

# Index-Galena Road

## » Fact Sheet

### OVERVIEW

In November 2006 heavy rains and flooding damaged 11 sections of Index-Galena Road. Snohomish County Public Works has repaired 10 of the 11 originally damaged areas. However, the section of road between milepost 6.4 to 6.9 remains closed. This portion of road was a total loss with significant washout damage to the road bed and culverts.

Index-Galena Road is important to the recreational community and residents in the Index area. Currently, drivers are diverted on an hour long detour through a forest service road that is not maintained in the winter months. This vital 14 mile corridor connects to vacation homes and campgrounds in the area. Index-Galena Road is the sole access point to thousands of acres of Wild Sky Wilderness utilized for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and other outdoor activities

The project scoping and the preliminary design for the repairs to Index-Galena Road have been completed.

### PROGRESS AND RECENT SUBMISSIONS

Engineering and construction plans are currently in development. Snohomish County submitted a draft Biological Assessment (BA) (required for Endangered Species Act compliance) to United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for review in September 2015. This review typically takes twelve months or more and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2016.

In April 2015, the draft EA was submitted by Snohomish County to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) for final comments and legal review. The EA will be made available for public review and comment on the official county website. Snohomish County will also host a public hearing to provide project information, potential environmental impacts and receive public comments.

### FUNDING AND COSTS

Snohomish County is seeking funding from several sources for this project:

- FHWA – Emergency Relief Program (ER)
- Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)
- County Rural Arterial Board – Rural Arterial Program (RAP)
- Snohomish County Road Fund

The estimated project costs total \$26.7 million dollars. The costs include the following estimates:

- \$4.9 million – Preliminary engineering
- \$2.3 million – Construction engineering
- \$19.5 million – Construction of the repairs

## 2016

- A Public Hearing is planned to be held in late summer to share project status, environmental information and receive public comments
- The county expects to issue the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) after BA consultation and the EA comment period is closed

## 2017

- Snohomish County anticipates to be in the design, permitting, and environmental review process
- Target advertising the project for contractors' bids during the winter of 2017

## 2018

- Construction estimated to begin on the final segment of Index-Galena Road in the spring of 2018

## 2020

- Index-Galena Road targeted to be open to the public in 2020

