

Re: Teton Springs Heliport Comments

I wish to submit additional comments related to just one of the conditions applied to the Teton Springs Heliport. It refers to the hours of operation of the heliport. I had previously submitted the following information regarding the use of the proposed heliport.

Number of flights and number of days:

The number of roundtrip flights on most days will be 3 in the morning during the hours of 9:30 to 10:30 and 3 in the afternoon, returning at approximately 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Some days may require one mid day refueling run.

The heli-ski operation, because of weather restrictions, is usually only able to operate about 50 days from Christmas to April 1. The use of the Teton Springs heliport will be approximately 50 to 75% of those days.

When I submitted this information relating to the hours of operation, it was not my intention that the window for operating our heli-ski service would be written into a permit and that we would be held specifically to those hours. They simply serve as a guideline and represent the "norm of what we strive for" in our heli-ski operation. As I previously stated, the times are approximate and were intended to give a more general idea about when we would be operating based on past history. In a business that is 100% weather dependent, such as heli-skiing, it is virtually impossible to be held to such a tight schedule. Appropriate wiggle room is always necessary when you factor in all the variables; inclement weather, our guests individual needs, their travel delays, lost or forgotten equipment, injuries, and equipment malfunction. Therefore, despite having everything strategically organized and ready to go, all of these circumstances, and more, can delay operations and alter our schedule.

We certainly appreciate the consideration that the standard operating hours be noted as between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, also knowing that we will always strive to have a more narrow window of timing for our operation (keeping to 9:00 being the earliest a.m. start). This would allow for any unforeseen delays or mishaps beyond our control.

Thank you for your understanding on the unique needs of a heli-ski operation, a very weather dependent business.

Jon Shick
High Mountain Heli-Skiing