

Dear Forest Service and whomever else this may concern,

My name is Paul Krekow and I am a part owner of Points North Heli-Adventures here in Cordova Alaska. I wanted to use this platform to reach out to anyone interested in reading through the comments so that you can hear my perspective as to why this is such an important permit, not only for our business, but also for the forest service and the town of Cordova.

The lands being opened up to winter helicopter access are primarily inaccessible to by most any other means, with the exception of some exceedingly hardy individuals who are willing to brave the Alaskan wilderness. For the vast majority of the population, including most of the Cordovans that I have met, this breathtaking part of the world is something they will only know through photos and videos. To have the experience of exploring the Chugach firsthand is something that I, as a lifelong guide, would love to give to each and every person I encounter. It is the kind of wilderness that changes people's perception of what is important in the world. I have had unique opportunity to spend more than my fair share of days there the past few years as we have been exporting the temporarily permitted zones these past few years. I also got to explore some of the formerly permitted zones in the old permit area when I worked for H2O Guides in Valdez. In the ski industry, we refer to this forest service land as the Holy Grail of Heli Skiing. The mountains and the terrain are some of the most breathtaking in the world, and the quality of the snow is like nowhere else.

The terrain opens up several historically wind protected zones that even after these massive wind events we experience in the Copper River Delta, we are still able to find sheltered terrain to take our clients to. One reality of Heli-skiing that many people do not realize is that even though we currently have a vast expanse of terrain at our fingertips, we are often exceedingly constrained to find safe skiing due to the many factors including weather, snow conditions and ability levels.

It is important to stress that we are working closely with both the forest service and the city of Cordova to ensure that we identify where there are potential interactions with both wildlife and other human users. As an Eagle scout, I have spent my entire life finding the balance between using public lands and acting as a steward to help protect the fragile environments that we play in. Respect for the animals that have been run out of so many environments is of the utmost importance. I can assure you that for the most part, the majority of the proposed new terrain is void of any visible signs of life for the entirety of our season. The passing of this permit will also help fund a new study on the habitation patterns of whatever wildlife is living in the forest, and I can once again assure you, if and when we encounter any animals, we will immediately move on and report that area to the forest service.

Reading through the many comments that I have seen so far; I would like to address the concerns of many locals that helicopters will be flooding the area. This is just not the case. While I cannot speak for the two other operators that have also been awarded the opportunity to use this permit area, I can assure you that here at PNH we intend to continue to base out of the Orca Lodge as long as we are in operation. I can confidently say that this permit will only

open up the opportunity for a very controlled economic growth opportunity for our company. With the addition of terrain to the east of town and north of the airport, we would like to add flight paths that avoid town and any population to make that area more cost effective and accessible. The addition of this area opens up the possibility that we might be able to operate an even longer season by opening earlier and possibly sticking around later with the addition of higher and colder mountains. Much of the newly proposed areas give us the opportunity to offer up new ski packages at more affordable rates. One of my goals as I have become an owner of PNH is to get as many Cordovans into their backyard as possible. Many of you have lived here for large portions of your lives without ever getting the opportunity to explore so much of what makes this place special.

I implore each and every one of you to trust in the process and in our good intentions. I will reiterate that we are committed to working closely with both the forest service and the town of Cordova to provide more access to our mountains for more people in the same safe, respectful and professional manner that has led to the current success of this business. Kevin Quinn started PNH 23 years ago to blow people's minds and make dreams become reality. This is the legacy he is entrusting in me, and I vow to continue that practice as long as I am at the helm!

Please feel free to reach out to myself directly with any more questions or concerns. We will be giving a presentation at the next city council meeting to give an overview of what has been proposed by the forest and what PNH would like to do over the next 5 years. I look forward to hearing all of the various perspectives.

Thank you to the forest service for providing the platform for such a great conversation about our public lands and how we would all like to see them used.

Take Care

Paul Krekow