

Robert W. Campbell, Ph.D
PO Box 1693
Cordova, AK
99574
rob@redrob.net

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Cordova Ranger District
P.O. Box 280, 612 Second Street
Cordova, AK 99574
Via email to: cnfheli@usda.gov

Re: Cordova Guided Heli-Ski Project

To Whom it Concerns:

I am a resident of Cordova, Alaska and user of the Chugach National Forest. I have read the Draft Environmental Assessment of the Cordova Ranger District Guided Helicopter Skiing proposal in detail, and support the adoption of 'Alternative 2'. This alternative is the lesser of two evils, and will reduce wildlife and backcountry user conflicts over the original proposal. I am glad to see the Cordova Ranger District committing to a proper survey of mountain goat distributions and heli-ski activity within the permit area, and look forward to reading the annual reports.

I submitted comments to the original proposal, and I note again that this Assessment states "This proposal is needed to address increased demand for guided helicopter skiing opportunities". This remains an un-assessed assumption. The demand has not been measured, and many heliski operators seemed to do very well without any access to the National Forest at all, selling out their available beds almost every year. It does not appear to be a valid assumption that heliski operators have been limited by the terrain that has been available to them up to now.

The Draft Assessment is also unclear on if monitoring data will be made available to the public. This information is not proprietary, the current operators communicate their intended locations to each other every day, and there is a stipulation for a Multi-Operator Communications and Dispute Resolution Plan is included in the scoping proposal. There is no reason why that information should be kept secret, and it is in the operator's best interests to show that they are abiding by the stipulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, I will watch for updates to this project.

Regards,

Robert Campbell