



Tourism Department  
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September 30, 2020

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS RE: HELI-SKIING POLICIES**

Staff is providing TAB with three documents with proposed changes to make Heli-Skiing policies more streamlined and clean up discrepancies. Here is a brief description of the proposed changes:

Proposed Title 5 changes:

- The green highlights of "Aug 31" in this are because we would like TAB's input on moving this date forward, possibly to coincide with, or at least be closer to, the Borough Manager's EOS Heli report. The date of Aug 31 seems random and, to our knowledge, serves no specific purpose. Why not move up the date to, for example, July 31, to give the operators more time to plan for the season?
- The shared use policy currently says to alert heli companies, but this makes no sense. If someone wants to alert the heli operators, they all need to be informed. It makes much more sense to alert the Borough, and have the Borough alert the companies.

Proposed changes to Agreement re. Flight Operations

- We have determined this document is unnecessary. The operators enter agreement with the Borough by applying for, and receiving their permit. Current Code and policies around permits cover the Borough's ability to regulate distribution and revocation.
- The only part of this document that is not covered in Code or Administrative Policy is "Flight Rules". We have moved this section into the updated Administrative Policy document.

Proposed changes to Administrative Policy:

- Added "Purpose"
- Added "Mutual Aid"
- Added "Flight Rules" (copied from old Agreement re. Flight Operations document)
- Made changes to clarify data submission/requirements
- Reduced required number of GPS spot checks (cost & time savings)
- Clarified infraction penalties for non-reported Out-Of-Bounds operations

Please direct questions to Steven Auch, Tourism Director, at (907) 766-6419 or via email at [sauch@haines.ak.us](mailto:sauch@haines.ak.us).