



# Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: June 19, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Crews close to restoring track damaged by high water**

***“Go / No-Go” decision for Friday passenger trains to be made at 7 pm***

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Alaska Railroad (ARRC) track maintenance crews are making good progress on repairing an 80-foot washout that occurred June 17 at Skookum Creek, a roadless area south of Portage. High water damage has prevented trains from progressing south beyond Portage. Beginning Tuesday through today, *Coastal Classic* train passengers have been offered alternate motorcoach transportation between Anchorage and Seward, while *Glacier Discovery* train passengers have experienced a route shortened to stop at Whittier, or the option to cancel or reschedule travel to the Spencer or Grandview whistle stops. A decision on whether to resume full train service will be made at 7:00 p.m. tonight, based on the status of track repair efforts.

The Alaska Railroad will post the decision on tomorrow’s southbound passenger train service online at three locations:

- [www.AlaskaRailroad.com](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com) > Transit or Travel > Reservations
- [www.facebook.com/AlaskaRailroad](http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaRailroad)
- [www.twitter.com/akrr](http://www.twitter.com/akrr)

The incident began about 7:30 a.m. June 17, when high water eroded the trackbed, leaving the track suspended over the water. Alaska Railroad track maintenance crews, heavy equipment and a rock-hauling work train have been working round-the clock for three days to plug the gap and re-route a high volume of water. “Earlier this week, this area experienced significant isolated rainfall that measured as much as a half inch every 10-15 minutes for a sustained period,” said ARRC VP Engineering Clark Hopp. “We are essentially dealing with a new river channel that did not previously exist.”

For more information, scheduled passengers should call the ARRC Reservations Line between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily at (907) 265-2494; and check the online updates noted above after 8:00 p.m. tonight.

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