



January 10, 2012

Ms. Candice Snow
Natural Resource Specialist
State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Southcentral Region Land Office

RE: Land Use Permit Application for Alaskan Wet Dog Race/John Lang

Dear Ms. Snow,

As previously shared in email correspondence between John Lang, the Alaskan Wet Dog Race organizer and applicant to a Land Use Permit for the same, you are aware that the Village of Chenega Bay (Chenega) has been removed as a destination checkpoint for the race. Due to the event size and the overall requirements for a checkpoint, it is clear that Chenega lacks the capacity necessary to accommodate the needs of the event. Given the approximate 500 teams comprised of 1,000 personal watercrafts, participating over a week's time, and the hundreds of support boats to be staged throughout the event course, even the most basic requirements for food services, accommodations, fuel and public restroom facilities cannot be met in Chenega:

- Chenega's total capacity for fuel is 3,000 gallons, it is not available for sale outside of the Village and we are unable to dispense fuel to marine vessels of any type. According to Mr. Lang's estimates, the 1,000 participating jet skis would require 22,300 gallons of fuel over the course of a week from Chenega alone.
- There are no commercial food services or public restroom facilities in Chenega, nor are there facilities to set up a cafeteria style food service operation.
- There aren't enough residents available in the Village to provide the hands-on support necessary.
- While Mr. Lang suggested that accommodations for race participants might be provided by residents in their homes, there are approximately 20 homes in Chenega, with very little room to spare for transient lodging/accommodations.

Given all this, we asked Mr. Lang to remove Chenega from the list of potential checkpoints. He has since acknowledged and obliged our request. While we can only speak on behalf of Chenega, the reasons that we have opted out of the event are likely shared by many of the villages named on the checkpoint list.

Beyond the issues outlined above, concerns remain about the event being held in Prince William Sound (PWS). These include:

1. **Impact on Wildlife** PWS serves as a critical hunting ground for subsistence use. The disruption and environmental impact of 1,000 jet skis and their passengers in and around Chenega will compromise subsistence use of the lands and waters. It also introduces undue risk to endangered species in the area.
2. **Safety** While an event of this size presumably provides an infrastructure which supports the safety of the riders, since the event is being marketed worldwide, it will likely draw participants who lack the experience to withstand the often tumultuous waters and largely uninhabited coastal terrain of PWS. Add to that the unpredictable ferocity of the weather in PWS it is clear that the event will likely distract emergency responders, including the Coast Guard, from supporting the needs of local residents and tourists at the start of the peak summer-use season.
3. **Length of Permit Application.** Due to the numerous open issues, risks and unknowns, if the permit application should be approved, we request that it be only for one year.

According to the Alaskan Wet Dog Race collateral materials this event has previously been run in over 100 countries. Clearly from the concerns stated above, both for Chenega and for Prince William Sound, the prevailing issue comes down to a lack of infrastructure. While PWS may never have the amenities or desire to host an event of this size and duration, the fact remains that a lack of infrastructure limits our opportunities to develop sustainable businesses in our villages. Chenega Bay, like many of the native villages in Prince William Sound, endeavors to develop thriving business operations that could support tourism and events such as this (albeit smaller), rather than discourage them.

A comprehensive tourism plan and the subsequent infrastructure development in PWS would greatly expand economic opportunities for tourism businesses and provide much needed jobs and commerce in the villages. Before this can be responsibly addressed, we must have more support from the State of Alaska to enhance the basic infrastructure of our communities with improved roads, sidewalks, electricity, water, waste water and solid waste management.

In summary, lacking the appropriate infrastructure for such an event, we ask that the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources deny the special use permit application for the Alaskan Wet Dog Race.

Sincerely,

The Chenega Corporation

[Signed copy on file]

Charles W. Totemoff
President & CEO