



## Alaska State Legislature

### Representative Anna Fairclough – House District 17

#### House Bill 213

#### **"An Act naming the pathway parallel to the section of Eagle River Loop Road connecting Old Glenn Highway with North Parkview Terrace Loop the Mark Hufford Trail."**

Mark Hufford, was an avid handcyclist who competed seven times in the Sadler's Alaska Challenge wheelchair and handcycle competition. The Alaska Challenge, known as the "Tour de France" of wheelchair sports, is the world's longest and toughest wheelchair and handcycle race that starts in Fairbanks and ends in Anchorage. Twice Mark won the Speedy Sourdough Award for the fastest Alaskan. He helped motivate his competitors and encouraged them throughout the races. He was known throughout the handcycle community not only in Alaska but nationally and created a lot of awareness for the sport. He was often seen riding his handcycle in Eagle River – enjoying the beauty of the outdoors and improving his skills.

Mark was a resident of Eagle River, Alaska and a graduate of Chugiak High School. Tragedy struck in 1995 when a hunting accident left Mark a paraplegic and in a wheelchair. This did not slow him down, but gave him more determination. He continued with his education and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from the University of Alaska Anchorage and helped others overcome their disabilities while working at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Sadly, Mark passed away in January 2011 but he left an indelible mark on those that were encouraged by him and for the sport of handcycling. The community of Eagle River will miss seeing him during the summer months as he made his way on the many bike trails in the area. It would be a fitting tribute to Mark and his family to remember him by naming this local trail in his memory.