

**RESOLUTION OF THE BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
ROUTING THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL (AKLT) SUCH THAT HIKERS MAY EASILY
ACCESS AND PATRONIZE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER BUSINESSES**

1 **WHEREAS** The currently proposed routing deters AKLT hikers from visiting Eagle River-Chugiak.

2 **WHEREAS** The currently proposed south to north routing between the Eagle River Nature
3 Center and Eklutna Lake, connects a Ram Valley segment to the upper reaches of Peters Creek,
4 descends a non-scenic section of that drainage on an existing trail to Four Mile Creek, and
5 therefrom continues northerly to Eklutna Lake and beyond.

6 **WHEREAS** Without better access, AKLT Through and Section hikers will exclude visiting Eagle
7 River-Chugiak while hike planning and will NOT visit those communities to re-supply, rest &
8 relax, lodge, dine, bathe, wash laundry, complete shipping/receiving tasks, or otherwise
9 patronize local businesses.

10 **WHEREAS** The vision statement on the AKLT webpage includes “...bolstering the Alaskan
11 economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.”

12 **WHEREAS** The communities of Eagle River-Chugiak have much to offer to AKLT hikers and
13 deserve an opportunity to benefit economically from the trail.

14 **WHEREAS** An alternate primary routing will encourage AKLT Through and Section hikers to
15 patronize businesses in Eagle River-Chugiak.

16 **WHEREAS** A yet to be designed and constructed extension of the Ptarmigan Valley Trail (PVT)
17 will facilitate such an alternate primary routing. It will extend northeasterly over a bridged
18 Peters Creek and intersect with the Peters Creek Valley Trail (PCVT).

19 **WHEREAS** The creation of PVT extension to the PCVT would not only promote commerce in
20 Birchwood, Chugiak, Peters Creek, it would also open more area of Chugach State Park for year
21 round recreationist including snow machine riders, hunters, trappers, XC-skiers, BC-skiers,
22 bikers, hikers, berry pickers, equestrians and others.

23 **WHEREAS** Increased use of PVT parking complex would help to lessen traffic to existing and
24 conceptualized future parking at the PCVT thereby reducing hazards on winding mountain
25 roads. Accelerated parking fee collection at that complex would be another benefit. Ease of

26 access to that location from the Old and “New” Glenn Highways make it an attractive
27 alternative.

28 The Birchwood Community Council Resolves: To request Alaska Department of Natural
29 Resources, Alaska Trails, Representative Jamie Allard, Senator Kelly Merrick, Representative
30 Dan Saddler, Assemblyman Dan Cross, and Assemblyman Scott Meyers to act separately and
31 collectively to holistically assess the routing of the AKLT in the Eagle River-Chugiak vicinity and
32 effectuate a final routing decision that best benefits the community economically, in a manner
33 that least disrupts residential neighborhood living, and to fund a 2024 design completion.

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35 Co-Chair Debbie Ossiander

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38 Co-Chair Matt Cruickshank

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