



BANNOCK COUNTY SNOW REMOVAL AND SANDING POLICY

It is Bannock County's goal to maintain the road system in as safe of a condition as possible throughout the winter months, and provide for maximum efficiency of snow removal on county roads while operating with limited budget and physical resources. Our intent is to provide this service to the residents of Bannock County for their health, safety, and welfare upon the county roads. This policy is an attempt at a guideline for snow removal on roads that are in the Bannock County road system. However, this policy is not binding upon the Public Works Director and all ultimate decisions regarding the care and maintenance of the County Road system is left to his/her discretion. Therefore, based upon the foregoing, the Bannock County Snow Removal policy is hereby set forth as follows:

During winter operations, snow removal will generally began around 5:00 A.M. Monday through Friday. Snow shall be removed from roadways to provide two-way traffic as soon as practicable; additional widening of roadway shoulders and intersections may be performed after the initial snow removal and sanding operations have been completed. Bannock County's Road and Bridge Department will make every effort to have school bus routes opened first so the school busses can safely travel their routes. The County has prioritized all roads within the county road system based on school bus activity, amount of traffic, acute hazards, and roads deemed no winter maintenance. After hours, on weekends, and on Holidays snow removal will be done on a limited basis, with the main emphasis on the busiest routes and emergency requests from Law Enforcement. Under most circumstances, snow removal will be performed after a snowstorm has subsided. Road priorities are as follows:

1st Priority - Danger spots such as steep grades, sharp curves, intersections, bridge decks, approaches and routes traveled by school buses, school bus turnarounds, ramps and other acute hazards, and heaviest traffic routes.

2nd Priority - Medium to heavy traveled sections of highway on primary and secondary systems, including routes traveled by bus lines, and commuters.

3rd Priority - Lighter traveled sections of highway including primary, secondary roads and areas for winter recreational vehicles.

The County recognizes that when homeowners build or move onto county roads where there is no winter maintenance currently being performed and in the case of heavy snowstorms and high winds with major snow drifting, the need may arise to provide some snow removal assistance. In this instance, if the manpower, equipment and budget permit, snow removal may occur after all priority 1, 2, and 3 roads have been opened. This in no way commits Bannock County to full time snow removal. To qualify for assistance, these roads must:

1. Be on the County maintained road system.
2. Homeowner must be providing snow removal on the County Road, with an approved permit from the County Commissioners as stated below.
3. Must have full time, year round residents living in the home or homes.
4. No recreational homes or part-time home residents will receive snow removal.

Bannock County, by statute, is prohibited from plowing private roads. Under extreme emergency situations, where a threat to life and property exists, county snowplows may be authorized to open these roads ahead of the fuel trucks or emergency vehicles. This must be requested by the Sheriff's Office.

Bannock County is prohibited by Union Pacific Railroad Co. to plow snow or sand within their right-of-ways. Therefore, it is the U.P.R.R. Co.'s responsibility to clean all railroad crossings. Bannock County personnel will assist with U.P.R.R. crossings with permission and U.P.R.R. flagger on site.

Bannock County personnel normally shall not remove snow beyond the right-of-way line even at public road intersections. Supervisors may approve certain deviations from this general policy with the approval of County Commissioners or the Sheriff's Department where safety, economy and convenience for snow removal operation is improved.

The exercise of good judgment by each Supervisor is expected in assigning priorities on snow removal and sanding depending on weather conditions, time and equipment availability, as it is generally accepted the Supervisors and personnel are aware of the most hazardous locations based on statistics and previous experience.

Bannock County will not be responsible for snow berms left in driveways or in front of mailboxes. Homeowners need to make their own arrangements to clean the snow from in front of their mailbox for mail delivery.

When homeowners are cleaning out their driveways, the snow cannot be placed onto the County roadways, where it could become a hazard to the traveling public. Bannock County suggests this snow be placed, if possible, on the right side of the driveway (right side if you are facing out to the road) and as close to, if not on, the County road shoulder so the County road plows can remove the snow without replacing it back onto the driveway.

Under no circumstances may private individuals or entities remove snow from county roads without obtaining submitting an application for a permit from the County Commissioners. Consideration for a permit will include, but may not be limited to:

1. Liability insurance or other insurance bonding;
2. Number of other residents on road;
3. Equipment to be used;
4. Road stability; and
5. Other/secondary access.

Under no circumstances shall a road designated as a snowmobile route or other road/route closed by any government entity be plowed by any private individual.


Homeowners or persons depositing snow on the traveled roadway or otherwise creating a hazard to traffic from their plowing methods can be cited under Idaho Code §18-3907, which is a misdemeanor. Vehicles parked in the plow area of the roadway or cul-de-sac (shoulder to shoulder) can be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense. Bannock County will not be responsible if vehicles parked on the sides of the road become covered with snow or damaged by the snow during plowing activities.

The use of sand will be limited to steep roadway grades, such as in mountainous terrain, intersections and other areas determined by the department to be hazardous, and it will not be the policy to sand straight stretches of highway because of a snow floor.


In the event of an emergency, the use of County equipment to respond to and assist law enforcement will supersede any or all other snow removal activities.

DATED this 17th day of December, 2019.

BOARD OF BANNOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Steve Brown, Chair



Terrel N. Tovey, Member



Ernie Moser, Member

ATTEST: 

Jason C. Dixon, Clerk