



Auklet Charter Services

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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER,
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION, LAND OFFICE
550 W 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-3577

Dec. 14, 2011

Re: PUBLIC NOTICE LAS 28297 John Lang dba The Alaskan Wet Dog Race

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Wet Dog Race.

I strongly urge that this race not be permitted.

-Nothing about it is relevant or appropriate for the communities or environment it will operate through.

-This is an insulting and wastefully use of fuel when small communities, villages and individuals have been having such a hard time affording or even getting fuel to their remote communities.

-Coastal villages are feeling the ravaging effects of our wasteful consumption of fossil fuels and it's effect on our climate. This sort of activity is disrespectful to these people and a poor message to be coming from Alaska.

-This race would be run on a living environment with endangered species (Steller Sea lions, humpback and beluga whales) and thousands of marine birds, some of which are threatened and in some areas still recovering from the Exxon Valued Oil Spill of 1989. There is no doubt that disturbance, harassment and potentially injury by this level of motorized activity will take place.

-Extra workload for the US Coast Guard for search & rescue and security issues.

-Disruption of normal activities in small communities as well as stressing limited local resources.

-Visitors experience diminished. Whether by kayak or cruise ship people travel to Alaska for a wilderness quality experience.

-This sort of activity will negatively impact my business part of which operates natural history cruises throughout Prince William Sound. I hold a Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service and a Commercial Use permit with the Alaska State Marine Parks. My clients specifically want a remote and quiet experience. My permits direct me to not disturb other users of the area and to limit my impacts on the environment. This proposed race goes against even the most basic back country guidelines and permit requirements.

-Not compatible with the Wilderness Study Area of the Chugach National Forest.

-Conflicts and disruption to the local residence's lives and business activities as well as personal use activities, subsistence lifestyles, commercial fishing activities.

-Water pollution issues.....noise issues.....general disruption

-Public comment meetings should be held in the communities listed in the permit request.

-Would a full Environmental Impact Statement not be appropriate for an activity of this size?

I ask that you deny this permit request.

Sincerely,


David P. Janka
owner/operator
Auklet Charter Services

cc: Cordova Chamber of Commerce, Valdez Convention and Visitors Bureau, Greater Whittier Chamber of Commerce, US Forest Service, State Marine Parks, USFWS, ADFG, USCG, USGS, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Native Village of Eyak, Copper River Watershed Project, Prince William SoundKeeper, PWS Audubon, Audubon Alaska.