Culverts to Bridges: Success Stories on the Sloughs of North Pole

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Background and History

Lower Chena River Watershed

Cushman Street, Fairbanks, May 1911. Source: UAF Archives
August 1967 Flood Inundated Fairbanks

Location of Chena River Flood Control Project Dam, Floodway & Levee along the north bank of Tanana River – Operational in 1980.
Chena Slough along Persinger Drive, September 2003. View is looking southeast, upstream towards North Pole.

ADOT Hurst Road Crossing

1967 Inlet

9’ Culvert Replacement at Inlet

1967 Outlet

Outlet After 2003 Project
Received National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
$75,000 Grant – Spring 2001
Airway Bridge Celebration - November 2001

Recreational Fishing
July, 2002
Beaver Springs Creek

BEFORE

AFTER

$200,000 State Grant
Given to Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District

Chena Slough Flow Through Enhancement
Doughchee Bridge
Grand Opening
September 2, 2003

Outside Hurst Road
BEFORE
72' long rail cars purchased for $15,000 with State grant.

Future Projects on Chena Slough

- Spruce Branch Road
- Plack Road (DOT)
- Peede Road (DOT)
- Persinger Road (DOT)
- Repp Road (DOT)
- Mission Road (DOT)
23-Mile Slough

- Old Valdez Trail Bridge
- Monetti Bridge
- McGowan Bridge
  Construction and Removal of Existing Crossing
Low Water Crossing

Bridge Site Just Downstream

Driving Piles on North Side of 23-Mile Slough
July 2003
Local Landowner’s Crossing

- A bridge replaced this low-water crossing of 23-Mile Slough
The Railcar Bridge placed on August 16, 2003 Over 23-Mile Slough
Piledriver Slough

- ADOT&PF Old Richardson Highway Crossing
- Ingrid Road Crossing

![Map of Piledriver Slough showing Old Richardson Highway, Stringer Rd., Ingrid Rd., and Tanana River.](image)
USFWS and ADOT&PF Partnership

- $70,000 Fish Passage Grant given to ADOT to improve fish passage at Old Richardson Highway crossing of Piledriver Slough.
Past life as a scale
Future life as a 70’x10’ Bridge

Ingrid Drive Bridge Construction and Grand Opening – October 2003
Partnerships Are Key!!

- *Special Thanks To:*
  - ADNR – Office of Habitat Management & Permitting
  - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
  - City of North Pole
  - Alaska State Senator Gene Terriault and Staff
  - Chena Slough Neighborhood Committee
  - USGS
  - ADOT&PF
  - Piledriver Slough Fish Habitat Group

“The importance of preventing habitat degradation now, instead of being forced to rebuild habitats in the future because of today’s poor management practices cannot be overemphasized. Protection of habitat is by far the most effective stream rehabilitation and enhancement method.” (G.H. Reeves 1991)