

Kenai Peninsula Borough

*144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669*



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

2:45 PM

Meeting ID: 884 7373 9641 Passcode: 671108

Assembly Chambers

Legislative Committee

Tyson Cox, Chair

Lane Chesley, Vice Chair

Bill Elam, Member

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

- *b. [2023-047](#) A Resolution Supporting the Designation of Roads, Trails, and Areas in the Chugach National Forest for Class I and II Electric Bike Use (Derkevorkian)

Attachments: [Resolution 2023-047](#)
[Memo](#)

Introduced by: Derkevorkian
Date: 06/20/23
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-047**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF ROADS, TRAILS, AND
AREAS IN THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST FOR CLASS I AND II ELECTRIC
BIKE USE**

WHEREAS, the Forest Supervisor or Ranger Districts for the Chugach National Forest may designate National Forest System roads, trails and areas for motor vehicle use by vehicle class, and, if appropriate, by time of year in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B; and

WHEREAS, per the U.S Forest Service website, more than 60,000 miles of trails and “thousands” of miles of roads on national forests and grasslands are currently open to electric bicycles (“e-bikes”)—however, e-bike use is only allowed on a very small percentage of the trails within the Chugach National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Chugach National Forest encompasses more than a million acres of the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, designating more roads, trails, or areas within Chugach National Forest allow users increased access to public land, allow users to go farther into backcountry areas, and benefit users who have health issues by providing greater opportunity to explore national forest lands; and

WHEREAS, designating use of class I and class II e-bikes will reasonably limit the type and class of motorized vehicle use within the Chugach National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State legislature passed House Bill 8 that classifies electric bikes <750 watts the same as normal bicycles and

WHEREAS, it is in the public’s interest to support increase access to public lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough supports, and encourages, the Forest Supervisor or Ranger Districts for the Chugach National Forest to initiate a public process and designate roads, trails and areas within the Chugach National Forest for class I and

class II electric bicycle (e-bike) use in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR Part 212, Subpart B.

SECTION 2. That the Borough Clerk will send a copy of this resolution to Jeff E. Schramm, Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this resolution will be sent to Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and U.S. Representative Mary Peltola.

SECTION 4. That a copy of this resolution and accompanying priority list will be provided to Governor Dunleavy, all legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City of Valdez and the City of Cordova.

SECTION 5. That this resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 20TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner, CMC, Acting Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent:

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Richard Derkevorkian, Assembly Member (RD)

DATE: June 8, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution 2023-047, Supporting the Designation of Roads, Trails, and Areas in the Chugach National Forest for Class I And II Electric Bike Use (Derkevorkian)

The Alaska Legislature recently passed HB8 that classified Class 1, 2, & 3 E-Bikes <750 watts as regular bicycles.

The Chugach National Forest encompasses more than one million acres of the Kenai Peninsula.

The Chugach National Forest not allowing access to E-Bikes where they allow regular bicycles, horses, and other wheeled vehicles is restricting access to a rapidly growing user group on the Kenai Peninsula.

Your consideration is appreciated.