Garland Mineral Springs

Flood Damage Timeline – 2025 to Present

December 2025 – Atmospheric River Event

In December 2025, a major atmospheric river event impacted western Washington and the North Fork Skykomish River watershed. Prolonged heavy rainfall caused severe flooding, high river velocities, channel instability, and widespread infrastructure damage throughout the region.

The North Fork Skykomish River experienced major flooding and channel migration in the Garland Mineral Springs area.

Infrastructure Failures and Access Impacts

Winter 2025–2026 – Bridge and Access Route Failures

Flooding and river damage impacted critical regional access routes serving Garland Mineral Springs, including:

- Index-Galena Road corridor damage,
- Closure and/or failure of back-route access infrastructure associated with Beckler River Road / Jack Pass,
- Damage to river crossings and transportation corridors in the upper North Fork Skykomish Valley.

Figure 1: Geothermal exploration well drilled by Snohomish County PUD in 2011. Prior to the 2025 flood, the well was located within a forested area adjacent to historic cabins. Today, river migration has sweept over the mineral springs and left the wellhead exposed within the active flood channel.

These events significantly reduced reliable access to Garland Mineral Springs and raised concerns regarding long-term future accessibility to the property.

River Migration and Property Damage

Winter 2025–2026 – River Channel Migration

Following the flood events, the North Fork Skykomish River substantially altered its course adjacent to Garland Mineral Springs.

Observed impacts include:

- Large-scale riverbank erosion,
- Loss of mature trees and vegetation,
- Removal of significant topsoil across portions of the property,
- Expansion of active river channels across formerly stable areas.

The flood transformed large portions of the property into active or former riverbed conditions.

Destruction of Historic Structures

2025–2026 – Loss of Historic Cabins

The flooding and subsequent river migration destroyed the remaining historic cabins located on the Garland Mineral Springs property.

These structures represented some of the last surviving physical remnants of the historic Garland resort and camp era dating back to the mid-20th century.

Debris, erosion, and active river movement eliminated multiple cabin sites along the river corridor.

Continuing Erosion and Ongoing Threats

Spring 2026 – Continuing Instability

As of Spring 2026, active erosion and channel instability continue at Garland Mineral Springs.

Current concerns include:

- Continued river migration,
- Ongoing loss of soils and vegetation,
- Additional flood vulnerability,
- Reduced emergency and maintenance access,
- Threats to remaining infrastructure and geothermal features.

Threat to Mineral Springs and Geothermal Features

Present Concern – Potential Permanent Loss of Springs

The geothermal mineral springs and associated well-head areas at Garland Mineral Springs are now threatened by ongoing erosion and river movement.

Without stabilization or mitigation efforts, there is concern that:

- the active river channel may further encroach upon the springs area,
- geothermal infrastructure may be damaged,
- and the historic mineral springs themselves could be permanently altered or lost.

The mineral springs are considered the defining natural and historic resource of the property and have regional historical significance dating back to the late 1800s and resort era development of the 1930s.

Threat to Geothermal Wells and Mineral Spring Resource

The 2025–2026 flood events and continuing river migration have also created an ongoing threat to the geothermal wells and mineral spring infrastructure located on the Garland Mineral Springs property.

Geothermal exploration wells drilled in 2011 to evaluate the underground hot water resource are now located dangerously close to active river channels created or expanded during the flooding events. Continued erosion and channel migration may place portions of the geothermal infrastructure “in the river” if stabilization measures are not undertaken.

The loss or damage of these wells could:

- permanently impact access to the geothermal mineral water resource within the North Fork Skykomish Valley.
- alter or destroy historic spring features,
- complicate future restoration efforts,

Property owners remain deeply concerned that continued untreated erosion may permanently obliterate portions of the mineral spring system and associated geothermal infrastructure.

Current Status

Garland Mineral Springs remains under active threat from continuing river instability and access limitations following the 2025 flood events.

Property owners are currently:

- documenting damage,
- evaluating erosion impacts,
- coordinating with agencies,
- and seeking guidance regarding stabilization, watershed mitigation, and disaster recovery assistance opportunities.