



Haines Borough
Administrative Policy

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

PURPOSE

This administrative policy has been created 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: January 9, 2024

Effective Date: *January 10, 2024*

Note: This replaces the previous policy approved March 8, 2022

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. SUBMISSION OF DATA

When GPS data is requested by the Haines Borough, the operator will provide the borough with un-edited helicopter flight data which includes the duration of each commercial ski tour for each day requested. The raw data will be submitted in .KML or .KMZ GPS format.

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. GPS data is a public record and available upon request.

D. HELISKI MAP

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

COMPLIANCE

E. INVESTIGATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE

1. Any failure by a Permittee to follow Haines Borough Code, Flight Rules, the Mutual Aid Agreement or the Shared Use Policy may be reported to the Borough Manager.

2. Upon Receipt of a complaint, the Borough Manager shall investigate the matter and make a determination regarding whether a violation occurred. The results of this investigation shall be provided to the operator and preserved in writing.

F. 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 (3) GPS spot checks, per company, per season. Additional spot checks may be made as needed. Complaints may trigger GPS checks of both the day before and day after. If unjustified infractions are found, additional penalties will be enforced. Results will be posted on the borough's website.

G. INFRACTIONS

Heliskiing operators found to be operating out of bounds without acceptable explanation will be fined up to \$500 per infraction. Repeat infractions may constitute a doubling of fine amount.

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 notify the Borough Clerk in writing within 7 days of their out-of-bounds flight. Reports 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.

I. CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATION

1. Any violation may be considered by the Borough Assembly when acting on future permit requests of an operator.
2. Any violation may be considered by the Borough Manager when making future helicopter allocations to an operator.
3. The parties recognize that some damages resulting from any permit holder failure violations are not capable of being measured in economic terms and include, among other things, a perceived reduction in the general quality of life of Haines residents, possible reductions in wildlife populations, reduced opportunity for quiet recreation and general inconvenience to the public. For this reason, the parties agree that a Permittee shall pay to the Borough as damages for any violation and upon the Borough's demand a sum of two-hundred dollars (\$200) for each violation.

AGREEMENTS

J. MUTUAL AID

All permitted Heliski Operators in the Haines Borough are required to sign and follow the Haines Borough Mutual Aid Agreement.

K. AVALANCHE DATA

1. All permit holders operating in a season must purchase an InfoEx subscription for the duration of the season February – May, to enhance safety operations for all operators.
2. All permit holders operating in a season must share InfoEx information among the group, with the exception of ski run data, which may remain proprietary at an operator's discretion.

L. FLIGHT GUIDELINES

Unless weather, safety conditions, mechanical difficulties or Federal Aviation Administration requirements dictate otherwise, Heliski Operators shall:

1. Follow the access routes described below:
 - **From the 33-Mile or 35-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.
2. Attain as quickly as practicable after takeoff and maintain a minimum elevation of 1,500 feet above ground level ("AGL") while in flight.
3. Maintain a minimum distance of one-half mile from visible wildlife on public lands while in flight and shall not hover over, circle or harass wildlife.

4. 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.
5. 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.



Annette Kreitzer
Borough Manager

1-25-24

Signature Date

