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Expanded Flood Damage Extends Railroad Track Closure

After extensive work by Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Maintenance of Way (MOW) crews, six sections of track between Talkeetna and Denali National Park damaged by flooding yesterday were repaired. Meanwhile high water on the Chulitna River washed out significant amount of adjacent track bed material in a new location at ARRC milepost 288.

The new washout will extend the ARRC track closure until at least 8 p.m. this evening. South end traffic, such as gravel trains between the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage and Whittier and Seward passenger trains, continue to run on normal schedules. 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, will stop at Talkeetna. The southbound *Denali Star*, which provides daily passenger service from Fairbanks to Anchorage, will stop at Denali National Park.

Northbound passengers continuing beyond Talkeetna will then travel by motor coach to meet the train at Denali National Park. Southbound passengers continuing beyond Denali National Park will travel by motor coach to meet the train at Talkeetna. Each train will reverse its normal direction and return to its city of origination tonight, and both are expected to arrive at their scheduled times.

The *Hurricane Turn*, which provides flag-stop service between Talkeetna and Hurricane, did not run yesterday but will resume normal service today.

Freight trains will be positioned along the railroad so normal operations can resume as soon as possible.