



Earth, Wind and Water

Project Scope:

- Repair of traffic directing concrete boxes
- Reestablish fill slopes
- Remove and replace damaged pavement
- Protect structure and earthwork from subsequent flooding
- Ensure safety of workers and traveling public throughout project
- Remove remaining sediment and flood debris

Owner: Arizona Department of Transportation

Contractor: S.J. Anderson Company

Project Cost: \$1,647,778



Background: In August 2015, a 200-year monsoon event took place over a remote project area in northern Arizona on US89A. The National Weather Service Flagstaff office reported that the rainfall total was between 1.3"-1.7" over the course of a fifteen to twenty minute period. Washes flowed at above bank conditions, overwhelming drainage structures along US89A over a span of 24 miles. Flood debris plugged several drainage structures. Boulders over 15 feet in diameter smashed into the highway. 50 miles southwest in Page, AZ tourist season was underway and hunting season was just around the corner. The roads needed to be cleared. Suffice it to say, time was of the essence.

Project Success: Crews arrived in 30 minutes. Assessments were made. As pictures of the 15 foot boulders began to circulate, it was recognized that bigger equipment needed to be brought in. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has a state funding limit on emergency projects of \$700,000. Beyond that limit, they must access the Federal Highway Administration for Emergency Relief funding which has its own set of rules requiring Davis-Bacon coverage. It became readily apparent this would be a necessary action.

Further, the site had a special limitation required avoidance: Work was located on the Navajo Nation. All repair activities need to remain within ADOT ROW with no trespassing allowed without explicit written consent.

In spite of these limiting factors, on top of many more, the project was completed in record time. The contractor mobilized within days of the proposal acceptance, bringing crews and equipment from all around the southwest. The work was completed without incidence.

