

Alekka Fullerton

Subject: Heli-Ski Map Committee Bias

From: Derek Poinsette [<mailto:poinsette.ak@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 10:40 AM

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Manager Seward, Haines Borough Assembly, Mayor Hill:

I attended all but the very first and the last of the Heli-Ski Map Committee meetings. And while the meetings themselves were cordial and not unpleasant affairs, it was obvious to me that the very basic structure of the Committee was flawed. There was an inherent bias to the entire discussion. The committee's two heli-ski industry representatives were on the offensive on every proposal, and it put the other three members of the committee, the Department of Fish and Game, and the public always on the defensive. It should NOT be up to those of us outside of the industry to prove that heli-skiing does harm to the public and to wildlife. There is more than enough evidence of that. Instead, it should be up to the heli-ski industry to prove to the rest of us that it does not harm the public or the public resources.

It is unfortunate that this committee was flawed from the very start, because many, myself included, invested a lot of time and effort in the process. But we have a way to fix the problem that will be fair and solid and, hopefully, without controversy. Let us wait until ADF&G has completed its wildlife reports, and have the assembly form a committee of citizens--not heli-ski representatives--to hear the proposals from the industry, the recommendations from Fish and Game, and the concerns of the public. And then we can make a map that is robust, complete, and will last for many years.

Thank you for your consideration,

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