

CHUGIAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 671350
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

March 29, 2005

TO: Distribution

SUBJECT: Resolution for Determination of Public Access to Chugach State Park

A RESOLUTION relating to the diminishing public access to Chugach State Park and urging municipal and state officials to determine public access plans for Mount Baldy and the Chugach State Park.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHUGIAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

WHEREAS Chugach State Park is a valued public natural resource and responsibility; and

WHEREAS Alaskans and travelers benefit physically, mentally, and spiritually from Chugach State Park; and

WHEREAS recreational activities in Chugach State Park include, but are not limited to, hiking, sightseeing, wildlife-viewing, berry-picking, hang-gliding, and snowshoeing; and

WHEREAS past private development activities adjacent to Chugach State Park have destroyed long-used, but unofficial, public access to the park; and

WHEREAS unofficial public access to Mount Baldy in Chugach State Park is currently in jeopardy due to an effort by a landowner to develop a residential subdivision; and

WHEREAS such future private development continues to threaten and erode unofficial public access to Chugach State Park, until such public access shall be a critical issue; and

WHEREAS private property rights of landowners must be respected; and

WHEREAS private development should not be delayed for landowners whose property is adjacent to Chugach State Park due to a lack of planned, official public access; and

WHEREAS it is the obligation of all public policymakers, not only to ensure public park access, but also to defend private property rights;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council urges the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to quickly resolve the issue of official public access to Mount Baldy with surrounding landowners; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council requests that Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) from the FY06 state budget be granted to the Municipality of Anchorage for the acquisition and/or development of public access to and parking for Mount Baldy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council urges the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to determine a comprehensive, long-range, area-wide, parking and trailhead plan for Chugach State Park.

Initially passed by the Chugiak Community Council on February 17, 2005 and amended on March 24, 2005.

If you have questions, please contact Merten Bangemann-Johnson, Chugiak Community Council President, at 688-6575; email: mertenbj@chugiakcouncil.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kovac
Secretary-Treasurer
Chugiak Community Council

Distribution

State of Alaska:

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of Alaska;
The Honorable Con Bunde, Alaska Senator;
The Honorable Fred Dyson, Alaska Senator;
The Honorable Charlie Huggins, Alaska Senator;
The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom, Alaska Representative;
The Honorable Mike Hawker, Alaska Representative;
The Honorable Pete Kott, Alaska Representative;
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Alaska Representative;
Jerry Lewanski, Chugach State Park Superintendent, DNR;

Municipality of Anchorage:

The Honorable Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage;
The Honorable Municipality of Anchorage Assembly;
John Rodda, Director, Eagle River Parks & Recreation;
Jeff Dillon, Director, Anchorage Parks & Recreation;
Robin Ward, Executive Director, Heritage Land Bank;
Tom Nelson, Director, Municipality of Anchorage Department of Planning;
Lance Wilber, Director, Municipality of Anchorage Department of Traffic

Cc. Birchwood Community Council;
Eagle River Community Council;
Eagle River Valley Community Council;
Eklutna Valley Community Council;
South Fork Community Council;
Leslie Bobo, Land Coordinator, Eklutna, Inc.;
Chugiak/Eagle River Chamber of Commerce

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