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July 17, 2003
2003-012
For Immediate Release

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Washouts Stop Alaska Railroad Trains, No Trains Damaged

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding in Interior Alaska caused several track washouts between Talkeetna and Denali National Park, stopping train traffic on the Alaska Railroad. Washout locations include:

- Adjacent to Deadhorse Creek bridge, Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) milepost 248.7
- Adjacent to Skull Creek bridge, ARRC milepost 252.5
- Adjacent to Polanchek Creek bridge, ARRC milepost 255.1
- Honolulu Creek, ARRC milepost 288.3
- Unnamed tributary of the Middle Fork of the Chulitna River, ARRC milepost 303
- Unnamed tributary of the Middle Fork of the Chulitna River, ARRC milepost 306

The three bridges did not suffer serious damage but, in each case, track bed material washed out from under the adjacent track. In the other three locations high water in streams next to the track washed out material from under the track. A map with railroad mileposts is available on the ARRC web site at:

http://www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate/route_maps.html

The northbound *Denali Star*, which provides daily passenger service from Anchorage to Fairbanks, stopped at Talkeetna. The southbound *Denali Star*, which provides daily passenger service from Fairbanks to Anchorage, stopped at Denali National Park.

A total of 99 ARRC passengers traveling north are being bused from Talkeetna to Denali National Park, and 16 of those passengers are continuing to Fairbanks by bus. 117 ARRC passengers are being bused from Denali National Park to Talkeetna to board the train there. Each train will reverse its normal direction and return to its city of origination tonight, and both are expected to arrive close to their scheduled times.

Two ARRC pull contractors, Holland America and Princess tours, are also using buses to move passengers.

Freight trains are stopped at various sidings along the railroad, and normal operations are expected to resume on Friday morning, July 18.