

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kachemak Ski Club, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030894****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Kachemak Ski Club, Inc. - Diamond Ridge-Safety Equipment for Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow

**State Funding Requested: \$20,000****House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Safety Equipment Purchases for Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$25,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$5,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$20,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Volunteer labor and KSC purchased materials to construct secure storage of safety equipment (estimated at \$5000)***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Kachemak Ski Club (non-profit operators of the Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow) requests funding for a Capital Improvement Project to purchase needed winter safety equipment for the continued safe operation of its ski hill. The KSC ski tow is located over a quarter mile off the Ohlson Mountain Road, approximately 10 miles from downtown Homer. All skiers and volunteers must currently walk a snow covered right of way path to access the base of the ski hill.

KSC requests funds for purchase of a snow machine capable of evacuating an injured skier uphill to the parking lot (where local club first aid responders would transfer care to local EMS providers), as well as for use packing both the access right of way and the tow path of the rope tow itself. Both of the latter are weekly maintenance tasks that must be done to open the hill to the skiing public. A covered open sled capable of being towed by a snow-machine to evacuate an injured skier would be part of this purchase.

The final phase of the project would include construction or purchase of secure covered storage for the protection of the purchased equipment from the elements as well as a grooming device to break up icy or rutted conditions on the access trail or ski hill itself.

This project will increase safe access to and from the ski hill for members of the skiing and snowboarding community of the southern Kenai Peninsula Borough who utilize this historic recreational winter resource.

In recognition of the current fiscal climate, the original proposal (first requested during the 2013 Legislative Session) included other equipment that has been eliminated from the request, thereby reducing the CIP Request by \$5000.

**Project Timeline:**

The evacuation snowmachine and covered sled would be purchased within 60 days of funding; secure covered storage and grooming equipment would be purchased and constructed within 180 days of funding.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Kachemak Ski Club

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Randall Wiest  
Title: Project Manager  
Address: PO Box 3705  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
Phone Number: (907)235-4341  
Email: northwiest@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



## HOMER MEDICAL CLINIC

4136 BARTLETT HOMER, AK 99603-7015 • PH 235-8586 FAX 235-6639

Representative Paul Seaton  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Juneau, AK  
January 10, 2013

RE: Machinery Upgrades for the Ohlson Mountain Ski Area

Dear Representative Seaton:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Kachemak Ski Club/ Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow and our 2013 Capital Improvement Project request to help the RopeTow purchase needed equipment to improve safety and accessibility for our skiers and snowboarders.

As you know, this historic Homer area ski hill lies about a quarter mile by foot off Ohlson Mountain Road. As such, injured skiers face a difficult uphill evacuation path from the base of the ski area to the road, where emergency responders can then transport the injured to our local hospital. Currently, the club has no dedicated vehicle or sled to assist in the timely transport to the road for rendezvous with EMS. Thus we are forced to rely on Good Samaritan volunteers who live in the area and who may or may not be available on a given ski day to offer assistance.

As a family doctor and emergency room physician who is trained in Advanced Trauma Life Support, I cannot overemphasize the importance of timely transfer of a seriously injured patient. However unlikely a serious ski injury is on our small rope tow ski hill, statistics from the ski industry over many decades indicate that about 1 in 100 skiers per day will have some sort of injury requiring medical attention. Moreover, the sooner a trauma patient can receive EMS services and transfer to a facility with trauma care available, the better the outcome. Having a snowmachine and evacuation sled on site, I estimate, would probably cut the time to transfer in half.

The essence of our request is to purchase a snowmachine and towable sled to meet this currently unmet safety need for skiers. The equipment would also be used to pack both the access trail from the road to the base of the ski hill, as well as the path of the rope tow itself up the hill, a chore that needs to be accomplished prior to each scheduled opening of the hill. (Currently this is done by neighborhood volunteers with snowmachines or, in their absence, arriving skiers doing so on foot using snowshoes or skis/ snowboards). Additionally, a four wheeler ATV is part of our request, to be used for similar tasks during hard packed trail conditions, as well as to assist with pre-season brushcutting, firewood hauling and other maintenance chores on the property.

I hope we can count on your support for this CIP, as I think it will represent a significant upgrade in improving safety for our recreational users and ease access to and from the hill.

Respectfully,

Randall H. Wiest MD  
Family Physician, Homer Medical Center  
Emergency Room Physician, South Peninsula Hospital  
President, Kachemak Ski Club, Board of Directors

WILLIAM H. BELL  
M.D., A.B.E.P., F.A.A.E.P.

GIULIA M. TORTORA  
M.D., A.B.E.P.

RANDALL H. WIEST  
M.D., A.B.E.P.

MATTHEW K. WISE  
M.D., A.B.E.P.

MARY LOU KELSEY  
C.N.M.

JULIA McCARRON  
C.N.M., A.N.P.

IRENE M. WISE  
A.E.N.P.

SONJA MARTIN YOUNG  
C.N.M.

Senator Peter Micciche  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, AK  
January 10, 2013

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As you know from usage of the facility yourself, this historic Homer area ski hill lies about a quarter mile by foot off Ohlson Mountain Road. As such, injured skiers face a difficult uphill evacuation path from the base of the ski area to the road, where emergency responders can then transport the injured to our local hospital. Currently, the club has no dedicated vehicle or sled to assist in the timely transport to the road for rendezvous with EMS. Thus we are forced to rely on Good Samaritan volunteers who live in the area and who may or may not be available on a given ski day to offer assistance.

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chores on the property.

I hope we can count on your support for this CIP, as I think it will represent a significant upgrade in improving safety for our recreational users and ease access to and from the hill.

I look forward to seeing you and your family out on the hill sometime this season, enjoying this gem of a recreational resource for the Kenai Peninsula and its residents.

Respectfully,

Randall H. Wiest MD

Family Physician, Homer Medical Center

Emergency Room Physician, South Peninsula Hospital

Kachemak Ski Club, Board President



**CITY OF HOMER**  
Community Recreation  
600 E. Fairview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Telephone (907) 235-6090  
Fax (907) 235-8933  
Web Site  
[www.homercommunityrecreation.com](http://www.homercommunityrecreation.com)

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January 17, 2013

To: Alaska House Representative  
Honorable Paul Seaton  
State Capitol Room 102  
Juneau AK, 99801

I am writing this letter of behalf of the City of Homer Community Recreation Program in support of machinery upgrades for the Historic Ohlson Mountain Ski Area as requested by the Kachemak Ski Club. While the Community Recreation program offers numerous indoor recreational and educational classes, we are a very strong advocate for promoting and supporting all health, wellness and recreational activities in our community and throughout the state. The continuing need for outdoor recreational opportunities and exercise, especially during the winter months, is essential to the mental, physical and social health for all Alaskans. We are very fortunate for the coordinated efforts by the Kachemak Ski Club for providing their important service to our surrounding community.

The Kachemak Ski Club provides a tremendous amount of volunteer efforts, generous donations and donated work time to provide local skiing, telemark skiing and snowboarding for resident of all ages in the southern peninsula. With that being said, funds and manpower are very limited. The Capital Project request pertains to the purchase of winter safety equipment for the continued safe operation of the ski hill and lift located at Ohlson Mountain.

The request for funding will assist the ski club with purchasing a much needed snow machine and a four wheel drive ATV. These devices will assist the ski club with overall operations especially addressing safety concerns of premise upkeep during the off season as well as having readily available equipment to respond to injuries or emergencies. It is my professional opinion that this would money well spent by supporting and providing the additional peace of mind for the many families that use the ski area every year.

Kachemak Ski Club and the Ohlson Mountain Ski area provide a thankless and valuable resource for our surrounding community. Thank you for considering the ski club's request to ensure a high quality and safe recreational experience for all who live, work and play in the southern peninsula.

Sincerely yours,

Michael C. Illg, CPRP (Certified Parks & Recreation Professional)  
Coordinator  
City of Homer Community Recreation  
[millg@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:millg@ci.homer.ak.us)  
907.235.6090



**CITY OF HOMER**  
Community Recreation  
600 E. Fairview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Telephone (907) 235-6090  
Fax (907) 235-8933  
Web Site  
[www.homercommunityrecreation.com](http://www.homercommunityrecreation.com)

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January 17, 2013

To: Alaska State Senate  
Honorable Senator Peter Micciche  
PO Box 1544  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

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Sincerely yours,

Michael C. Illg, CPRP (Certified Parks & Recreation Professional)  
Coordinator  
City of Homer Community Recreation  
[millg@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:millg@ci.homer.ak.us)  
907.235.6090



## Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

315 Klondike Avenue • Homer, AK 99603 • ph: 907-235-5263 • fax: 907-235-1503 • [www.kachemaklandtrust.org](http://www.kachemaklandtrust.org)

January 15, 2013

Senator Paul Seaton  
State Capital, Room 102  
Juneau, AK 90801

Dear Paul,

I'm writing on behalf of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to support the Kachemak Ski Club/Homer Rope Tow's request to be added to the CIP list to help the Rope Tow purchase equipment to improve both the safety and accessibility for skiers and snowboarders. The mission of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is to preserve, for public benefit, land on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula with significant natural, recreational, or cultural values by working with willing landowners. One of our organizational goals is to protect and enhance public use recreational resources. We believe that funding the Kachemak Ski Club/Homer Rope Tow's request will enhance the use of this historic winter recreational area and foster safety for snowboarders and skiers.

Their request to purchase a wireless emergency kill switch to stop the tow, a snowmachine, a grooming device, a four-wheeler and a towable sled. These items are requested to address safety and land use issues for users of this area, and we also request funds for the secure storage to protect these capital items. The equipment would also be used to pack the access trail from the road to the ski hill and the path of the rope tow up the hill as well as pre-season brush-cutting and other property maintenance.

The Land Trust supports this proposal because we believe that outdoor recreation during the winter in the Homer area helps to increase positive outdoor experiences and fosters the use of this important public use recreational treasure.

Sincerely,

Marie McCarty  
Executive Director





## Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

315 Klondike Avenue • Homer, AK 99603 • ph: 907-235-5263 • fax: 907-235-1503 • [www.kachemaklandtrust.org](http://www.kachemaklandtrust.org)

January 15, 2013

Senator Peter Micciche  
State Capital, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 90801

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Sincerely,

Marie McCarty  
Executive Director

Karen Northrop, PT, DPT, OCS  
PO Box 1506  
Homer, AK 99603

12 January 2013

Representative Paul Seaton  
State Capital Room 102  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing to ask for your support for the Kachemak Ski Club (KSC) request for a CIP grant to fund machinery upgrades for the Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow (Homer Rope Tow). Topping the list for this request is a snow machine capable of evacuating an injured skier out to the road, in addition to packing and grooming trails, tow paths and lower parts of the hill. Currently we are dependent on private snow machine owners to assist with an evacuation. Other items to help improve safety and hill upgrades include: four wheel drive ATV, grooming tiller, and a building to house the equipment. KSC will provide maintenance of the equipment and volunteer hours to construct the building.

I am the treasurer of KSC and can vouch for the fiscal responsibility of the organization, and that it is an organization that has many volunteer hours donated to ensure that the rope tow is operational for the skiing community of the lower Kenai Peninsula. As you are aware the rope tow has been a source of recreational opportunity for nearly 50 years and is the only active down hill ski area on the Kenai Peninsula.

I am also a mother of a nine year old boy who has been skiing at the rope tow since he was three years old. I grew up in a skiing community myself and started skiing at age three as well. I truly did not appreciate the value of the rope tow until I was teaching my own child to ski. Having it available in our community made it so much easier for me to teach him and for him to learn to ski, without many costly trips to Alyeska Ski Resort in Girdwood. His comfort level on skis is remarkable and he has learned a lot of valuable skills on skis that will enable him to enjoy this sport for life. The recreational value of the rope tow is tremendous, for everyone in the family and is available to anyone who likes to ski or snowboard. As a healthcare professional I am in strong support of outdoor activities that promote fitness, and the rope tow is a community asset in this regard and rather different from the usual ski area.

Kachemak Ski Club appreciates all your efforts to obtain funding for these upgrades. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Northrop, PT, DPT, OCS

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PO Box 1506  
Homer, AK 99603

12 January 2013

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I am the treasurer of KSC and can vouch for the fiscal responsibility of the organization. It is a non-profit dependent on the many volunteer hours donated to ensure that the rope tow is operational for the skiing community of the lower Kenai Peninsula. As you are aware the rope tow has been a source of recreational opportunity for nearly 50 years and is the only active down hill ski area on the Kenai Peninsula.

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Karen Northrop, PT, DPT, OCS



## **KACHEMAK EMERGENCY SERVICES**

53048 Ashwood Ave • Homer, Alaska 99603  
**PHONE:** (907) 235-9811 • **FAX:** (907) 235-8034  
www.kachemakemergency.org • KES@Borough.Kenai.AK.US

**ROBERT W. CICCARELLA**  
**CHIEF**

January 25, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing this letter in support of the 2013 Capital Improvement Project request for the Kachemak Ski Club/ Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow. The club is requesting funding for the purchase of a snow machine and sled to assist in the extraction of a skier in the event one should be injured on the slope.

The Kachemak Emergency Service Area (KESA) has limited resources to cover over 214 square miles of service area including miles of snow machine trails and cross country ski trails. Currently the Service Area only has one snow machine and one SnowBalance (an enclosed/heated towable sled for patient transport via snow machine) to cover the entire area. The Ohlson Mountain Ski Area is located in a remote part of the Service Area in relation to the nearest fire station which can cause a delay in response time especially during inclement weather. The additional resource to assist in the evacuation of a patient off of the mountain can expedite the delivery of a higher level of patient care in the event of a medical emergency.

The purchase of this equipment by the Ski Club will enhance the overall Emergency Medical Strategic Plan of the Service Area with the timely delivery of a high level of medical care to the sick and injured in the South Central Kenai Peninsula. In the past the Kachemak Ski Club, other non-profit organizations and KESA have worked in successful cooperation on other projects related to the rescue, care and overall service for area participants who engage in winter sports and recreation. Recently this cooperative effort paid off after the group located and returned a missing snowmachiner safely to his family after an extensive search and rescue mission.

We reside in a small community which brings with it many advantages however, it also bears a limited tax base resulting in an overburdened fund for capital equipment. The collaborative efforts of these local groups allows us to endure these shortfalls through collective planning and by supporting each other with a common goal providing our constituents with a safe environment to live, work and play.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Cicciarella

Chief, Kachemak Emergency Service Area  
53048 Ashwood Ave  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-9811



## **KACHEMAK EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Cicciarella  
Chief, Kachemak Emergency Service Area  
53048 Ashwood Ave  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-9811

January 15, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton  
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Equipment funding request for the Kachemak Ski Club

Dear Paul,

The Kachemak Ski Club operates the Ohlson Mountain rope tow that is very popular with our local youth and all age groups. The rope tow offers downhill skiing and snowboarding. The club provides these services including the so important sports education. The club and the facility they support and operate were founded nearly 50 years ago. Much of what is there is thanks to local volunteers and club members, and some grants in the past.

The Club needs equipment to have on site, not only in the event of an emergency, but also for maintaining and grooming the slopes. This need has been recognized by the Kenai Peninsula Borough, that lists this CIP request as its number one project for the Diamond Ridge area.

The Kachemak Ski Club is asking for funds to purchase a snow machine for winter use, a 4 wheel drive and tiller for summer work and materials for a building to house the equipment. The Club will provide the labor pro bono. The total request is for \$25,000.

I ask you to please support this request. Kachemak Ski Club provides a very special service to this community.

Thank you.

Very sincerely,

Milli Martin  
PO Box 2652  
Homer, Alaska 99603

January 20, 2013

To whom it may concern:

As one of the founders of the Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow, I would like to let you know of my support of Kachemak Ski Clubs 2013 Capital Projects request for a work snow machine. While I am no longer a member of the Kachemak Ski Club, I am a past president and was a member from the late 1950's until I was no longer able to ski in the 1990's. During all of those years Kachemak Ski Club members have operated the rope tow without any paid employees. As a volunteer organization, all of the capital improvements that are necessary to make the ski hill safe are only possible through donations and grants. In recent years, the ski tow has benefited from grants and donations by the city of Homer, the State of Alaska, and companies such as Homer Electric Association, to name a few. Ski club volunteers have put in countless hours to keep the Ohlson Mountain rope tow a safe and enjoyable experience for skiers of all ages.

A snow machine capable of evacuating an injured skier from the ski hill to Ohlson Mountain Road (about 1/3 of a mile away up a small hill) would be a welcome and much needed addition to the area. The machine would also be tasked with hill maintenance and carrying supplies. It is the next step in increasing the safety and versatility of the area.

During the years I skied and helped in tow operations the lack of a good evacuation plan for injured skiers was always a concern to ski club members. I believe the inclusion of a snow machine at the Ohlson Mountain rope tow will increase the safety of the area and expand the recreation opportunities for Kenai Peninsula residents.

Sincerely Yours,



Robert Moss  
Box 1115  
Homer Alaska 99603

Jan. 27, 2013

To whom it may concern,

This is written in support of the Kachemak Ski Club's proposal to seek funding for a snowmobile designated for the Rope Tow in Homer, Alaska. I have been associated with the Rope Tow since my arrival in Homer in 1994, when my late husband and I were part of the on-hand EMS volunteers helping to make things run smoothly and watching kids bomb down the slopes. Now, many years later, my own children are the ones testing the snow on the weekends.

Throughout this time, I have watched the dedication of volunteers at the Rope Tow never waver. Using scant funds and hundreds of work hours, they have kept the slopes open, safe, and affordable for Homer, especially welcoming of younger recreators.

One thing I think of, from my experience as a volunteer Paramedic here in Homer for 17 years, is the difficulty of access off road for injured or ill victims. Post holing through the snow to try and pull an injured skier on an improvised sled is backbreaking work, and can lead to further injuries of both victim and rescuer. Even worse is the delay in potential life-saving equipment and personnel getting to someone. So far we have been very lucky in having passing snow machines available or injuries so slight as to be unreported. Having a dedicated snowmobile for the Rope Tow is a definitive solution to this problem. Rescuers need to be able to train in snowmobile sled rescues, trouble shoot equipment, and learn techniques to safely extricate the injured. I cannot emphasize how frustrating it is as a medic when there is a clear and urgent need for my help, and all I can do is *wish* I could reach the victim.

Thank you for your support on this proposal,

Samantha Cunningham, MICP



Representative Paul Seaton

Alaska State House of Representatives

Juneau, AK

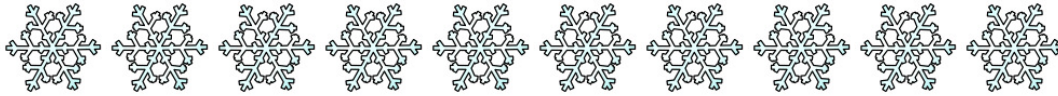
Dear Paul,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of the Kachemak Ski Club/ Homer Rope Tow and the 2013 Capital Improvement Project request to help the Rope Tow purchase its needed equipment for outdoor enthusiasts.

I moved to Ohlson Mountain from the Central Peninsula area and although I had been planning the move to Homer for many years prior, it finally became possible for my whole family to relocate just three years ago. I am an elementary school teacher, my husband an air-traffic controller, and my children are high-achieving students at HHS. Since becoming "Homer-oids", the Rope Tow has been a great family opportunity for us to get to know the community. We began volunteering upon arrival and each of us has enjoyed the nearby inexpensive recreation and connection opportunities to our community. Currently my family volunteers with our personal snowmachine to pack the trail, man the loading and unloading stations, and provide regular maintenance (such as shoveling, hanging the rope, hauling trash, etc...) Also, as a longtime school teacher, I know that every one of my students would be better served to have safe and easily accessible outdoor activities in the wintertime. Many of them don't get out of the house as much as they should. I hope we can count on your support for this CIP, as I think it will represent a significant upgrade in improving the local recreational experiences for many more years to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shellie Worsfold



The Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow has widespread support in Homer community. Here are some details about our letter writers:

**Dr Randall Wiest M.D.** has been a practicing physician at the Homer Medical Clinic for many years. He works regular shifts at the South Peninsula Hospital Emergency Room and injured patients are fortunate when he is the doctor on call. Dr. Wiest is the driving force behind KSC plans to improve the injured skier evacuation plan and for a man with full time responsibilities he somehow manages to volunteer his time to several local organizations. He is the father of a young snowboarder and is the recently elected President of the Kachemak Ski Club.

Life long fisherman **Robert Moss** is a founder of the Kachemak Ski Club and has lived Homer since 1947. He is one of only a few people who can say that they have been part of the community longer than KSC.

**Shellie Worsfold** is a highly regarded school teacher who has a son and daughter who are avid snowboarders. In a town where teachers often can't please all the parents, she seems to do just that. She was recently selected as BP Teacher of Excellence.

**Samantha Cunningham** conducts First aid/ CPR classes here in town. She volunteered at the Homer Fire Department for many years and, just like Dr. Wiest, knows the importance of immediate care for an injured person.

**Marie McCarty** is the Executive Director of the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust.

**Mike Illg** is the energetic Coordinator of Homer City Community Recreation, With an office that opens directly to the High School commons, he has a ring side seat to observe what works and what is needed for young people living in Homer.

**Milli Martin** has been a sensible voice in local government, successfully navigating many controversies. She is the former President of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and she served on the Kenai Peninsula School Board also as President.



... a snowflake, not identical to the ones that fall at the Ohlson Mountain Rope Tow

# Projected CIP Budget

## Estimates only.

Snow machine: Artic Cat Bearcat XT Z1 (or similar) approx \$16,000

Available from Lower Penninsula Power Sports for \$16,700 October 2012

KSC will seek additional quotes from Homer Saw and others.

A used snow machine may also be selected.

Secure Storage: approx \$7000

Used ATV \$2000  
Artic Cat 550 XT ( or similar)



Ohlson Mountain Ski Area P Trail Head

KSC Lodge  
Loading Zone

356 Yards

Top of Tow

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Image © 2013 DigitalGlobe

Google earth

Imagery Date: 5/12/2011 1996

59°42'13.81" N 151°29'11.82" W elev 1384 ft

Eye alt 10438 ft

# Access Trail to the Rope Tow at Ohlson Mountain near Homer

