

DOWANS CREEK RD MP 1.35 EMERGENCY REPAIR

In conjunction with high flows in the Bogachiel River in December, 2007, a slope failure occurred at milepost 1.35 on Dowans Creek Road in the west end of Jefferson County. Public Works contracted with Bruch & Bruch Construction of Port Angeles, and responded immediately, but the slope failure rapidly expanded resulting in complete loss of the roadway. Residents were cut-off for 7 days while Jefferson County and the contractor battled severe weather, steep slopes, and saturated soils to construct a detour around the slope failure. A work party from the Clearwater Honor Camp constructed a foot trail above the road for access to residences until the road could be reopened.

The emergency repair was completed in January, 2008 for a cost of \$151,000, and was funded at 75% by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and 12.5% by State Emergency Management funds.

Given the unstable geologic conditions of the site, the emergency repair is considered a temporary measure. Jefferson County Public Works is monitoring the site, and is pursuing a plan to relocate the road upslope, further from the Bogachiel River. The relocation project is currently undergoing environmental review. The estimated cost for the permanent relocation is \$800,000 and has preliminary funding approval from FEMA, 75%, and the State, 12.5%.



This image, taken January 9, 2008, shows Dowans Creek Rd after high water flows in the Bogachiel River caused slope failure and washed out the road.



Dowans Creek Rd after repairs on January 18, 2008.