



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Glacier
Ranger
District

P.O. Box 129
Forest Station Road
Girdwood, AK 99587

File Code: 1950
Date: January 28, 2008

Dear Friend of the Chugach National Forest:

In September 2004, the Forest Service prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (Heli-ski EIS) and Record of Decision (Heli-ski ROD) allowing for a special use authorization for commercially guided helicopter skiing on the Glacier and Seward Ranger Districts. After reviewing the Heli-ski EIS record, monitoring results, and scoping comments, Seward District Ranger Jeni Evans and I have made the decision to authorize the issuance of a new special use permit to Chugach Powder Guides (CPG) for commercially guided helicopter skiing to replace their existing authorization.

This decision will authorize the issuance of a ten year special use permit to CPG for 1,800 priority use service days in "core" areas on the Glacier and Seward Ranger Districts. "Core" areas represent areas where helicopter skiing was authorized prior to the signing of the Heli-ski ROD. The following "core" areas are authorized for use under this decision:

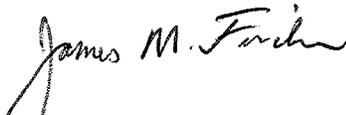
- Glacier-Winner
- West Twentymile
- North Twentymile
- East Twentymile
- Placer-Skookum
- West Bench Peak
- North Bench Peak
- East Bench Peak
- Grandview

This decision will allow for helicopter skiing to continue in these "core" areas under the same terms and conditions as described in the Heli-ski ROD. The terms and conditions of the new authorization include all terms and conditions of the existing authorization; including, timing restrictions, general operating requirements, wildlife protection requirements, safety requirements, and recreation conflict and community impact requirements that were described in the Heli-ski ROD.

In accordance with 36 CFR 215, implementation of this decision may occur immediately and is not subject to appeal.

Thank you for your interest in this project; a copy of the Decision Memo is enclosed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Teresa Paquet of my staff, at 907-754-2314.

Sincerely,


JAMES M. FINCHER
District Ranger