Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/28/2021 8:00:00 AM
First name: Lauren
Last name: Padawer
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]COMMENTS regarding "Cordova Guided Heli-Ski Project"

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Dear USFS Cordova Ranger District,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Proposal for Cordova Ranger District Guided Helicopter Skiing Project.

I am a Cordova resident and local backcountry skier.

I am very happy to see the concerns about multi-user areas and mountain goats.

I think the recreation areas accessible within a day by available means (motorized or non-motorized) to Cordova should be removed from the area including Scott and Sheridan Glacier. There may be user conflict and noise pollution since Cordovans utilize these areas , especially Sheridan Glacier Lake. This is an important recreation area for Cordovans and steady helicopter traffic would be incongruent with this as a pristine and peaceful recreation area.

Also, Cordovans rely heavily on goat hunting for subsistence. Being able to access these remote areas by foot via boat or car for hunting in 1-2 days is both an opportunity for hunters and mountaineers who want this food/experience. I am worried that helicopters may drive the goat populations in directions that do not support access for Cordovans. I know USFS and the State of Alaska manages these populations and it would be very important to make sure there are buffers between known goat overwintering populations and heli-skiing recreational use.

Lastly, I am not in favor of any heli-ski operations using the area adjacent to Cordova or our "front-range" mountains unless the operators are based in Cordova. I just don't see the economic trade-off value in opening up potential concerns without any direct benefit to the community of Cordova. And perhaps the day-user fees could be waived for Cordovans should there be local operators who have access.

Kind regards,

Lauren Padawer

Lauren Padawer

Cordova, AK 99574