

Dear Assembly members and the Mayor,

I am writing to comment on the recommendation being made at the next Borough Assembly Meeting to make it mandatory for all Heliski operators to use the program called Infoex to share information about snow conditions and daily field operations. I 100% support all operators using this program and believe that if used correctly it could help improve communication and safety. I would like the Borough to consider using some of our administration fees to help off set the cost of this program if it becomes mandatory. I suggest if an operator uses and correctly shares information with all the other operators they should receive a reduction in their seasonal helicopter fee. The Infoex program costs close to 2000\$ per year depending on the options you choose to sign up for and on top of the mandatory helicopter fees, (which are in lieu of user day fees) it will add up to approximately 10,000\$ per season in fees required by the Borough. If you compare that to the old system of user day fees we are now paying nearly 4 times more then they were before a fourth permit was added in 2022, only two years ago. That is a 400% increase in administrative fees in a very short time frame. Please keep in mind we also have to pay both the State and BLM user day fees. When compared to other operators in Alaska our cost to operate in Haines is already considerably more. It is for these reasons that I believe some support from the Borough using the fees we pay would be fair.

Thankyou for your time and consideration.

Rhianna

Alaska Heliskiing