

15 January 2016

To: Haines Mayor Jan Hill and Haines Borough Assembly  
cc: Skagway Mayor Mark Schaefer, Skagway Borough Assembly, ADF&G

Mayor Hill and Haines Borough Assembly Members:

The primary purpose of the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee is to provide a local forum for discussion of fish and wildlife conservation and use, and to cooperate and consult with interested persons, organizations, and government agencies, including the Haines Borough. Recently you granted a permit to expand heliskiing outside of the established map for the Freeride World Tour competition. This was in spite of a letter from Fish and Game area biologist Carl Koch expressing concern that helicopter operations would negatively impact bears, goats, and wolverines.

The Advisory Committee is an 11-member board that represents a range of interests in our community—hunters, trappers, guides, commercial fishermen, native and subsistence users are all represented. Opening wildlife habitat to heliskiing is an issue of concern to our members, and this would have been an excellent opportunity to engage the AC and to increase community participation and representation in Borough decision-making.

Hence, the Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee respectfully requests that in the future, before taking action on issues concerning fish and wildlife, you seek the input of the AC and the people it represents.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Tim McDonough, Chair  
Ryan Cook, Vice-Chair  
John Hagen, Jr., Secretary  
Luke Rauscher, Skagway Seat  
Darren Belisle, Skagway Seat  
Daniel Hotch, Klukwan Seat  
Randy Jackson  
Jamie King  
Kip Kermoian  
Will Prisciandaro  
Derek Poinsette