

DOWANS CREEK ROAD REALIGNMENT

Realignment of a portion of Dowans Creek Road was completed in October, 2015. Dowans Creek Road is located on the south side of the Bogachiel River and accesses residences, recreational properties, and a Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife boat launch. In January, 2008, a landslide and major river flooding washed out the road. Residents were cut off from vehicular access for a week while Public Works performed emergency repairs to reopen the road.



A landslide and major flooding washed out Dowans Creek Road in January, 2008.

Given the instability of the slide area, Public Works immediately began assessing options for a permanent repair once emergency repairs were complete. With assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Washington State Emergency Management Division (WAEMD), Public Works went through a seven-year process to identify whether road stabilization or road realignment would be the best solution. The process included a Geotechnical Analysis, an Environmental Assessment, a Biological Assessment, and negotiations with the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The preferred alternative, realignment of the road away from the river and out of the active slide area, impacted designated habitat for the Marbled Murrelet, a threatened bird species. In order for this alternative to be approved, Public Works, together with FEMA and WAEMD purchased ten acres of Marbled Murrelet habitat for the DNR on the Dabob Peninsula as mitigation for the road realignment. Following the mitigation agreement, Public Works acquired necessary right-of-way and completed the design and permitting.



Public Works was able to open the road within a week by performing emergency repairs.

Construction commenced in August, 2015. The project was constructed by Bruch and Bruch Construction of Port Angeles for a cost of \$483,227. The project was funded by FEMA (75%), WAEMD (12.5%), and the Jefferson County Road Fund (12.5%).



The solution for a permanent repair to Dowans Creek Road included reconstructing 1/2 mile of existing logging road and ...



... constructing 1/4 mile of new road.