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Comments: [External Email]Cordova area heli permits

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Hello, I am writing today to make public comment regarding the proposed heli ski use in the National Forrest public lands.

I think that is a no brainer and low impact way to utilize a renewal resource, the snow. Heli skiing is a huge economic driver in both Valdez and Cordova. I would like to urge the ranger district to make the permitting process for all heli ski operators less burdensome, and to open up these lands for more than the 3 currently identified. Application periods should be opened annually, not waiting for a ten year period to expire. There is plenty of area to have more than one ski operator in Cordova, and I would like to see more of this type of activity in our community. They are great stewards of the land, and bring in a much needed spring boost. I would also urge the ranger district to expand the use days on each permit, so the existing operators can utilize more helicopters and bring in more clients. This may also allow them to start a bit earlier in the spring and extend their season. This is a vastly untapped resource that has proven to be low impact, sustainable, and a successful way to continue growing the economic engine in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this.

Kenneth B Jones

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