



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

## **ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT**

### **Erosion Information Paper – Haines, Alaska**

Current as of October 16, 2007

#### **Community Information**

Haines Borough (HAYNZ), population 2,241 including Chilkoot (CHILL-koot), and the now-consolidated city of Haines, population 1,492, are on the shores of the Lynn Canal between the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers, 80 miles northwest of Juneau, and 600 miles southeast of Anchorage and Fairbanks. By road, it is 775 miles from Anchorage. It is just south of the Canadian border, in British Columbia. In 2002, the city of Haines and the 3rd class Haines Borough merged into a home rule borough.

#### **Description of Erosion Problem**

According to the community survey, erosion threatens areas in the city and the borough's satellite communities Sawmill Creek and several other unnamed creeks near Lutak Inlet and Chilkat Peninsula. Conditions causing or contributing to erosion include natural river flow, heavy rainfall, flooding, and land development in the floodplain.

In November 2005, a large flood caused blowouts of several culverts on Lutak Road along Lutak Inlet northwest of downtown Haines, and on Mud Bay Road southwest of town along Chilkat Inlet. Flood hazard areas (with accompanying erosion) exist extensively throughout the floodplains of all riverine systems in the area. In September 1967, the city had 6.5 inches of rainfall in a 5-day period, which inundated the community, damaging the Haines Highway roadbed and several bridges.

#### **Potential Damages**

According to the community survey, erosion on Lutak Road causes yearly closures in several locations. Erosion near downtown Haines and the borough's satellite communities threatens the Haines Highway and other roads, bridges and houses. Threatened structures include dwellings; outbuildings and sheds; and the Haines Highway, and other roads. Some of these structures are 100 to 300 feet from erosion areas. Past measures to help reduce erosion damage include construction of riprap and gabions by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. These measures are considered temporary and permanent measures to protective the roads are needed.

#### **Photos and Diagrams**

Photos are provided by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website at: [http://www.ak-prepared.com/community\\_services/05\\_Nov\\_Southeast\\_Storm.htm](http://www.ak-prepared.com/community_services/05_Nov_Southeast_Storm.htm)

The Takshanuk Watershed Council provided the attached diagram showing erosion trouble spots in Haines Borough. Also, attached is a diagram depicting localized erosion areas in the downtown Haines area.

## References

**Haines. 1984.** *Haines: An Alaskan Community Profile*

**Haines. 1993.** *City of Haines Coastal Management Program.*

**USACE. 2007.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 submitted by Tim Shields at Takshanuk Watershed Council in October 12, 2007.

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## Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at [www.alaskaerosion.com](http://www.alaskaerosion.com). For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers, project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email [Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil](mailto:Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil)



**Photo 1: Haines Highway mile 23, November 2005 Storm.**



**Photo 2: Lutak Highway mile 9; Belaski residence, Nov. 2005 Storm.**



**Photo 3: Lutak hwy mile 5 Delta Western Tanks Farm Header System (trees sliding into powerlines), November 2005 Storm.**



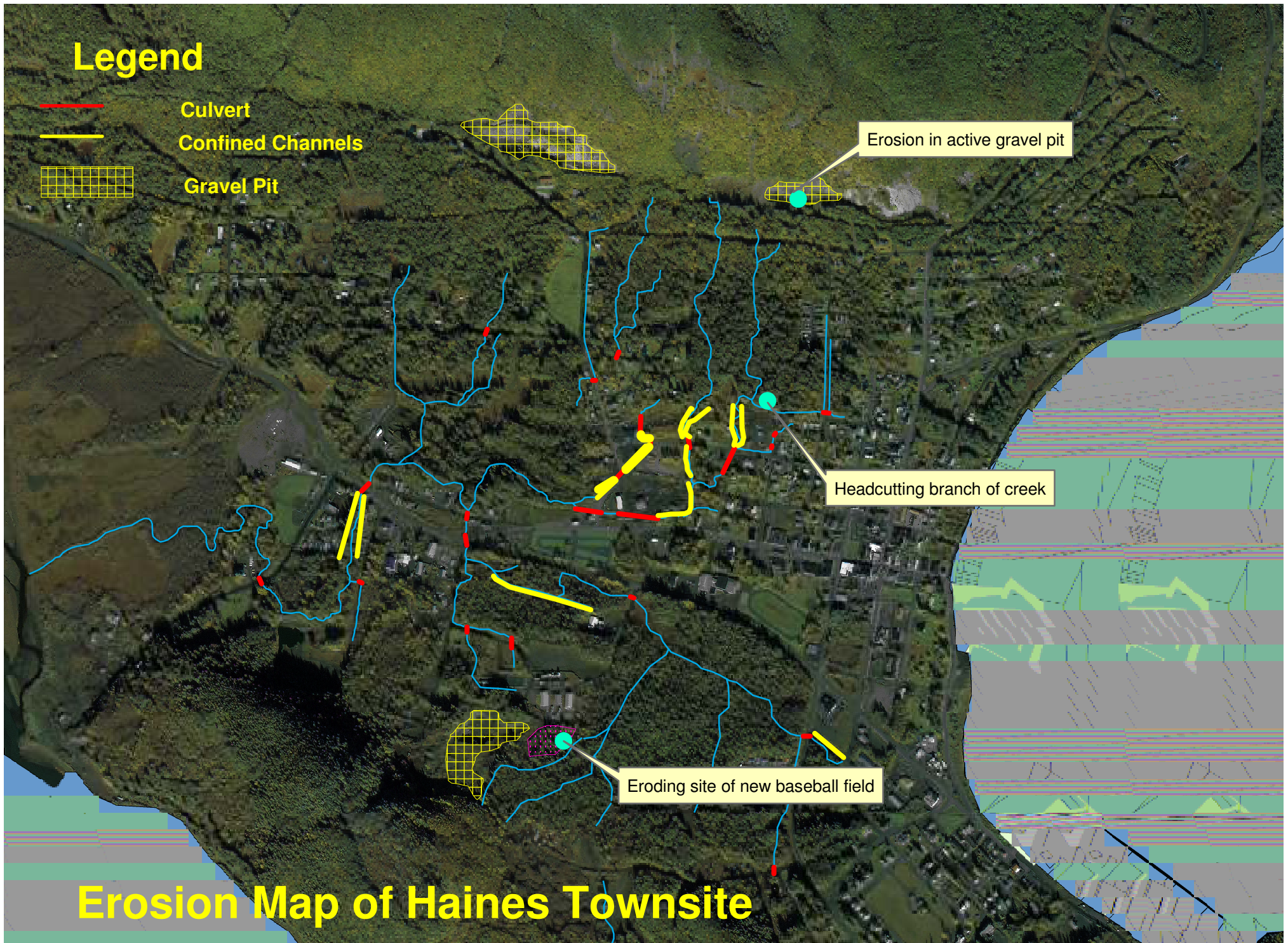
**Photo 4: River Drive mile 2; Mosquito Lake Road, November 2005 Storm.**



Diagram provided by Takshanuk Watershed Council showing erosion trouble spots in Haines Borough.

# Legend

-  Culvert
-  Confined Channels
-  Gravel Pit

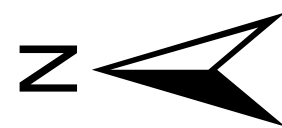


## Erosion Map of Haines Townsite



Alaska District  
Corps of Engineers  
Civil Works Branch

## Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion  
Haines, Alaska