

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HOOD RIVER COUNTY, OREGON**

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE)
HOOD RIVER COUNTY DEPARTMENT)
OF PUBLIC WORKS TO IMPLEMENT A)
STANDARD POLICY REGARDING SNOW)
REMOVAL FROM ROADWAYS)

RESOLUTION # 2134

WHEREAS, the Hood River County Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of accepted County roads and bridges, including snow removal during storm events and;

WHEREAS, the decline of resources has made it difficult for the department to perform snow removal from all County roads in a timely manner and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County and public safety to implement a standard Snow Removal Policy in order to provide consistent snow removal service with the resources available and;

WHEREAS, a policy would identify which County roads receive priority for snow removal and which County roads, depending on the severity of a storm event and the resources available, may not have snow removal performed until a later time and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved a Hood River County Public Works Snow Removal Policy in March, 2000 which is still utilized by the Public Works Department and;

WHEREAS, the county road official recommends the Board of Commissioners affirm an updated snow removal policy that considers current resources and operational needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hood River County Department of Public Works shall implement the following Snow Removal Policy subject to the resources available as stated herein:

Adopted this 21st day of November, 2016



Ron Rivers, Chair



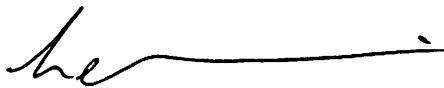
Karen Joplin, Commissioner



Maui Meyer, Commissioner



Robert Benton, Commissioner



Les Perkins, Commissioner

Hood River County Public Works Snow Removal Policy

Standard County policy is to begin snow removal operations at 4:00 am when sufficient accumulation is present. Conditions to be deemed sufficient accumulation are described below in general terms. Snow will be removed from county roadways based on a priority rating between Priority 1 (first) and Priority 4 (last):

- Priority 1:** Main county roads with higher traffic volumes; (i.e. arterials and collectors)
Examples: Country Club Road, Barrett Drive, Wy'East Road
- Priority 2:** School bus routes that are not main county roads
- Priority 3:** Remaining paved county roads
- Priority 4:** Subdivision and cul-de-sac roads and outlying dwellings on gravel roads
Examples: Odell Subdivisions, Green Mt. Road, Old Dalles Drive

The intensity of a storm will impact the time needed for sufficient accumulation to occur and the type of response made:

- Normal Winter Operations:** At 1" of snow (with ice) snow removal will begin and sand will be applied. Hills and intersections will be a Priority 1 task for sanding.
- Light Snowfall:** At 2"-3" of snow (without ice) snow removal will begin and sand will be applied with the same priority as for normal winter operations.
- Moderate/Heavy Snowfall:** At 3" of snow or more (without ice) snow removal and sanding will occur based on the priority listings above until (a) all roads are clear, (b) after the evening rush hour or (c) until the plow operator's shift has extended long enough to cause concern for safety.

Vehicles left on the roadway during snow removal operations create a safety hazard, reduce the effectiveness of snow plow equipment and may be in violation of Hood River County Administrative Code Chapter 10.08.030. If plow operators discover a vehicle in the Right-of-Way that hinders operations they shall report the vehicle to the Road Foreman or their supervisor who in turn reports the vehicle to the Sheriff's Department. If the Sheriff determines a hazard exists and is unable to contact the owner to move the vehicle they may call a towing service to have it removed.

Standard operating practice is to attempt to get county roads cleared in time for peak morning traffic flows. The practice requires plow operators to begin at approximately 4:00 am to clear main county roads, after which attempts are made to clear any remaining school bus routes. Each road requires two passes. If the main roads and school bus routes remain clear for reasonably safe travel, snow is then removed from the remaining paved roads and widening passes are made on all paved roads before Priority 4 roads are attempted. **Depending on the availability of funds, plow operators and equipment, Priority 4 roads may not be plowed on a daily basis in the event of a severe snow event.** Under normal operations, each plow operator has a route that may include a combination of Priority 1, 2 or 3 roads. Operators will not "double-up" efforts on higher priority roads unless under severe snow conditions. Any snow berms formed in driveways by plow operations will be left in place and the responsibility of the property owner to remove. Any mailbox that is knocked down or otherwise damages by plow operations will be, at the department's sole discretion, either repaired or replaced within one (1) week after the end of the storm event. Any mailbox or post that is replaced will be done so using a low cost, basic mailbox.