

**The Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association (AWRTA)**

***RESOLUTION 2001-2***

The Alaska Recreation & Parks Association Wildlands section seeks support for the Southeast Alaska Trails System (SEATrails). At the annual 2001 meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> the following resolutions was duly adopted by the Board and members present:

Whereas: SEATrails will serve to enhance economic development, transportation efficiency, visitor experience, and quality of life throughout the Southeast region;

Whereas: The SEATrails concept has been embraced by many of the communities and government agencies of Southeast Alaska;

Whereas: It is in the public interest to improve sustainable economic opportunity in the form of jobs;

Whereas: Trails and associated business can generate jobs allowing residents to remain and prosper in the Southeast community of their choice;

Whereas: A regionally marketed trail system would create destination appeal for the independent traveler and opportunities for tourism development;

Whereas: Smaller communities will benefit equitable with larger communities;

Whereas: A network of Southeast communities joining together will have greater trail marketing opportunities in the form of regional maps and consistent and comprehensive information;

Whereas: Surface transportation is an important issue for the Southeast region and communities, and it is in the public interest to utilize existing and future surface transportation opportunities in these communities;

Whereas: The Alaska Marine Highway System will play a central role in the success of Southeast Communities and SEATrails; and

Whereas: AWRTA and the SEATrails program encourages maintaining the integrity of natural areas associated with the program;

Furthermore, the AWRTA endorses and supports the creation of a coalition of communities, government agencies, trail organizations, and citizens in working towards the creation and promotion of a Southeast trail system.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the AWRTA board encourages continued cooperative efforts to develop SEATrails by working with communities, federal and state agencies and other organizations; and
2. Encourages Southeast communities interested in participating on a regional trail promotion and coordination program to join the SEATrails efforts.

Adopted on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2001

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Carol Kasza, President

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Sarah Leonard, Executive Director