Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/5/2021 8:00:00 AM
First name: Geoff
Last name: Martin
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]RE. CRD Guided Helicopter Skiing Project / Points North Heli Adventures

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

4.5.21

From:

Geoff Martin

Los Angeles, CA 90042

To:

Jennifer MacDonald and the Cordova Ranger District and Officials in charge of the CRD Guided Helicopter Skiing project;

My name is Geoff Martin and I have been a client / member of the Points North extended family for six years. I'm an avid skier, explorer, mountaineer, environmental advocate and Alaskaphile. I have returned to AK every year since my first visit in 2016 and I don't see this changing soon...quite simply, it was love at first sight for me.

Since then, I have traveled extensively to access the Chugach and other mountain ranges in the state, but I keep returning to Cordova and PNH for specific reasons:

1. The Chugach is, in my opinion, the crown-jewel of heliskiing in the state, the country and the world...there's no other place like it.

2. Cordova's charm and beauty is unique to other places in Alaska and returning there feels like coming back to my home away from home.

3. PNH is a unique operation; not just because I have found their guide staff and operations personnel to be the best in the business, not just because I have made friends there that will last the rest of my life, but also because it has created a model that makes heli-skiing and exposure to the Chugach available to people who might not otherwise ever be able to afford such an activity.

Additionally PNH has brought positive exposure to Cordova and the Chugach Range. Through ski movies, magazines and more recently through social media, it has introduced countless people like me to the beauty and wonder of South Central Alaska, and it has provided a strong contribution to the community and economy of Cordova.

...But here's the biggest reason I'm writing to you today:

As a lifelong city-dweller, it's easy to pay lip-service to the sanctity of national park and forest spaces, but sometimes there's an "out of sight, out of mind" effect that happens. I donate to the Sierra Club, I take as much time as I can to advocate for protection of NPS and NFS lands when they are threatened, but it's easy to forget just how sacred these places are when I do not put eyes (and feet and skis) on them on a regular basis.

In other words, these places need to be seen to be believed and to be honored.

My understanding, appreciation and urgency to preserve these spaces is directly tied to my ability to get to them. Points North Heli Adventures' unique location in Cordova gives it access to not only usage, but responsible exposure that few organizations can provide.

Knowing that PNH has access to this part of the forest will ensure that people like me will return to Cordova for years to come. It will also foster advocates for the range who have real-world experience with its most remote treasures and gifts.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have or provide any further assistance. Know that you have a friend in me and if ever I can do anything to help the Chugach National Forest, I gladly will.

Sincerely,

--

Geoff Martin