

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting a State Parks Recreational Program Grant to Create a Continuous Trail Easement for the Ripinski Trail.**

**WHEREAS**, The Ripinski Trail is a popular trail for Haines locals and visitors, offering world-class views from an easily-accessible trail, but work on the trail is needed; and

**WHEREAS**, During times of social distancing, outdoor recreation on trails and roads is an excellent way to remain safe and healthy; and

**WHEREAS**, The Ripinski Trail crosses a patchwork of different land ownerships, including federal (BLM), State of Alaska (Haines State Forest), Haines Borough, University of Alaska, and Mental Health Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, Commercial operators take visitors on the trail, which has created trespass issues on University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust lands; and

**WHEREAS**, Trail improvement projects on the public lands are on hold until these trespass issues through University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust can be resolved; and

**WHEREAS**, The Haines community has expressed interest in resolving these trespass issues so the trails can be improved; and

**WHEREAS**, The University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust have both responded with interest in selling easements, since the lands that the trail crosses are steep and unlikely to offer much value for development; and

**WHEREAS**, BLM is willing to transfer an easement for the trail through their land, after their planned study of the best route is completed. BLM is willing to realign the trail through their property on the west end of the trail so that it connects with the existing parking lot at the Seven Mile trailhead; and

**WHEREAS**, Solving the trespass issue will benefit the Haines economy by providing better access to tourism operators and their clients to the public land within the Haines Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haines Borough is interested in working with the State, BLM, University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust to acquire legal public access to the Ripinski Trail so that it can proceed with trail development and improvement projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Haines Borough has already set aside \$7,500 for Trail development and improvement projects.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the Haines Borough supports the efforts of Haines Huts to pursue grant funding from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's Recreational Trails Program to purchase legal access across University of Alaska and Mental Health Trust lands for the Ripinski Trail, and to provide \$7,500 for further development of the Ripinski Trail that can be used as match for the grant application so long as traditional uses the community currently enjoys will not be diminished by this Resolution.

Haines Borough  
Resolution No. 20-09-889  
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Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 22nd day of September, 2020.



*Jan Hill*  
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Jan Hill, Borough Mayor

Attest:

*Alekka Fullerton*  
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Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk