



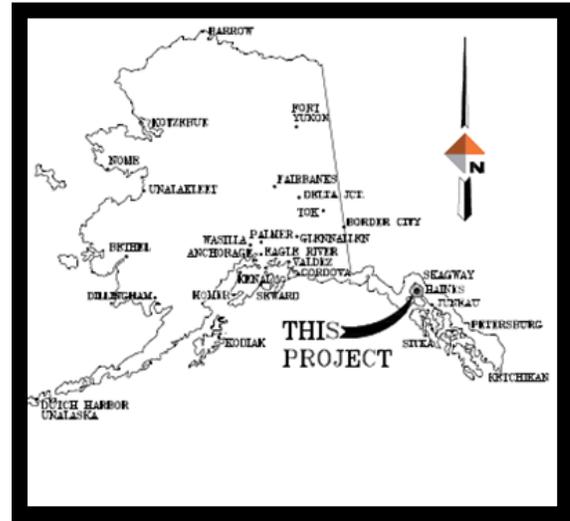
SOUTHEAST ALASKA  
WATERSHED COALITION  
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Takshanuk Watershed Council

*April 2018*

## Proposed enhancement of the borrow pit pond near the Klehini River bridge at 26-Mile Haines Highway



**Background:** The borrow pit pond near the Klehini River bridge north of Haines Alaska is an eight-acre water body that is part of the Klehini River floodplain. It is located at the west end of the bridge near mile 26 of the Haines Highway. In 1969 the area was isolated from the river by the installation of a steel bridge and construction of a riprap revetment. The area was operated as a private borrow pit into the early 2000's. The northeastern portion of the pond is State of Alaska property and is within the boundaries of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. The pond is now occasionally used for swimming and other recreation. The four acre gravel pad adjacent to the pond has been a staging area for gravel mining and construction projects, including for the 2017 replacement of the Klehini River bridge.

**Proposed Enhancement:** The Takshanuk Watershed Council and Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition have been working with the Alaska State Parks and US Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate opportunities to:

- 1.) **Enhance fish and wildlife habitat** through wetland creation on the north end of the pond;
- 2.) **Maintain and enhance recreational activities** such as swimming and picnicking;
- 3.) **Improve site safety** by reducing the steepness of the pond shoreline and controlling illegal dumping.



**Current**



**Proposed**

**Proposed Changes Include:**

- Wetland restoration would take place on the north end of the pond. The existing gravel pad would be graded, organic soil added, and wetland plant species would be planted. Alder and other trees/shrubs would be planted in the upland areas with wetland grasses and other herbaceous plants closer to the pond in the wetter soil.
- A small parking area would be on the south side of the road, with additional parking maintained on the north side of the road.
- Vehicle barriers for safety and to protect the created wetland would be installed.
- A trail would lead to the swimmer access point on the small peninsula on the northeast side of the pond.
- A small picnic area with a fire ring would be located near the peninsula. The potential and cost feasibility of including a small picnic shelter and toilet is being evaluated.

**Timeline and Next Steps:**

The Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC) is proposing to finance this enhancement project via the Southeast Alaska Mitigation Fund as a wetland mitigation project. SAWC is currently soliciting public and stakeholder input to improve the concept. The proposal would be reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and an interagency team of State and Federal resource managers. If the proposal were to proceed, the enhancement work could begin in the spring of 2019.

**What do you think?**

*We are in the design phase of this project, and we want to know what you think of the proposal. Please contact:*

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