Community Profile Summary
Portage is approximately 50 miles south of downtown Anchorage. The Seward Highway and the Portage-Whittier Road cross through the area, as does the Alaska Railroad. Population for all of Turnagain Arm where Portage is located is approximately 297. The Wildlife Conservation Center owner indicated a population of less than 35 in the combined Portage drainage and 20-Mile River areas. In addition, a small number of seasonal use cabins are on Blueberry Hill and up the 20-Mile River.

Description of Erosion Problem
Post-1964 earthquake adjustments and gradual siltation of Turnagain Arm are likely to continue to decrease the erosion potential along the end of Turnagain Arm, according to the Wildlife Center owner. The Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, built on the terminal moraine left behind by Portage Glacier, has the lower level flooded occasionally from high water and wind-driven waves from Portage Lake.

Potential Damages
Portage Creek drains the Portage Glacier and Portage Lake. Anchorage floodplain managers reported that Portage Creek has eroded close to the Portage-Whittier Highway. A utility line and a small section of the road were threatened. The erosion area was estimated to be about 250 feet in length and occurred during a flood event of Portage Creek. No other erosion problems were reported in the Portage area. No erosion problems were reported along Turnagain Arm. The owner of the 140-acre Wildlife Conservation Center reported no erosion along the coastline.

No information was available regarding the cost to repair or to maintain the area along the state-maintained Portage-Whittier road that had eroded during the flood event.

Photos and Diagrams
A photo is attached of the Portage valley, provided from the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, Chugach National Forest website: http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html
Also, attached is a diagram showing the linear extent of erosion in the community.
References

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: Portage valley, Portage Lake in the background, undated.
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.

Date of Aerial Photo: 24 May 97

Linear Extent of Erosion

Portage Creek

US Forest Service Warehouse