



Haines Borough
Administrative Policy

Heliskiing Flight Rules, GPS Data Collection, Submission, and Compliance

PURPOSE

This administrative policy has been determined to administer and enforce Haines Borough Code. Haines Borough Code supersedes this administrative policy.

Applicable to: *Heliskiing companies permitted to operate commercial ski tours within the Haines Borough*

Approved by Borough Assembly:

Effective Date: **January 1, 2021**

Note: This replaces the previous policy approved October 22, 2013

GPS DATA

A. TYPE OF GPS

GPS units will be part of the helicopter, operating with flight following or tracking software and be submitted directly through the helicopter operator (e.g. Temsco, Coastal Helicopter).

The term “part of the helicopter” means: installed into the helicopter, using power from the helicopter, and managed by the pilot.

~~B. FORMAT FOR GPS DATA SUBMISSION.~~

~~When GPS data is requested by the Haines Borough, the heliskiing flight data will be submitted in an Excel spreadsheet formatted in tables, each column having only one data field. Latitude and longitude will be submitted in decimal degrees. Flight GPS data points will be taken in two-minute intervals.~~

B. SUBMISSION OF DATA

When GPS data is requested by the Haines Borough, the operator will provide the borough with un-edited helicopter flight data from the entire 24-hour period of each day requested. The raw data will be submitted in a common GPS data format, such as .JSON, .KML, .KMZ, .GPX, .GPS or .CSV.

C. DATA

GPS data points will be taken in two-minute intervals at minimum, and data submitted to the Haines Borough will include latitude, longitude, altitude, airspeed, date, and time. Latitude and longitude will be submitted in decimal degrees.

D. The Haines Borough shall make available digital versions of the current Haines Borough Heliski Map boundaries.

COMPLIANCE

E. GPS SPOT CHECKS

To insure compliance with the approved *Haines Borough Approved Commercial Ski Tour Areas Map*, the Borough Administration will perform a minimum of ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** GPS spot checks, per company, per season. **Additional spot checks may be made as needed.** Results will be posted on the borough's website.

F. INFRACTIONS

Heliskiing operators found to be operating out of bounds without acceptable explanation will be fined up to \$1000 per infraction. Repeat infractions may constitute a doubling of fine amount.

G. COMPLAINTS

Complaints may trigger a GPS check of both the day before and day after. If unjustified infractions are found, additional penalties will be enforced.

H. OPERATIONS OUT OF BOUNDS

It is the policy of the Haines Borough to have low tolerance for operating out of bounds. If a heliskiing company is forced to operate out of bounds for any reason, they are required to alert the Borough Administration in writing within 7 days. Correspondence should include date and time, location, pilot name, and explanation. If an infraction is found that was not notified, the minimum fine will start at \$500.

MUTUAL AID

All companies operating heli-skiing in the Haines Borough are required to sign and follow the Haines Borough Mutual Aid Agreement.

> THE FOLLOWING SECTION, "FLIGHT RULES", HAS BEEN PULLED FROM THE 'AGREEMENT REGARDING FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND PRACTICES OF COMMERCIAL SKI PRODUCTIONS' DOCUMENT. THE GREEN HIGHLIGHT IS THE ONLY CHANGE FROM THAT DOCUMENT.

FLIGHT RULES

Unless weather, safety conditions, mechanical difficulties or Federal Aviation Administration requirements dictate otherwise, ~~XX shall require any helicopter transporting XX clients and crew to:~~ heliski helicopters shall:

A. Follow the access routes described below:

- From the 33-Mile heliport - Use Porcupine Creek, McKinley Creek or Glacier Creek to access Porcupine Peak and Flower Mountain areas. Avoid Jarvis Creek, and the Klehini River to keep noise away from residences. Access the Mt. Jonathan Ward area from the Porcupine Peak area. Use a route directly behind 33-Mile to access Four Winds area.
- From the 18-Mile heliport - Take off and approach should be down river to avoid residences. Routes to skiing areas should go directly across the Chilkat River and into the mountains. Avoid flying parallel to the Chilkat or Klehini Rivers. When flying to and from the Ferebee Glacier area, avoid Chilkoot Lake and Lutak residents.
- From the Haines Airport- Fly directly up the Takhin Valley to access areas south of the Takhin and Tsirku Rivers. Fly directly across the Chilkat River and up the slope between Haska Creek and the Kicking Horse River to access areas south of Mt. Emmerich, including the Rainbow and Davidson Glacier areas. Avoid Haska Creek and Kicking Horse River. Avoid traversing slopes facing Chilkat Inlet to avoid residences.
- Helicopters transiting between heliports should fly on the opposite side of the valleys from residences.

B. Attain as quickly as practicable after takeoff and maintain a minimum elevation of 1,500 feet above ground level ("AGL") while in flight.

C. Maintain a minimum distance of one-half mile from wildlife on public lands while in flight and shall not hover over, circle or harass wildlife.

D. Maintain a distance of 1/2 mile above the valley floors except when (1) shuttling production crew and talent from the bottom to the top of a run, or (2) during landings and takeoffs.

E. Maintain a distance of 1/2-mile horizontal (ground level) distance or 1,500 feet AGL above observed recreational users except when (1) shuttling production crew and talent from the bottom to the top of a run, or (2) during landings and takeoffs.

Aleka Fullerton
Interim Borough Manager

Signature Date_____