

**Basher Community Council**  
c/o Dirk Sisson, President  
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Anchorage, AK 99507  
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October 13, 2009

Monica Alvarez  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1050  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

Re: **Basher Community Council Comments**  
Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan

Dear Monica:

Enclosed are the Basher Community Council's comments on the Draft Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan. The comments were adopted in the form of a resolution, which passed unanimously on October 8, 2009, with approximately 40 council members in attendance.

It is important to note that the resolution articulates not only a common neighborhood vision for trails but a common general vision for trailhead access. Essentially, the Stuckagain neighborhood supports the use of the existing Basher Road Trailhead as the primary point of access to the park and recommends secondary access only through the Near Point parcel adjacent to Near Point Knoll subdivision.

We urge Chugach State Park to give strong consideration to the enclosed resolution in future planning for the park.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dirk Sisson  
President, Basher Community Council

cc: James King, Director of State Parks  
Tom Harrison, Superintendent, Chugach State Park

## BASHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION

#### **Adopting Neighborhood Comments on the September 2009 Public Review Draft of the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan**

**WHEREAS** a Public Review Draft of the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan was released for public comment in September 2009; and

**WHEREAS** public comments on the draft plan are due by Friday, October 16, 2009; and

**WHEREAS** the draft plan includes both an existing trail (400a) and a proposed trail (401a) that run adjacent to the Stuckagain neighborhood, and many other trails that neighborhood residents have used for many years;

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Basher Community Council offers the following comments on the draft plan:

- (1) **Trailhead Access Generally.** The new trail plan should recognize that the Basher Trailhead at the beginning of the Stuckagain neighborhood is the primary point of public access from the neighborhood to the park, and that any additional trailheads in the neighborhood should be secondary access points only. Directing most public trail users to the Basher Trailhead would reduce both the traffic on neighborhood roads and the dangers of congestion on the single ingress/egress routes in the event of a fire or other emergency. This approach follows that set forth in the 1986 Chugach State Park Master Plan and remains the preference of the neighborhood.
- (2) **Bicycle Use Generally.** The draft plan would allow bicycle use on both trails that would connect with the Stuckagain neighborhood. While one biking trail might be warranted, two would be excessive. Stuckagain residents have enjoyed hiking in the park for many years, and permitting bicycles on all trails adjacent to the neighborhood would undermine the peace and tranquility of this traditional use.
- (3) **Trail 401a.** Proposed new trail 401a should be classified as a Class 1 trail for hiking, not a Class 3 trail for bicycles and hikers. The trail in question would cross a region of fragile tundra that could easily be degraded by steady bicycle use. Also, the trail would bisect and disrupt two popular existing hiking routes up the face of Near Point—the traditional trail from Near Point Knoll subdivision and the neighborhood trail from Tulugak Circle. Additionally, allowing bikes would bring increased public traffic to Near Point Knoll subdivision at the far end of the neighborhood, where there is currently no trailhead and only limited parking available. This would run counter to the goal of treating the Basher Trailhead as the primary point of public access.

- (4) **Trail 401d.** This existing trail up Near Point should be designated Class 2, not Class 3. Class 2 development would adequately satisfy the intended use for the trail—hiking—and would prevent aesthetic damage to the face of Near Point that trail widening would entail.
- (5) **Trail 400a.** If a Class 3 trail allowing bicycles is to connect to the Stuckagain neighborhood, it should be trail 400a, which already joins the existing Basher Trailhead. Designating 400a as a Class 2 trail and 401a as a Class 3 trail as proposed in the draft plan would have the effect of directing the greatest public traffic to 401a. This would run counter to the goal of treating the Basher Trailhead as the primary point of public access.
- (6) **Trail 405a.** This short section of connector trail should be designated Class 2, not Class 3. It is a popular hiking trail for neighborhood residents and does not need to be widened or developed further for its intended use as a hiker-pedestrian route.

ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Basher Community Council President

**VOTE:**

For  
 Against

*Unanimous*