

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ALASKA ROAD COMMISSION

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

May 27, 1943

Alaska Road Commission,
Juneau, Alaska.

Gentlemen:

Recent advices from the Hot Springs District state that considerable work will be necessary on the Hot Springs-Tofty Road to keep it in passable condition throughout the summer.

Local residents performed spring protective work during the breakup period. During this period no serious damage occurred. About \$500.00 of the allotment was used for this purpose.

Recently word was received from Hot Springs that heavy rains had washed out considerable road and caused other damage to the extent that the road was impassable and that it was impossible to secure any one there to do any work.

In view of this Foreman Ed Wilkinson was sent to Hot Springs to ascertain and report the extent of the damage and amount of work required to put the road in passable condition and until further advised, perform as much permanent work as possible with the balance of \$800.00 in the allotment.

Following are quotations from Wilkinson's report: "Just went over Tofty to 18 mile and find it very bad in places especially up Frenchman Creek, beginning at 1 mile from Junction ditches washed out for about 2 miles and bad too, some of them 10 feet deep and half way across road. Will have to doze road back from ditch and regravell 2 miles. Will take quite some time to do this as all culverts are filled and water runs all way down hill. Some wooden culverts can be put in, in order to take care of it when it rains. We have nails and I think can get lumber enough to do this work from Farrel, N.C. Co. if not from him can get it from tent floor at Blowback. After it is dozed and culverts are in can use grader and then regravell." He also goes on to state that several washouts occurred at various places, several culverts still filled with ice, some bridges need repairing, etc. etc. Also states that there is too much work for 2 men and the balance of available funds not sufficient to put road in passable condition. Also advises that both Thurston and Bock are writing you appealing for more funds.

No doubt Wilkinson could find enough work to do to keep himself and 5 or 6 men busy for the entire summer. However, it is believed that is not necessary especially in view of all circumstances involved we are not in a position in more ways then one to keep a crew going all summer, we are short of

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fuel, supplies, men and practically everything. Also, it is believed that after the few outfits that are working in that section get their supplies to their operations that travel over the road in question will be very light.

In view of this it is believed that in a month's time Wilkinson and three men can repair the washouts, bridges, clean culverts, Etc. Etc. to such an extent that the road would be passable for the balance of the season. To do this it is estimated that an additional allotment of \$2,000.00 will be required. This amount will pay 4 mens' wages and board and leave a hundred dollars or so to purchase some lumber, etc. that may be required.

This will not permit regraveling the 2 miles mentioned by Wilkinson, but it is believed that is not necessary.

Very truly yours,

Frank Nash
Superintendent

FN/d