

Meredith Pochardt  
PO Box 1544  
Haines, AK 99827

Haines Borough Assembly  
PO Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

January 23, 2017

Dear Assembly Members,

RE: Heliski Map Committee

Greetings Members of the Assembly,

As a member of the most recent Heliski map committee I would like to strongly urge you to NOT abolish the committee process and put this very complex, sensitive, and important decision solely in the hands of the Assembly. The process of vetting each proposal is arduous and it takes the commitment of a committee to look at each proposal and incorporate all the available information (ADFG, Residents, the Industry, etc.) to come to a conclusion that is best suited for each proposal. While I believe the Assembly has the best intention they do not necessarily contain the knowledge that would be necessary to fully evaluate the proposals. Additionally, this process is extremely time consuming and I would like to think that the Assembly's time is better spent on decisions that are more appropriate for their position – securing a long-term Manager, budgeting, etc.

Additionally, I would like to see the Borough's management of the Helishi industry become more streamlined. To do this I recommend developing a "final" map that incorporates the upcoming ADFG data, is fully vetted by all stakeholders, encompasses compromise between users, and follows topographic features as intended. Following this, the map should be closed to any revisions; not on a timeline for it to be continually opened up and hashed out – wasting Borough employee's time, committee member's time and resident's time. If significant new information comes available ("significant" can be determined by either the Manager or the Assembly), then a map committee could be convened to evaluate that information and make any necessary map changes accordingly. The current continual timeline for map changes does not streamline this process, and if anything, it encourages heliskiing to be a controversial topic.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Meredith Pochardt