier caught and killed

20210202: Bear Mountain, Chugach State Park, 3 climbers caught and killed

2019-2020 Season: 3 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20200309: Hatcher Pass, 1 backcountry skier caught and killed

20200225: Unalaska Island, 1 snowmobiler caught and killed

20200210: Boulder Creek Drainage, South of Cooper Landing, 1 snowmobiler caught and killed

2018-2019 Season: 2 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20190309: Crescent Lake Kenai Peninsula, 1 snowboarder caught and killed

20190313: Takshanuk Mountain, north of Haines, 1 snowboarder caught and killed

2017-2018 season: 3 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20180502 Kenai Mountains, 1 snowmachiner killed, Blackstone Glacier
20180225 Ketchikan, 1 snowboarder killed
20171122 Hatcher Pass, 1 skier killed

2016-2017 season: 2 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20170401 North Pole, child killed in roof avalanche
20170128 Near Cooper Landing, Kenai Peninsula, 1 Snowmobiler killed
20161229 Turnagain Pass, Lipps. Skier near miss

2015-2016 season: 6 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20160411 Summit Lake, near Gulkana Glacier, 1 snowmobiler caught, buried and killed
20160403 Summit Lake, Eastern Alaska Range, Courage Mountain, 1 Snowmobiler killed
20160227 Glennallen, Chugach Mountains, near Nelchina Glacier, 2 snowmobilers caught, 1 killed
20160116 Hatcher Pass
20160102 Willow side of Hatcher Pass snowmachine fatality
20151129 Summit Lake area full burial survivor
20151122 Hatcher Pass solo skier fatality
20151114 Summit Lake area full burial survivor
20151107 O'Malley Peak near-miss
20151106 Hatch Peak partial burial near-miss

2014-2015 season: 3 FATALITIES IN ALASKA

20150402 Wrangells skier killed in cornice fall
20150314 Cantwell snowmachine fatality
20150101 Thompson Pass near-miss. Full burial survivor
20141228 Sunburst, Turnagain Pass near-miss. Full burial survivor.
20141206 Rainbow Ridge area, Alaska Range 1 ski fatality, 1 dog fatality, 1 survivor

2013-2014 season: 1 FATALITY IN ALASKA

20140315 Haines 1 heli ski fatality
20140111 Valdez snowmachine near-miss Brown's Creek

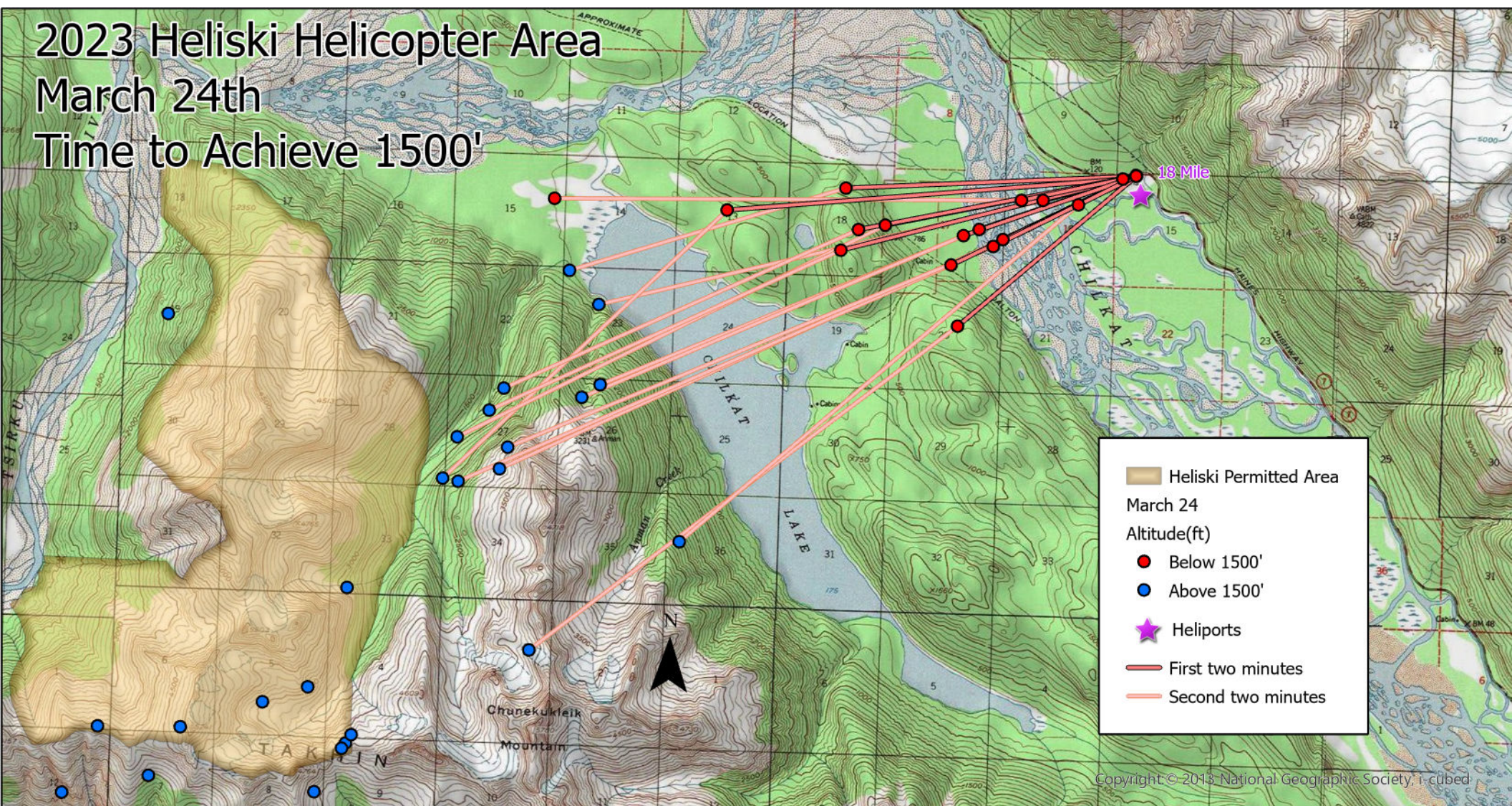
2012-2013 season: 1 FATALITY IN ALASKA

20130303 Haines 1 heli ski fatality

2023 Heliski Helicopter Area

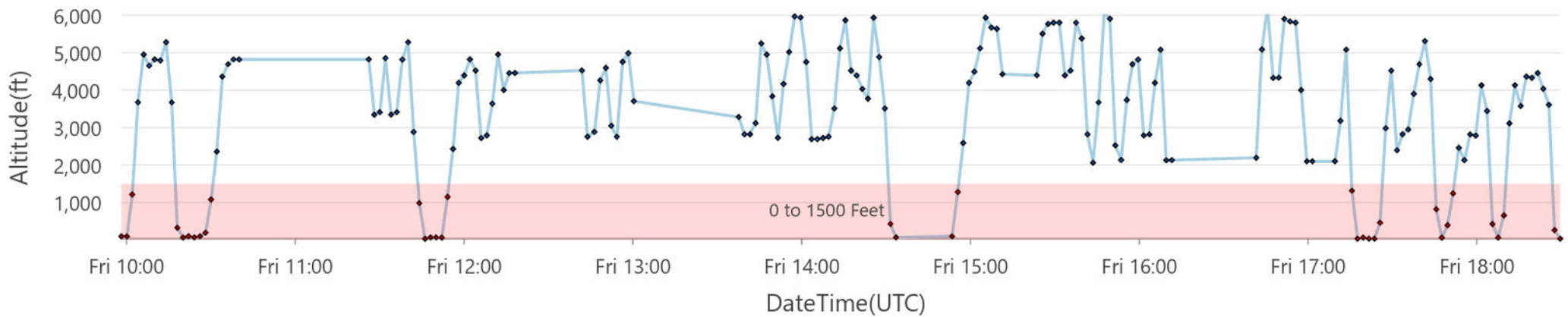
March 24th

Time to Achieve 1500'



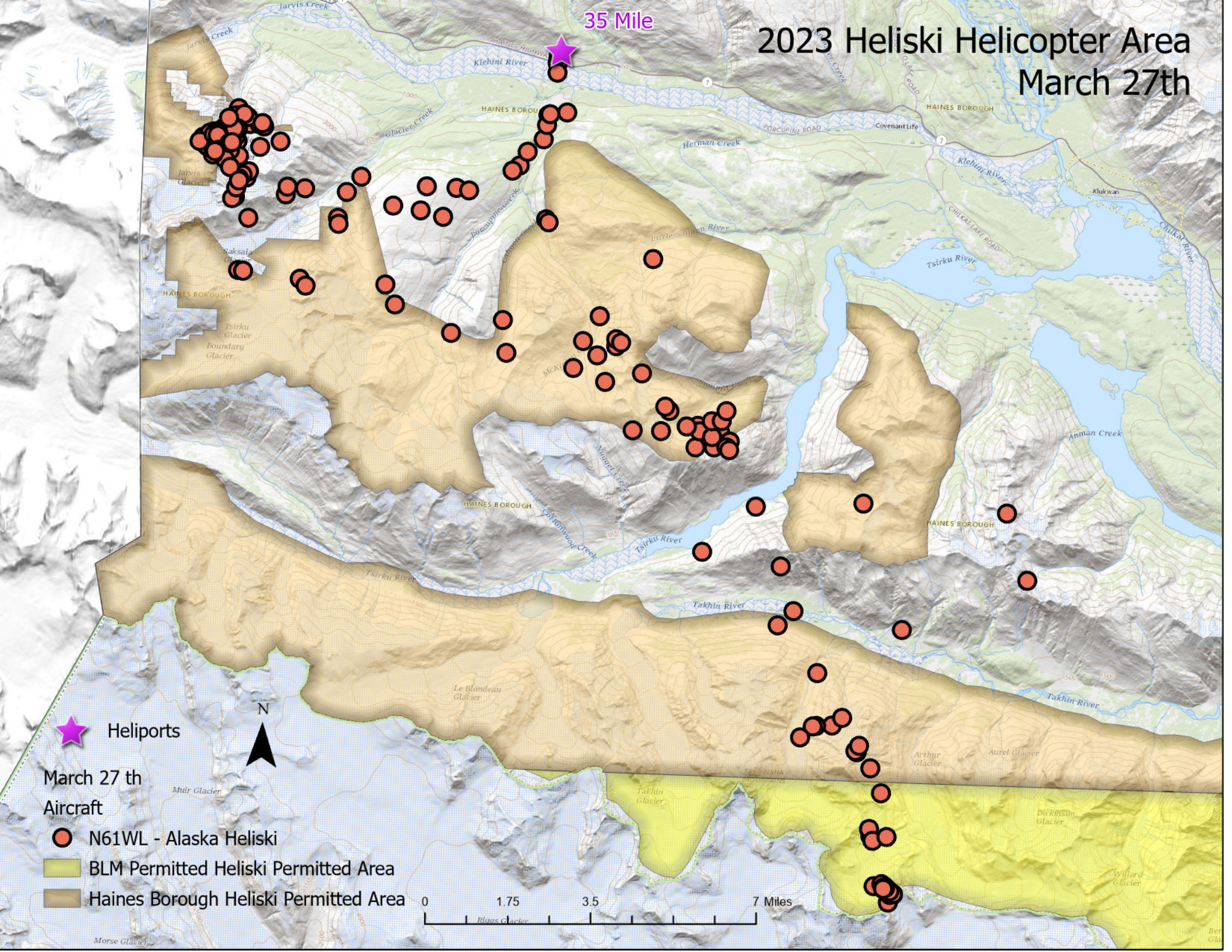
Average time is Approximately 4 minutes

Altitude(ft) over DateTime(UTC)



2023 Heliski Helicopter Area March 27th

35 Mile

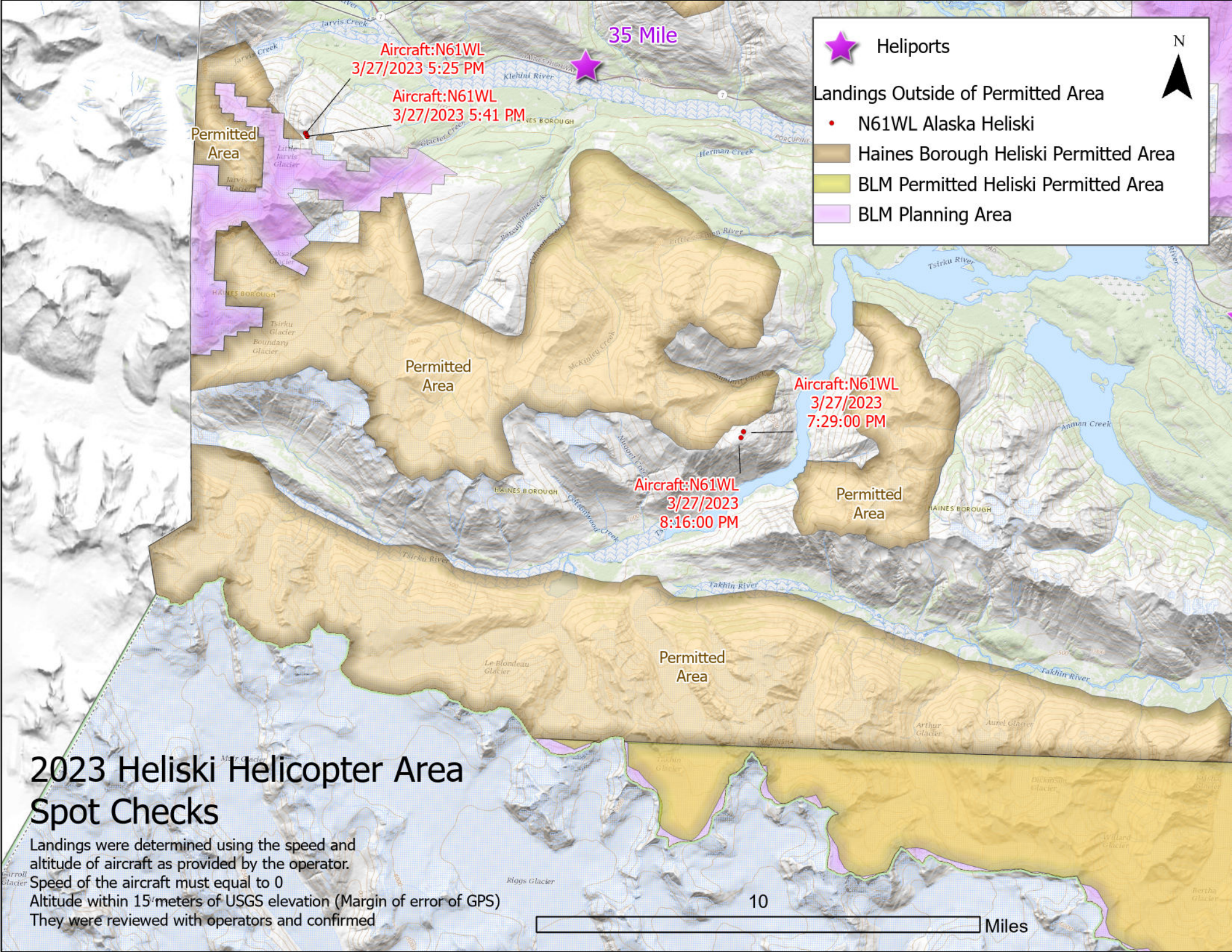


★ Heliports

March 27 th
Aircraft

- N61WL - Alaska Heliski
- BLM Permitted Heliski Permitted Area
- Haines Borough Heliski Permitted Area





Aircraft:N61WL
3/27/2023 5:25 PM

Aircraft:N61WL
3/27/2023 5:41 PM

35 Mile

★ Heliports
 Landings Outside of Permitted Area
• N61WL Alaska Heliski
 Haines Borough Heliski Permitted Area
 BLM Permitted Heliski Permitted Area
 BLM Planning Area

Aircraft:N61WL
3/27/2023
7:29:00 PM

Aircraft:N61WL
3/27/2023
8:16:00 PM

2023 Heliski Helicopter Area Spot Checks

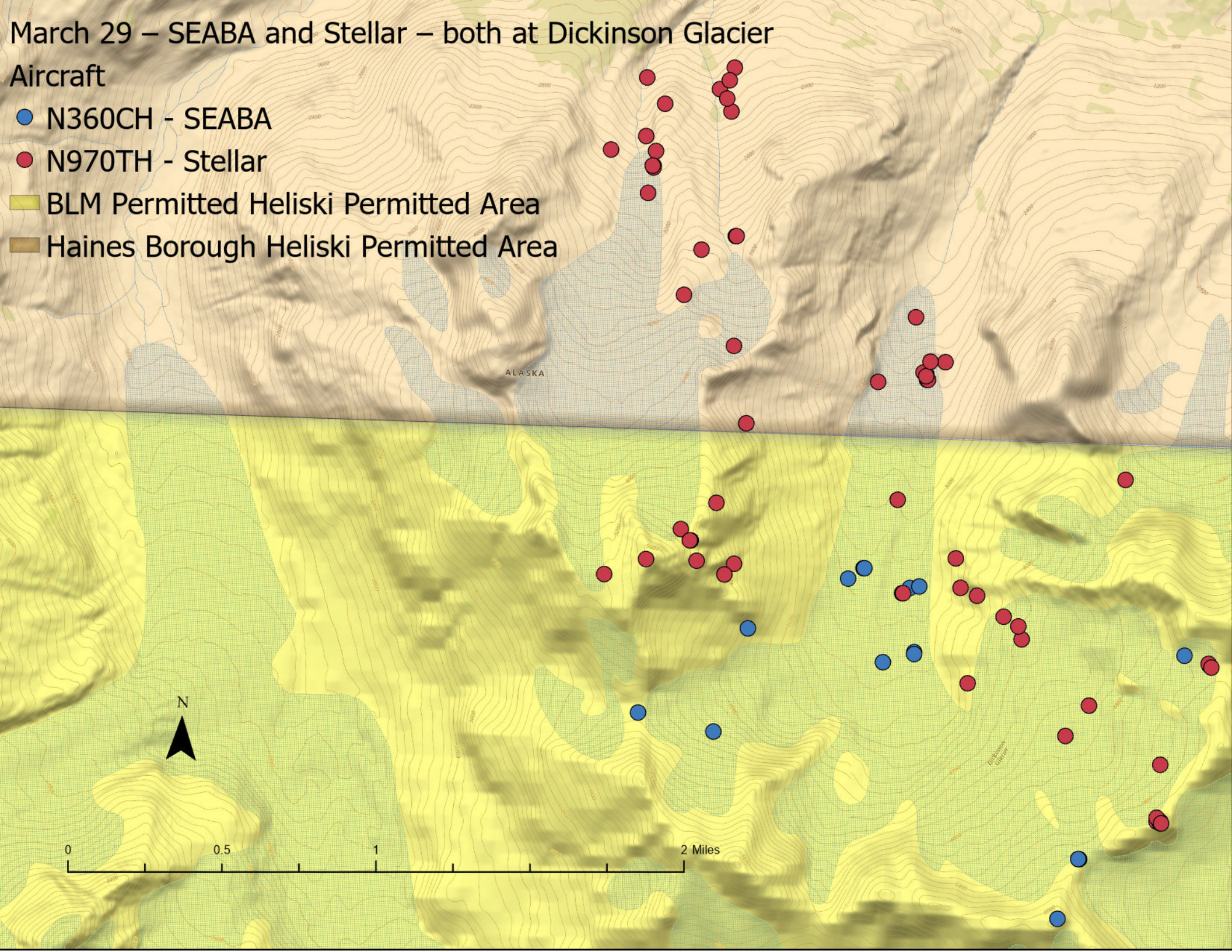
Landings were determined using the speed and altitude of aircraft as provided by the operator.
 Speed of the aircraft must equal to 0
 Altitude within 15 meters of USGS elevation (Margin of error of GPS)
 They were reviewed with operators and confirmed



March 29 – SEABA and Stellar – both at Dickinson Glacier

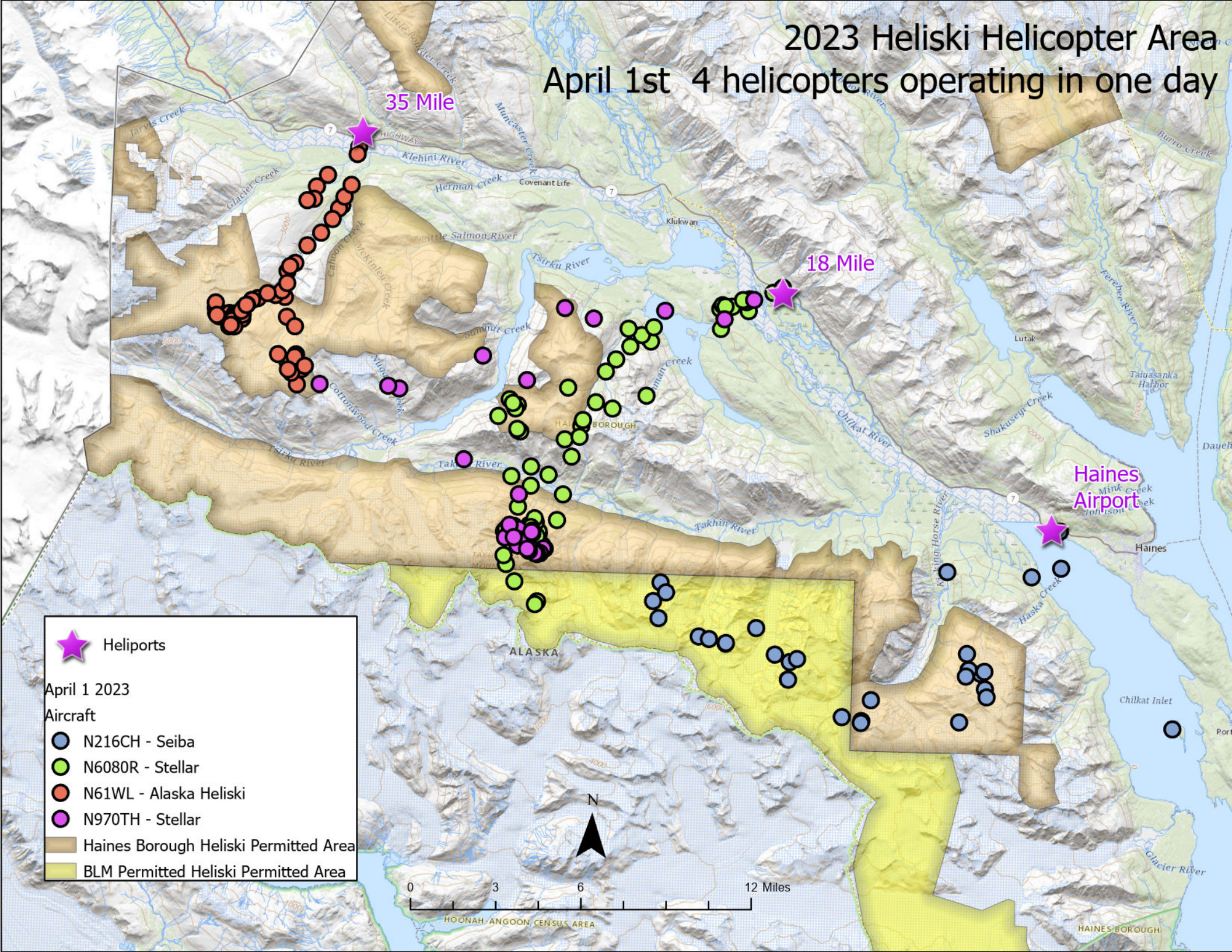
Aircraft

- N360CH - SEABA
- N970TH - Stellar
- BLM Permitted Heliski Permitted Area
- Haines Borough Heliski Permitted Area



2023 Heliski Helicopter Area

April 1st 4 helicopters operating in one day



35 Mile

18 Mile

Haines Airport

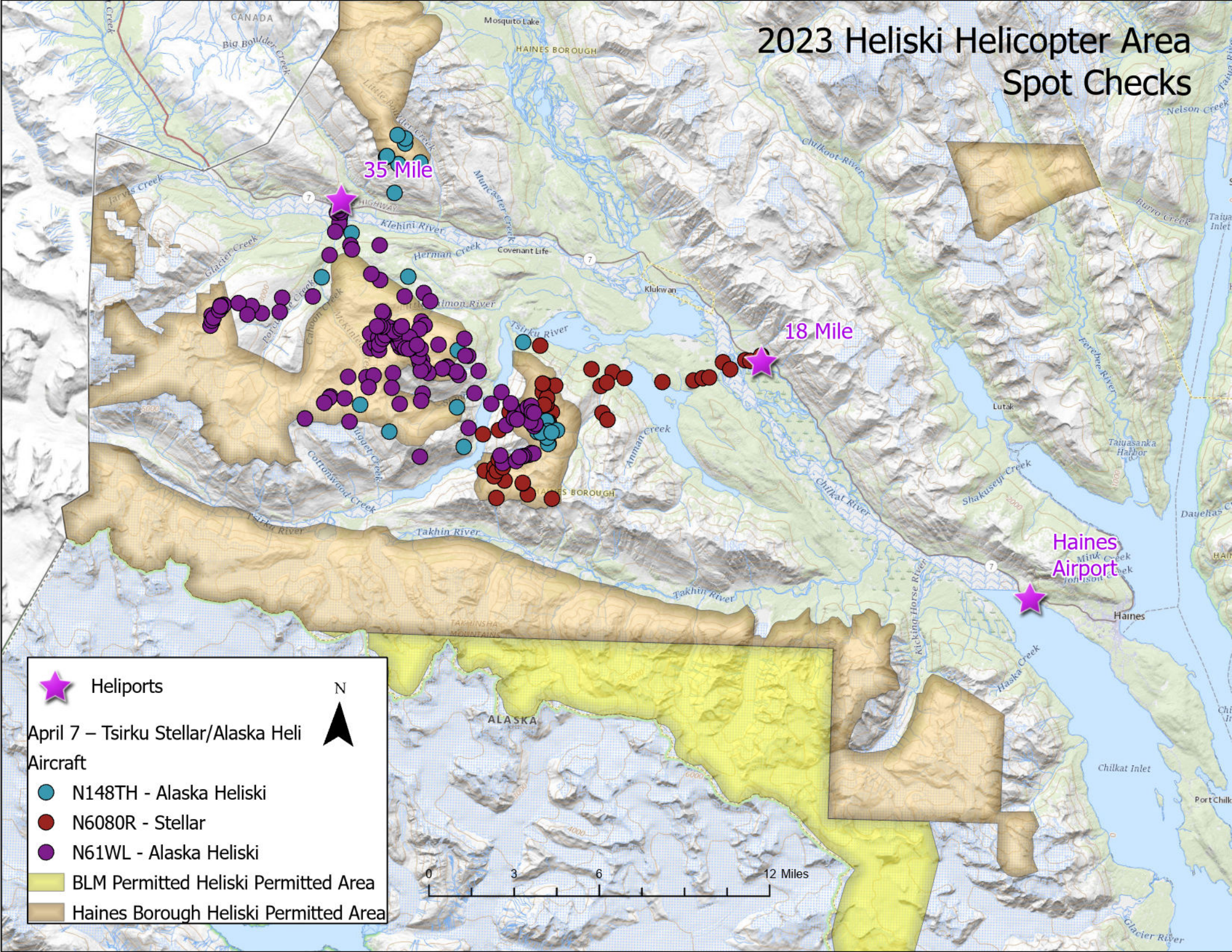
- ★ Heliports
- April 1 2023
- Aircraft
 - N216CH - Seiba
 - N6080R - Stellar
 - N61WL - Alaska Heliski
 - N970TH - Stellar
- Haines Borough Heliski Permitted Area
- BLM Permitted Heliski Permitted Area



HOONAH-ANGOON CENSUS AREA

HAINES BOROUGH

2023 Heliski Helicopter Area Spot Checks



★ Heliports



April 7 – Tsirku Stellar/Alaska Heli Aircraft

- N148TH - Alaska Heliski
- N6080R - Stellar
- N61WL - Alaska Heliski

- BLM Permitted Heliski Permitted Area
- Haines Borough Heliski Permitted Area

0 3 6 12 Miles



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 1209, HAINES, ALASKA 99827
AK Annette Kreitzer, Borough Manager
907.766.6404 akreitzer@haines.ak.us

MEMO

TO: Heliski Operators: AMG, AK HELI, SEABA, STELLAR
DATE: October 9, 2023
RE: Helicopter allocations for 2024

ALL:

AMG has notified me that it does not intend to operate during the 2024 Heliski season. It also did not operate during the 2023 season. In accordance with HBC 5.24.020 B(4), I intend to allocate helicopters for the 2024 season which begins February 1, 2024 as follows:

AK Heli: two helicopters (\$8,000 payment received)
SEABA: two helicopters (\$8,000 payment received)
Stellar: two helicopters (\$8,000 payment received)

I encourage you to pay promptly to ensure this allocation, do not wait until January 15th. As always if you have questions, please email or call. (*payment from all operators was received following receipt of this allocation notice.*)

HBC 5.18.025 sets out the fees for helicopters allocated for the 2024 season:

C. Helicopter Fee. For 2022, 2023 and 2024 only, each commercial helicopter ski tour permit holder shall pay an annual nonrefundable fee of \$3,000 for the first regular usage helicopter prior to January 15th. To qualify for a second helicopter or additional helicopter usage during the season, a permit holder must pay a refundable fee of \$5,000. Any permit holder requesting a second helicopter must submit a written proposal to the borough manager demonstrating need on or prior to January 15th, or upon the manager's allocation of a second helicopter or additional usage or with the subcontracting, sharing or transferring of a second helicopter. The fee is not refundable once a second helicopter has been allocated, subcontracted, shared or transferred.

HBC 5.24.020 B(4) states:

4. *When more than three applicants apply for a commercial ski tour permit in any calendar year and/or the number of applicant requests exceeds six helicopters in any regular season, preference shall be given to existing permit holders in good standing in the grant of a permit. The manager may consider previous permit use, conditions, and compliance in the determination of good standing including willful noncompliance with any term, condition or provision of the permit; and any violations of any provisions of this code or other applicable local, state or federal law, policy or regulation.*

HBC 5.25.030 (A) Helicopter usage and fees states:

A. Regular season usage allows a maximum of six helicopters per day in the approved commercial ski tour areas map as described in HBC 5.24.050(D).

cc: Tina Olsen, Accounts Receivable, Department of Finance
Rebecca Hylton, Tourism Director



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 1209
HAINES, AK 99827
(907) 766-6400 * FAX (907) 766-2716

Jan. 2, 2024

Vice President Jones P. Hotch
Chilkat Indian Village
HC60 Box 2207
Haines, AK 99827

Honorable Vice-President Hotch:

Thank you for your letter dated Nov. 15, 2023. The Haines Borough appreciates your outreach on these issues of mutual concern. It's certainly of profound importance that our two governments work together as much as possible in order to maintain neighborliness, order and a common vision that can be shared by people who call the Chilkat Valley home.

Regarding the Lutak Dock project, your letter asks for our support "during our Section 106 consultations by not promoting a shortened timeline to the agency while we move through this very important process." It's not my understanding that we are promoting a shortened timeline. The Haines Borough leadership elected in October has held two informational meetings on the dock to date.

As for whether the dock project be guided by an Environmental Analysis (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the current assembly has not taken an explicit position on this question. At this time, the project is moving ahead under the EA model. It's not abundantly clear from your Nov. 15 letter whether you are requesting us to support your request for an EIS.

Concerning the Porcupine Road project, we recognize the importance of your historic and continued harvests of fish, berries and other natural resources for sustenance, medicine and traditional activities. Toward this end, the borough will share with your village the borough's documents for proposed improvements on Porcupine Road. Please understand that following the October election, the Haines Borough Assembly may have a position on Porcupine Road that differs from that of the previous assembly.

As for mining expansion at Glacier Creek, it is distressing to hear that excavation equipment may have been driven in a salmon-spawning stream during the spawning season. If traditional uses are being blocked by mining exploration, that also would be of concern to Haines Borough residents. Please send us more information on these two topics.

As it reasonable to establish baseline information previous to setting pollution limits on waterways, we stand behind the state Department of Environmental Conservation's original decision to re-evaluate natural conditions criteria. Please let us know how we can provide more assistance in this matter.

While we recognize important differences between our two governments and the people and cultures they represent, the Haines Borough supports and recognizes the need for all residents of the Chilkat Valley to enjoy a clean environment and for safeguards that ensure for safe, responsible and sustainable development.

We look forward to your response and to continue working with your tribe into the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Morphet
Mayor
Haines Borough



PUBLIC NOTICE

Requesting Input on a Proposed Relinquishment of State Entitlement Lands

Comment Period Ends 3:30 PM, January 30, 2024

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to relinquish the State's entitlement land selection of the surface estate while retaining oil, gas, and mineral interests on certain lands within Section 33, Township 27 South, Range 58 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska. A location map is attached to this notice. The lands are not currently owned by the State, they are under Federal management and ownership. The purpose of relinquishment is to facilitate conveyance of Dingell Act allotment application AA-97348.

The 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Dingell Act) (Pub. L. 116-9) provides that eligible Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans may apply for allotments of up to 160 acres of land from vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved land that the State has selected pursuant to 6(b) of the Alaska Statehood Act, and that the State agrees to voluntarily relinquish. In accordance with the Act, the State is considering relinquishing the surface estate identified above.

Alaska Statute (AS) 38.05.035 allows for disposals of interests in state lands, and AS 38.05.945 provides procedures for notice of those disposals.

This notice and any future decisions on this proposed action are available on the State of Alaska online public notice portal: <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>. For assistance in obtaining documents by an alternative method, to request auxiliary aids, services, or special accommodations, contact DNR's Public Information Centers on State work days, Monday through Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Anchorage at (907) 269-8400, Fairbanks at (907) 451-2705, Southeast Land Office in Juneau at (907) 465-3400, TTY: 711 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973, or go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pic/> for additional contact information. Individuals who require special assistance must request assistance from the Public Information Center in Anchorage no later than 4:00 p.m., January 23, 2024.

The public is invited to submit comments. If commenting on more than one proposed action, separate comments should be submitted for each. **The deadline for public comment is 3:30**

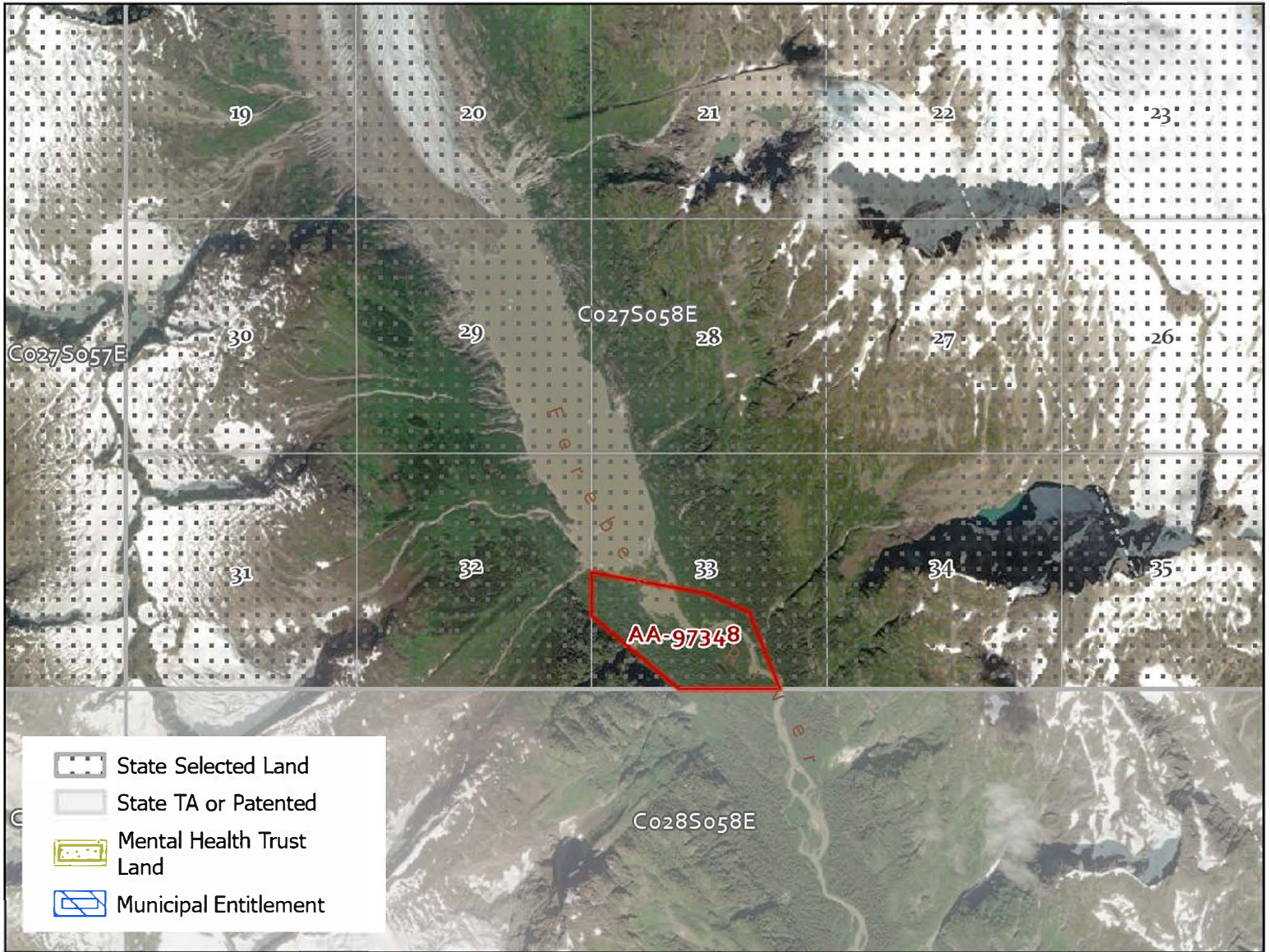
PM, Tuesday, January 30, 2024. Only persons from whom the Department of Natural Resources receives timely, written comment during the identified comment period will be eligible to file an appeal of the decision. Written comments may be received by email or postal mail. To submit comments or for direct inquiries, contact Justin DiPaola-Allen at justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov or (907) 269-8585

After agency and public input is considered, the decision will be issued without further notice. A copy of the decision will be sent to any persons who provided input, and a copy will be posted on the States online public notice portal <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>. To subscribe to the State's online public notice portal, visit the link and set up an email or RSS subscription using available criteria.

DNR reserves the right to waive technical defects in this notice.



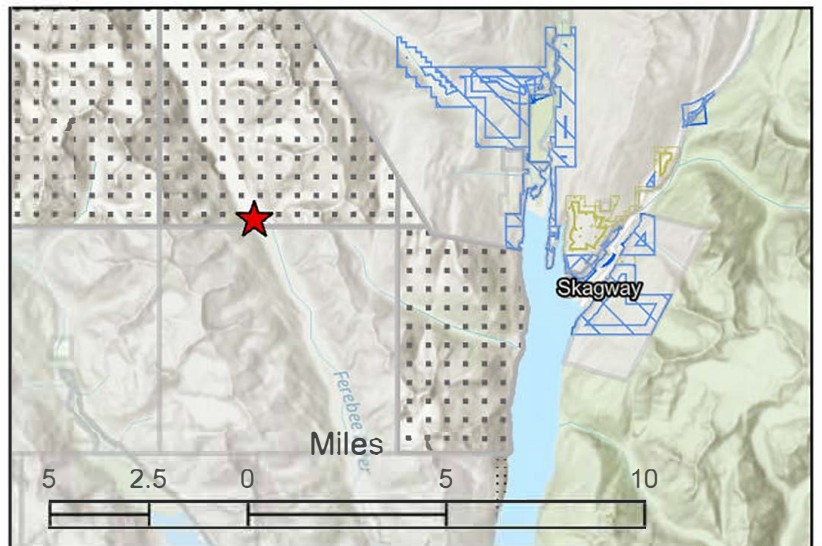
Attachment A: Vicinity Map Alaska Native Veteran Land Allotment Program Application AA-97348 General State Selection File GS-5446

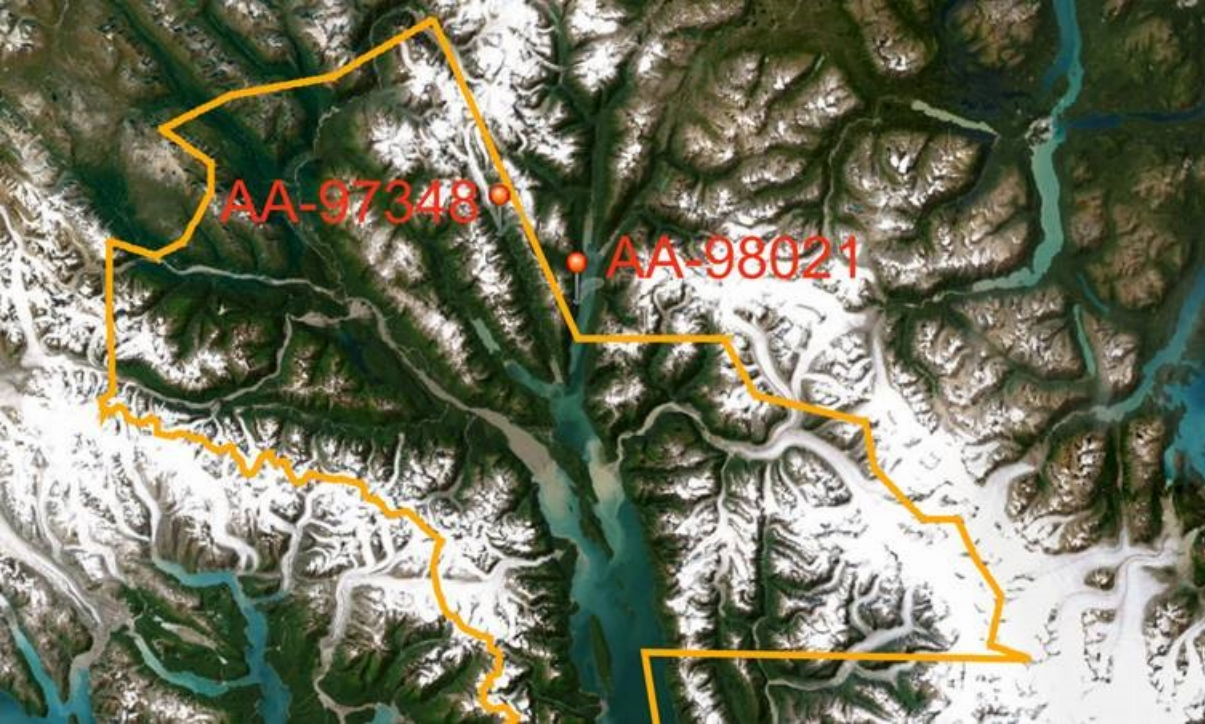


Copper River Meridian Section 33, T. 27 S., R. 58 E.



For more information, contact:
Justin DiPaola-Allen
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Realty Services Section
Phone: 907-269-8585
Email: justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov





AA-97348

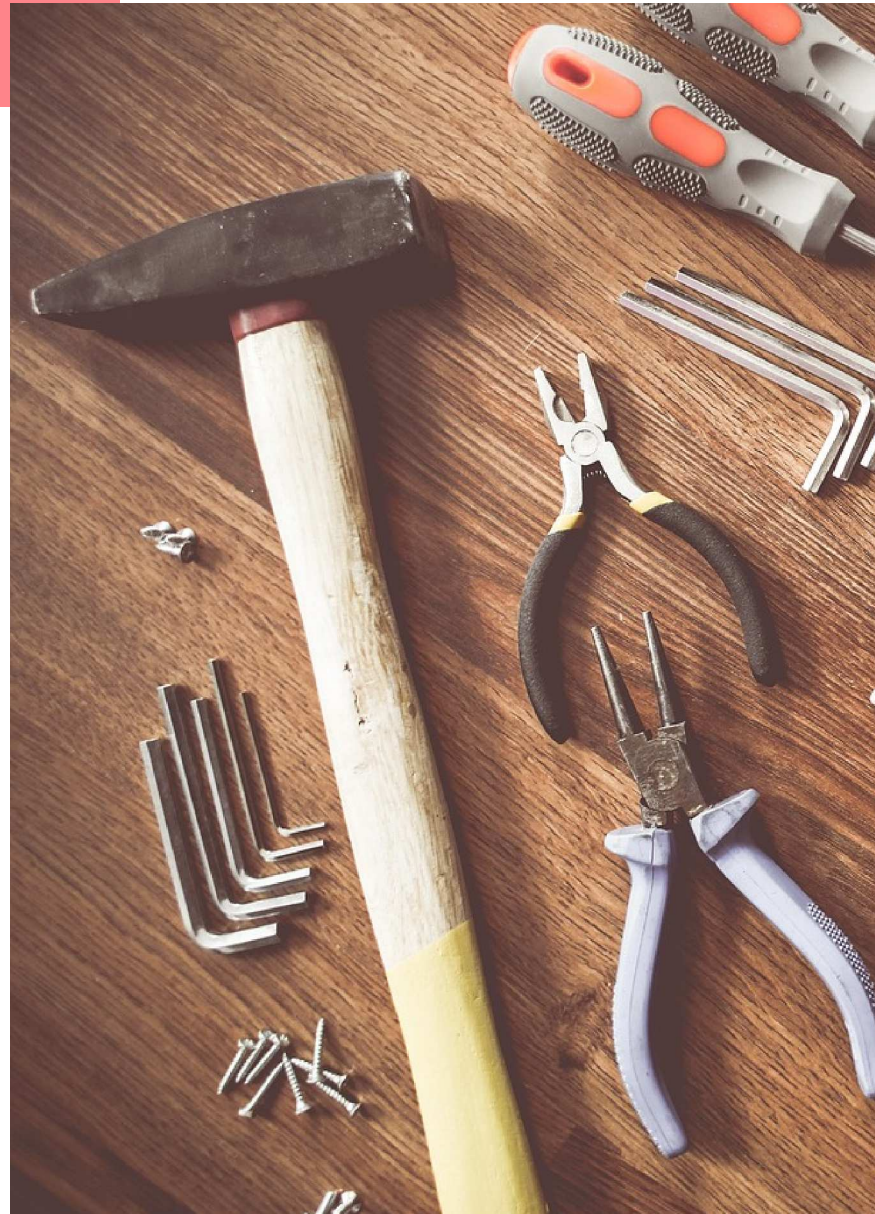
AA-98021

Haines Homebuilding Program:

Building a Better Future for Haines

Resources for a Home Building
Program





Contents

- 03** Introduction- Affordable Housing Challenge
- 04** Housing Survey Data
- 05** Considerations for Potential Homebuyers
- 06** Key Resources
- 07** Stakeholders
- 08** Mutual Self-Help Housing
- 09** Program Requirements
- 10** Objectives + Timelines
- 11** Conclusion



Introduction- The Affordable Housing Challenge

The lack of affordable housing in Alaska is felt throughout the state, and the Chilkat Valley is no exception. Housing affordability remains a significant challenge for many residents of Haines, particularly those with lower incomes. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.8% of households in Haines spent more than 30% of their income on housing costs in 2019, which is considered a measure of housing affordability. Available data shows that the median listing prices in Haines have steadily increased over the past 5 years, with a median listing price of \$219,000 in 2016 and \$314,000 in 2021. The 2023 median listing price so far is approximately \$335,000. The State of Alaska median listing price is \$ 363,000.

Housing Interest Rates Over the Last 5 Years:



2021: The average 30-year fixed rate reached an all-time record low of 2.65% in January 2021.

2022: The average 30-year fixed rate began at a modest 3.22% in January, only to skyrocket to a staggering 7.76% by November.

2023: Throughout the year, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate fluctuated within the range of 6% to 7%. By November, it had climbed to the mid-7% range.



Overall, housing prices in Haines have increased significantly over the past 5 years, while the availability of affordable housing has remained limited. Compounding the issue, is limited new construction, increased interest rates, and the high cost of developing land. HEDC identified some of the barriers to affordable housing it the 22'-23 Chilkat Valley Housing Survey Report.



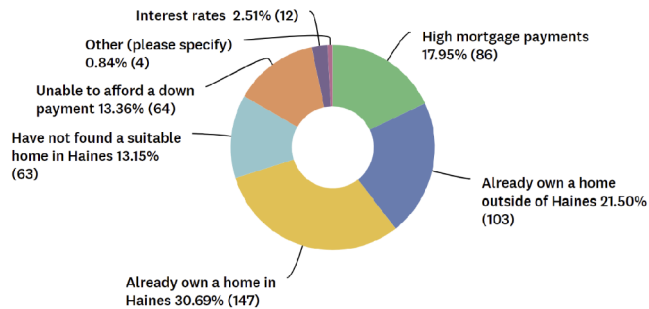
Housing Survey Data

What are the factors preventing Haines residents from buying property?

The '23 housing survey compiled some key data from potential homeowners. This included factors preventing purchase, size needs, and budget considerations.

If you prefer to buy, but haven't. What factors are stopping you?

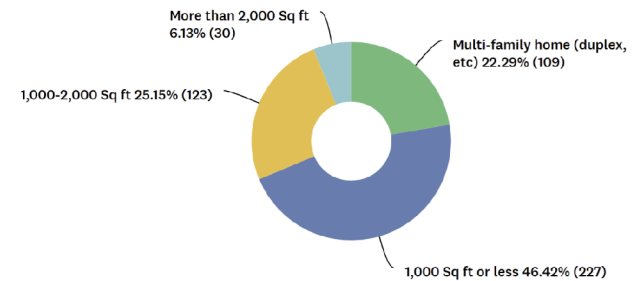
Answered: 479 Skipped: 18



Haines Real Estate Needs

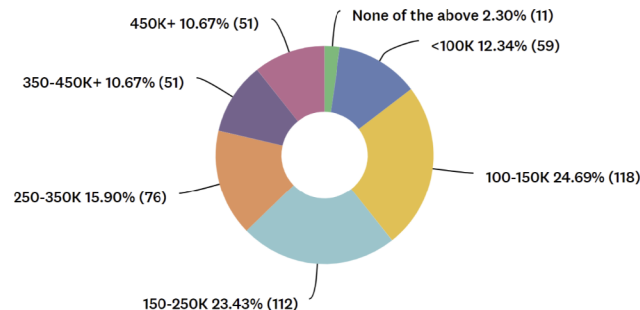
What size home would best suit your family's needs?

Answered: 469 Skipped: 8



How much are you budgeting for your new home?

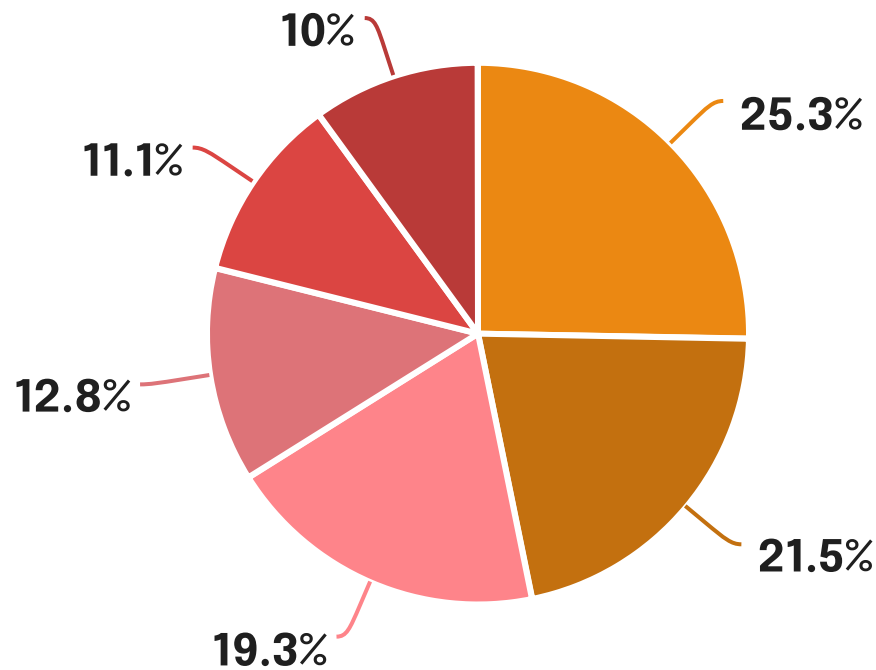
Answered: 479 Skipped: 18



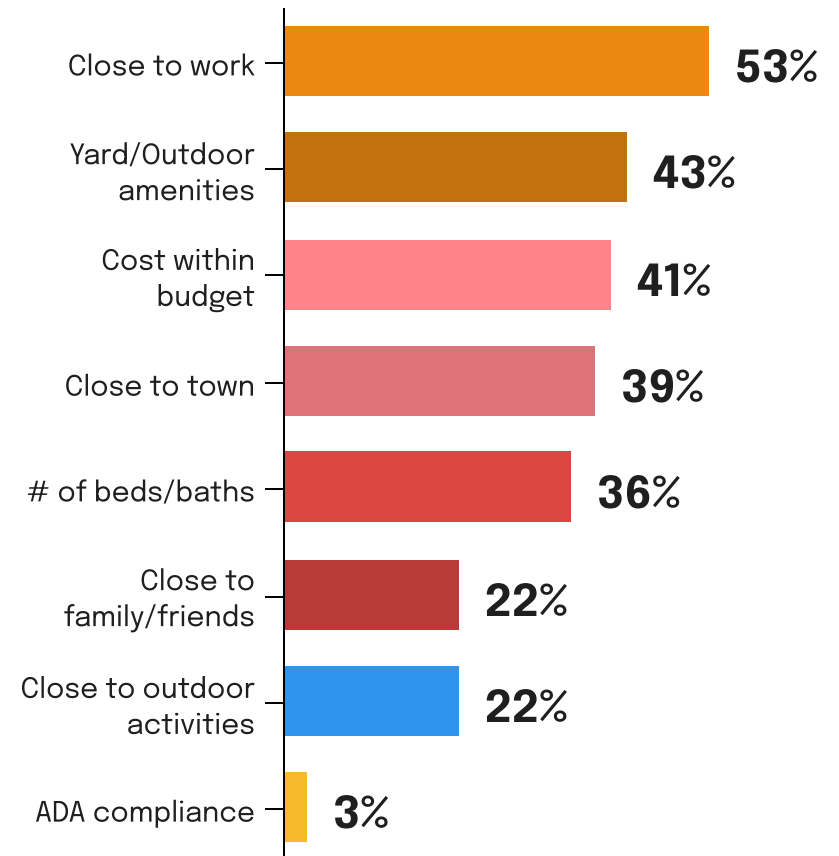


Top 3 Considerations for Potential Homebuyers

Housing Needs



Factors



How do we bridge the gap? Key Resources to employ



A significant number of resources and partnerships will have to be engaged in order to lay the groundwork needed to prepare for a homebuilding project.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- Haines High School

A key existing resource is the CTE program at Haines High School. Over the years, the students have built approximately 32 small homes that are still in use in Haines to this day. This project not only provided practical, hands-on experience for the students but also contributed positively to the local community.

Unfortunately, limited school schedules and a reduction in staff have stalled the program. However, expanding the program to the local community would increase attendance and build key skills to employ during a homebuilding program.

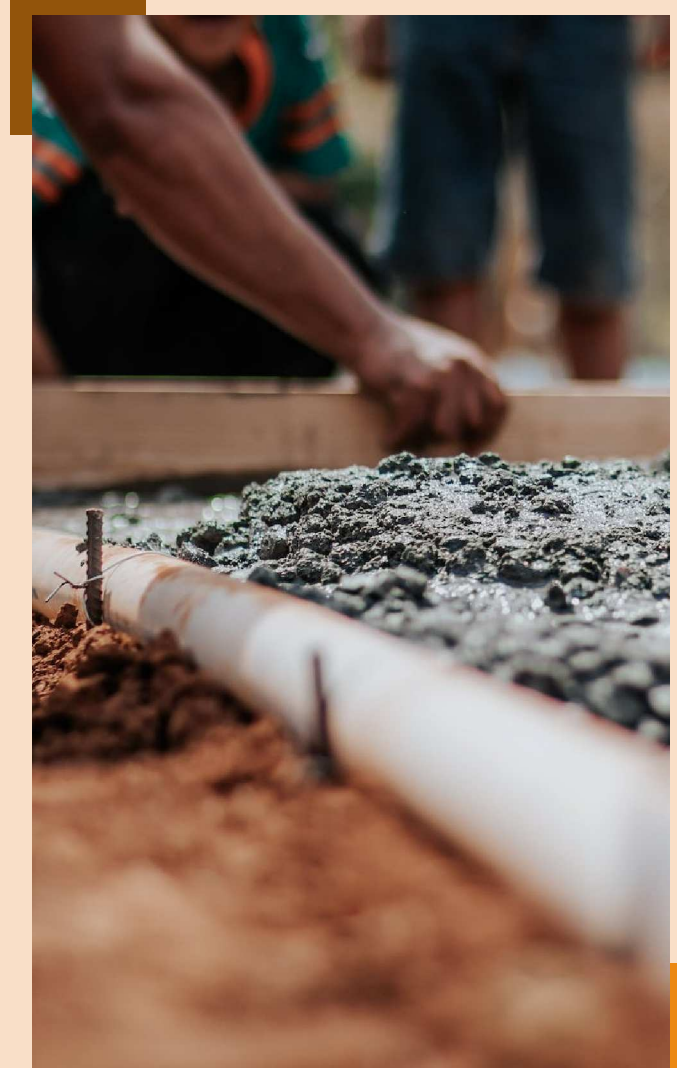
2023 CIA Workforce Development/ Housing Pilot Study : The Chilkoot Indian Association has been putting in resources into a program which addresses housing issues with a variety of regional partners. A pilot study was undertaken to understand the current challenges and needs of a new project.

Project Management Team: A designated project manager to oversee the project, and potentially other roles such as a scheduler, cost estimator, and quality manager.

Land: Plots of land to build the homes on. The Highland Estates/Hilltop subdivision planned development of 65 lots with water and power can be a possibility for future homebuilding projects.

Utilities: The lots will have to be developed to include necessary utilities like water, electricity, and internet.

An essential component of any homebuilding project would be local government support.





Key Stakeholders:

POC Team: An active program manager, or 'boots on the ground' will be needed to coordinate the complex logistics of a homebuilding project.

Local Governments: Participation and support from all local governments will be essential to the success of the project.

Community Members: Chilkat Valley community members are key stakeholders. This is the pool from where the potential homebuyers will come from. Additionally, support for the project from the greater community will ensure a smoother process.

Businesses: Local lumber yards, contractors, and skilled labor will be needed throughout the process.

Any individuals or organizations providing the financial resources for the project are crucial stakeholders.



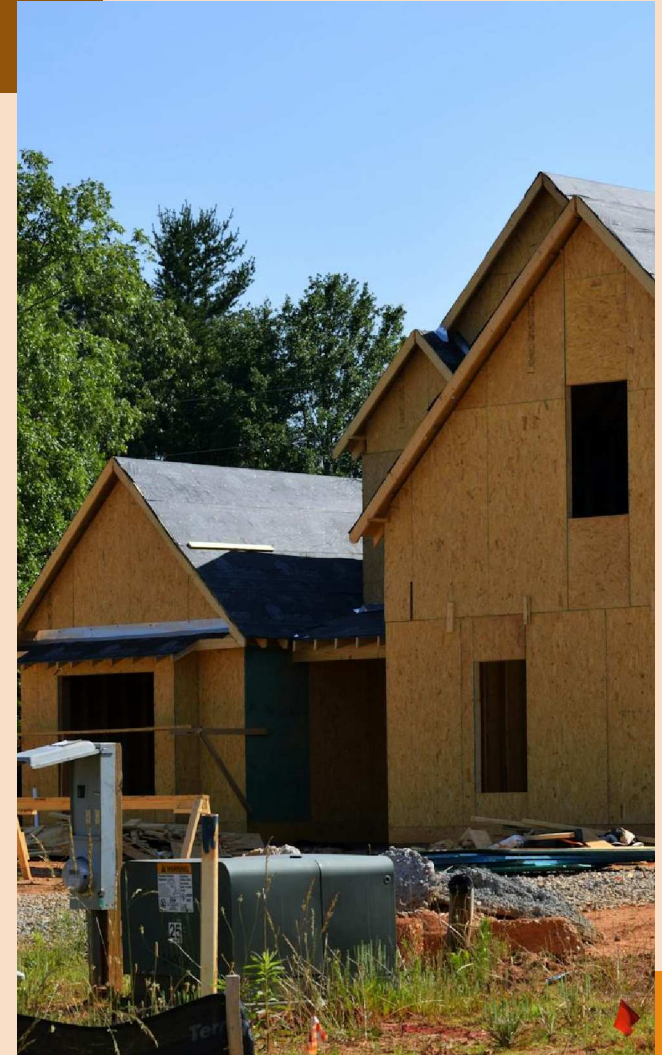


A Way Forward: Mutual Self-Help Housing

In partnership with USDA Rural Development and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, RurAL CAP's Mutual Self-Help Housing program gives first time homebuyers an opportunity for affordable home ownership with no down payment.

The program operates on the principles of sweat equity. Groups of six to 12 participants build one another's homes, working together under the direction and coaching of a RurAL CAP construction supervisor. These families must perform at least 65% of the labor and work at least 35 hours per week. Homebuyers work on all homes in the project, and no one moves in until all the homes are finished. Once completed, a community of single-family homes replaces the once vacant lot. The participants' sweat equity eliminates the need for a down payment and reduces the size of their mortgage.

The building process enriches the families and the community. Families gain new skills, a home with little out-of-pocket expense, a sense of ownership, and affordable mortgage loans with interest as low as 1%. Communities gain an increase in property tax base, a vibrant neighborhood, and an economic boost via the purchase of local building material and the hiring of local subcontractors.

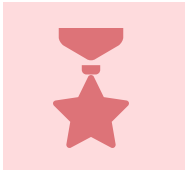




Program Requirements



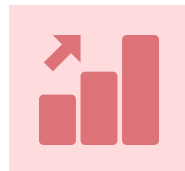
10 Households
Must be able to qualify for a USDA Rural Development Direct 502 loan. Counseling is available.



First-Time homebuyer/credit repair:
<https://www.finallyhome.org/en/partners/alaska/>



Contribute their 35 hours per week of construction of the homes (half may be volunteer labor that the participants recruit)



No one moves in until ALL homes are built

- over 100 homes built throughout Alaska



13 new building declarations as of March '23



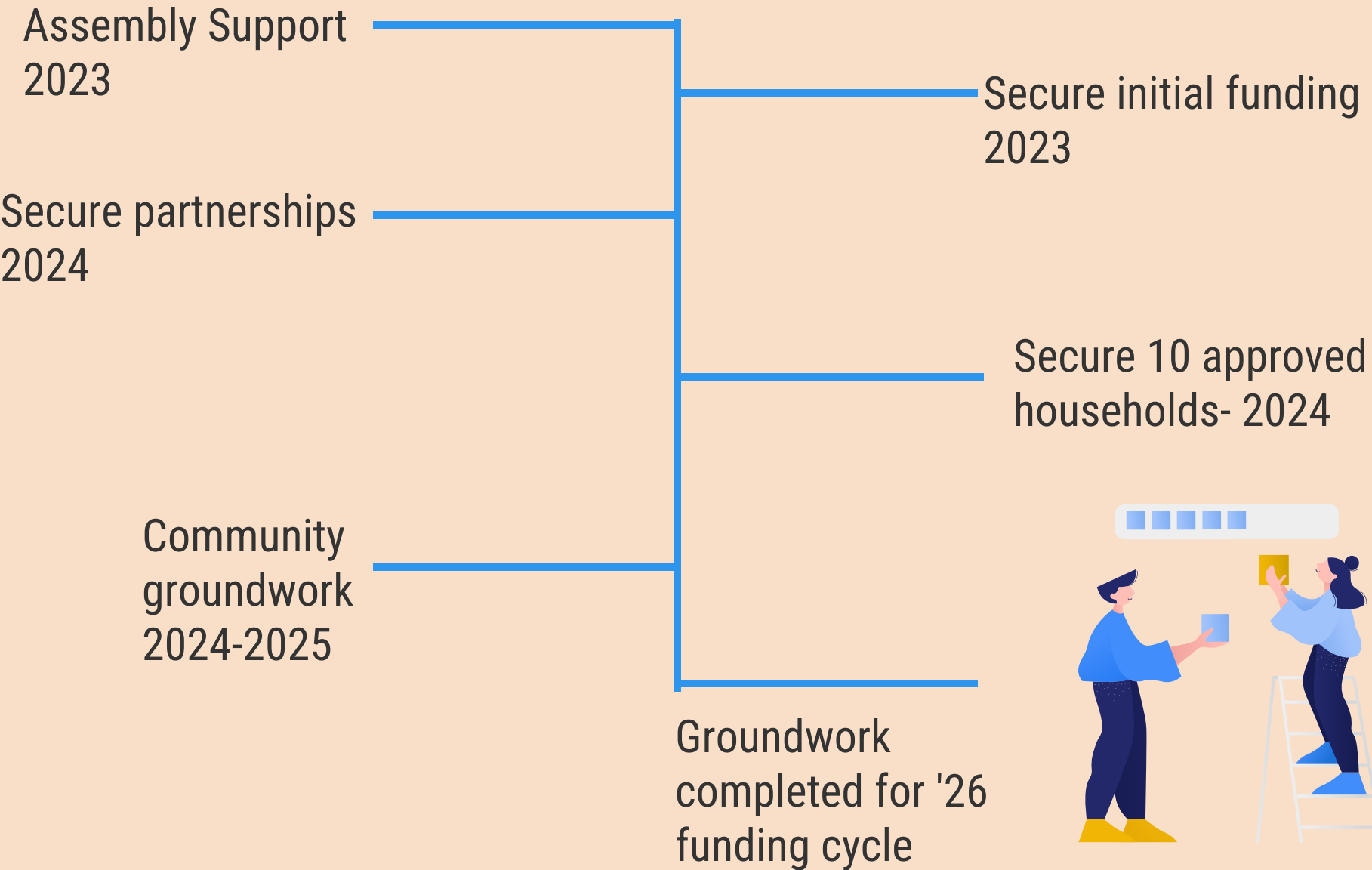
41%



of survey participants cited that 'Cost within budget' has been one of the factors preventing homeownership



Objectives & Timeline





Conclusion

Affordable housing can be in the future of the Chilkat Valley. The success of any homebuilding project hinges on several key factors.

Securing initial funding for the community groundwork is not just important, but essential. This initial investment will lay the foundation for all subsequent development and ensure that we are fully prepared for the '26 January USDA funding cycle.

The High School program has shown great promise as a starting point, providing valuable training and resources. This program needs to be revived to train students in essential homebuilding skills and those interested in putting in the sweat equity to build their new homes. It is clear, that to truly kickstart a timely and effective program, a partnership with Rural CAP is crucial. Their proven success record in similar projects will expedite the process and ensure the quality and full completion of the homebuilding program.

By aligning our goals with these strategic steps, we can confidently look forward to a successful homebuilding project that will benefit our community for generations to come. Let's work together to turn this vision into reality.

