

Comstock Culvert 0.1 Mile, Haines, Alaska

The Sawmill Creek sub-basin is the primary urban watershed in Haines, Alaska and includes spawning and rearing habitat for several important commercial and sport fish species. The Sawmill Creek tributary that crosses Comstock Road 0.1 miles from Allen Road supports spawning Coho salmon, cutthroat, and Dolly Varden Char. In 2008 a survey of the 0.1 culvert was in extremely poor condition, with day-lighting in the road, a perch of 42", and an incised channel. In the fall of 2012, the Takshanuk Watershed Council (TWC) brought together funding from USFWS, Representative Bill Thomas, and mitigation money from the Haines Borough to replace the 0.1 mile Comstock Culvert and rebuild the incised stream to provide unimpeded fish passage.

The failing culvert was replaced with a 105" x 30" imbedded box culvert that was filled with substrate to simulate the stream, the angle was decreased, and the incised streambed was rebuilt. In addition, the road was repaired with new asphalt that had previously been damaged do to a fuel truck falling through the road into the culvert.

Culvert Perch before replacement



New Culvert being placed



Finished culvert and streambed



Tram system to fill culvert with rock



Finished Road

