



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

## ***ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT***

# **Erosion Information Paper – Northway Village, Alaska**

Current as of March 3, 2008

### **Community Information**

Northway Village, population 87, is at the end of Northway Road between the Nabesna River and Skate Lake, approximately 2 miles past the Northway Airport, and 42 miles from the Canadian border. The village is in the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. Northway Village is unincorporated in the unorganized borough.

### **Description of Erosion Problem**

The Nabesna River is a moderately flowing, shallow, braided glacial river that increases in volume when heavy spring and summer rains combine with snow melt. The Northway Airport runway and land surrounding the Northway Village was flooded in the late 1940's and one end of the runway has been flooded occasionally in more recent years. The Nabesna River is eroding at approximately Mile 2.5 to 2.6 of Northway Road where the road crosses Fish Creek.

### **Potential Damages**

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) re-routed Mark Creek between 1994 and 1996 when they created a new flow channel into Fish Creek. The re-routed creek has eroded into 2 lakes, adding silt, adding mud, and contributing to downstream flooding and erosion. The re-routed Mark Creek flow into Fish Creek is currently placing homes at risk between Mile 2.5 to 2.6 along Northway Road. Erosion primarily impacts homes on Fish Creek, but may move downstream and impact Northway Village. A portion of the Northway Road near the village was armored by DOT/PF to protect the road. This protection measure seems to be effectively controlling erosion near the village. An erosion project was initially funded through the Corps in 2001, however funds were later withdrawn. The community has continued to apply for assistance through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Northway Village is concerned they may be adversely affected in the future as the erosion moves downstream.

### **Photos and Diagrams**

Photos of erosion provided by the community are attached. Diagrams depicting the linear extent of erosion in the community are also attached.

## References

**Alaska DCRA.** *Community Database Online*, Northway Village. *State of Alaska, Division of Community and Regional Affairs*.

**USACE. 2008.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Daisy Northway, Northway village administrator on March 3, 2008; Gary Thomas, DOT/PF employee on February 26, 2008; and Paula Bears, Northway school principal on February 22, 2008.

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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: Nabesna River at Northway Village close to the road, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 2, 1998.**



**Photo 2: High water near Northway Village, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird, November 2, 1998.**



**Photo 3: Bridge near Northway Village, November 2, 1998 flooding, photo courtesy of Michael L. Bird.**



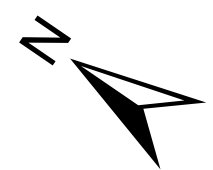
Date of Aerial Photo: 3 August 04

**NOTE:** The extent of erosion shown on this figure is based on interviews with the community. This data has not been field verified. This figure is only intended to show areas of erosion, not rates or severity of erosion



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--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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