

Progress Since the May 1 Public Meeting

- Project staff members have taken agency representatives on a tour of the various damaged sites, for environmental and funding purposes.
- Road maintenance crews have repaired all but one of the locations that was damaged upstream from the major washout at milepost 6.4 to 6.9. They are currently working on an interim repair at milepost 10.9, an area that received extensive damage. The current work is designed to protect the remaining roadway at milepost 10.9 until a more permanent repair can be designed, permitted and constructed. Crews will excavate the road embankment and place large rock to protect the road this winter. Work should be complete at that site by mid- to late-October. It is hoped that a permanent repair at milepost 10.9 will be constructed in the summer of 2008, providing that all environmental permits are approved and funding is secured.

- Environmental staff has been coordinating with road maintenance and engineering staff on compliance with federal and state environmental requirements on all of these constructed repairs.
- Public Works staff has also coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding the future design and environmental review process for the long term washout repair from milepost 6.4 to 6.9.
- Funding has been approved for preliminary engineering for the area adjacent to the washout between mileposts 6.4 and 6.9. The engineering analysis will provide information for the environmental analysis process. Preliminary design work will begin in October 2007.


For more information

- Check the website for periodic updates. Visit www.snoco.org and search "Index-Galena"
- Contact Tina Hokanson, Communications, 425-388-3789, tina.hokanson@snoco.org

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What's Next?

- Paving is completed for this year at all damage sites on Index-Galena Road.
- The goal is to acquire permits to begin construction of permanent repairs at milepost 10.9 during summer 2008.
- Staff has scheduled a meeting with FHWA and USFS to determine which studies will be required to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements of each agency and establish the review process and timeline. The schedule will include a scoping meeting to receive comments from the public to help determine what needs to be evaluated for the environmental document.


Snohomish County
Aaron Reardon, County Executive
Public Works
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201


Snohomish County
Public Works

Index-Galena Road Damage

Update on Index-Galena Road Damaged by November 2006 Floods

Background

Index-Galena Road is located along the North Fork Skykomish River in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in southeast Snohomish County. In the fall of 2006 the roadway was damaged by flooding at eight separate locations. Due to severe damage that washed away the entire roadway, the road has been closed from the west end at milepost 6.4, approximately 5.5 miles east of the Town of Index.

The road is also closed at the east end, except for property owners in the area who have limited access through a locked gate located at milepost 14. The Beckler River Road through Jack's Pass, a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) road from Hwy. 2, provides sole access to the east end of Index-Galena Road. The road is closed to the public 16.5 miles north/northwest of Hwy. 2. This point provides the last turn-around opportunity before the locked gate. The Forest Service has closed all campgrounds accessed from Index-Galena Road due to flood damage.

Public Meeting Held May 1 in Monroe

Snohomish County Public Works held a public meeting on May 1 to update citizens on the condition of Index-Galena Road and possibilities for repair. Approximately 100 citizens attended. A PowerPoint presentation included photos of each of the damaged sites. This was accompanied by an explanation of the damage and some of the engineering and environmental issues at each. During the meeting, property owners were able to acquire keys to the locked gate at the east end of Index-Galena Road.

After the PowerPoint presentation, the meeting was opened for questions. County Engineers, Environmental Planners and Road Maintenance staff provided information on the various aspects of this complex set of repair projects. County Public Works Director Steve Thomsen, Councilman Dave Somers and Forest Service staff members were also present.

Sample Questions From the Public Meeting:

■ What is the timeline for access from the Town of Index to milepost 9 or 10?

It will be a minimum of 5 years and possibly as many as 10 years.

■ Is the delay a funding issue or environmental?

Both. Repairing the road requires that the area be surveyed and engineering options developed. Federal funding is approved for this preliminary engineering/planning phase. The preliminary engineering will focus on design options, timelines and projected costs. After options are developed, environmental impact studies need to be prepared and submitted to several agencies. Federal funding for the construction phase for mileposts 6.4 to 6.9, where the major damage occurred, will not become available until all right-of-way, design, and environmental issues are resolved.

■ Could there be trail access around the lower washout at milepost 6.4 or 6.7?

To get approval for a trail would also require a lengthy process, similar to what would be needed for a road.

■ This was declared a National Disaster. Isn't there a window of opportunity when permits can be waived and the process shortened?

The County was able to do some short-term fixes at six locations immediately following the floods, but the Federal approval process for the long-term fixes cannot be shortened.

■ How does the Wild Sky Wilderness affect this?

County staff met very early with congressional representatives to plan ahead for the possibility of relocating the road if necessary. An adjustment was made to the proposed wilderness boundary so that a relocated road would not affect a designated wilderness area.

■ How will the road be serviced?

During the winter of 2006/2007, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), through a cooperative agreement, assisted the County with snow-clearing equipment that made opening the road through Jack's Pass possible on several occasions. The County is hopeful that this equipment will again be available during the winter of 2007/2008. If so, citizens can expect about the same level of service as last winter. However, if the equipment is not available, there may be prolonged periods of time when the road will not be open.

■ Can you set up a website where we can get updates on the condition of the road?

The county does have a website where periodic updates on Index-Galena Road have been posted. To access the County's website, visit www.snoco.org and type "Index-Galena" in the search box.

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See inside for map and photos of road damage and work completed to date.

Index-Galena Road

Original Damage and Repair Status to Date

-  Long Term Repair
-  Completed Repair
-  Index-Galena Rd
-  Other Roads
-  Streams
-  Waterbodies

MILEPOST 10.9

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETED BY OCT 31



MILEPOST 12.8

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETE



MILEPOST 6.7

LONG TERM REPAIR



MILEPOST 10.5

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETED



MILEPOST 11.9

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETED



MILEPOST 13.1

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETED



MILEPOST 13.8

ORIGINAL DAMAGE



WORK COMPLETED



MILEPOST 6.4

LONG TERM REPAIR



