

DISMAL CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT

The existing Dismal Creek culvert under Upper Hoh Road at Milepost (MP) 9 was replaced with a new, concrete box culvert opening nearly two miles of productive upstream fish habitat.

The Dismal Creek project was completed as environmental mitigation for emergency bank repair along Upper Hoh Road at MP 4. In 2006, high river flows eroded the bank at MP 4 threatening access to local residents and to visitors to the Olympic National Park Hoh Rainforest.



Emergency bank repair at MP 4. Mitigation options at the MP 4 site would have been difficult and prohibitively expensive.

Jefferson County, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Hoh Indian Tribe identified the Dismal Creek culvert project as appropriate, off-site mitigation. The culvert had been listed as a barrier in WDFW's 1999/2000 inventory of fish passage barriers on the county road system.

To install the new culvert, a bypass system for Dismal Creek was constructed first. A one-lane bypass road was also installed to allow for through traffic during construction. Construction work included removing the old culvert; installing a precast, three-sided concrete culvert, concrete traffic barriers and guardrails; and, re-constructing the road adjoining the culvert.

Anderson Environmental Contractors constructed the project for \$269,735. The project was funded at 86.5% by the FHWA Emergency Repair Program and 13.5% by the County Road Fund.



Dismal Creek culvert before replacement. This 4' diameter culvert created a fish passage barrier under the Upper Hoh Road.



The newly installed three-sided box culvert increased the fish passage area from a 48" culvert to a 22' wide culvert, opening nearly two miles of upstream habitat.