

## Winter Access Plan

October 2017

This amended **Winter Access Plan** for Hoback Ranches is adopted for the declared purpose of providing for safe snow removal from the primary (Rim Road) and selected secondary roads (Section L), and to minimize driving risks to residents and the general public.

Within Hoback Ranches there are two types of road. Roads owned by the Hoback Ranches Service and Improvement District (HRSID) and private roads. The Winter Committee has no authority over private roads, but is responsible to the HRSID for the safe removal of snow from designated roads as well as the protection of these road from damage to surfaces, culverts or ditches.

The Amended and approved Winter Access Plan shall supersede all previous versions.

### General Rules

- A. A variety of factors shall be used as a means of assessing the overall safe conditions of the roads. These criteria include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
1. The amount of snow accumulation.
  2. Storms, wind, and weather conditions.
  3. Driving Hazard.
  4. Maintenance of the roads.
  5. Safety of the residents and the general public.
  6. Protection of roadways from Damage.
  7. Management and communication of the Winter Committee.
  8. Feasibility and/or cost of snow removal and maintenance.

The Winter Committee shall evaluate these conditions regularly in order to provide for safe access. **In the event that access cannot be provided due to weather or other factors, the Winter Committee shall post and close the road(s) to all vehicular traffic until such time as access can be restored.**

Snow removal and maintenance operations shall take place as conditions demand and weather permits.

- B. Roads shall be plowed and maintained full width allowing oncoming traffic to pass in both directions. Narrow areas shall be posted with warning signs.
- C. Snow berms along the road will be kept at “reasonable heights” and kept to a minimum at driveways and intersections to provide reasonable access for over the snow vehicles. This does not relieve individual driveway owners of clearing their own driveway for non-over the snow vehicle access.

- D. Adequate turnout areas shall be provided at the end of all plowed Primary or Secondary Roads. Where plowing or snow removal terminates at a driveway, snow removal shall be extended a safe distance beyond the driveway in order to provide a turnaround and/or parking area.
- E. There shall be no plowing of road gravels during snow removal operations. Any quantity of gravels accidentally displaced during plowing shall be restored following snowmelt that season.
- F. Areas with limited sight distance and/or potential hazards shall be marked at 50 foot intervals or as appropriate, with reflective delineators above the snow.
- G. The posted maximum speed of 20 mph for all types of vehicles remains in effect for all modes of travel over the road system. In addition, it is recommendation that all vehicles (snow cats, snow machines, cars and trucks) shall drive/operate with their lights on.
- H. Safety and information signs shall be erected and maintained where necessary.
- I. The only designated parking area for use by residents and visitors is located at the corner of Rim Road and Skyline Drive. This area is not for long term storage. Parking passes will be issued to residents for their use and use by guests.
- J. Parking at individual driveways or along roads is allowed only if sufficient space is provided for the passage of emergency vehicles, including snow removal equipment. **If sufficient room for passage is not provided, the Sublette County Sheriffs Office will be notified and they could possibly tag the vehicle for towing (removal).**
- K. The only road considered a **primary road** for plowing is Rim Road from Highway 191 to Elk Drive.
- L. Secondary roads are approved by the Winter Committee annually. **Access to secondary roads is not guaranteed, but is a coordinated effort paid for by users of the road(s).** Secondary roads approved and subject to annual review are:
- Rim Road from Elk Drive to driveway at 505 Rim.
  - Elk Drive to approximately ½ mile past Mountain View Drive.
  - Mountain View Drive from Elk to the driveway at 107 Mountain View.
  - Aspen Drive from Mountain View to ¼ mile past the drive at 111 Aspen Drive.
  - Muddy Creek Road from Aspen Drive to 28 Muddy Creek Road.
  - Skyline to Rim Road
  - 207 Fisherman to Rim
  - Mountain View to 13 Kismet.
- M. The Winter Committee shall be responsible for the snow removal and maintenance of **primary roads and the designated parking area ONLY**. The Winter Committee oversees the snow removal and maintenance of secondary roads for safety and adherence to the winter plan, but does not take any financial responsibility for these roads.
- N. Secondary roads shall be held to the same standards for the removal of snow as the primary roads with the exception that in those situations where the secondary

- is not of sufficient width for two-way traffic, pull out will be made where possible.
- O. Secondary roads will be reviewed to ensure safety requirements are being met and snow removal is in accordance with this plan. **Unsafe roads, or roads not in compliance, will be closed by the Winter Committee until unsafe conditions are corrected.**
  - P. Any individual removing snow commercially is expected to be fully insured and all individuals removing snow are expected to sign a liability waiver (attached) exempting Hoback Ranches from legal action.
  - Q. All individuals plowing secondary roads are expected to have sufficient experience to operate safely, and their equipment is expected to be in a safe operating condition. In addition, they are expected to:
    - 1. Contribute to the snow removal fund for Rim Road and the designated parking area. Secondary roads will not be approved for plowing until the operator has signed the liability waiver and has paid into the Winter Committee fund.
    - 2. Coordinate all plowing activity with neighbors to ensure individuals are able to move vehicles to the parking area if a road will not be plowed for an extended period of time (for example the operator going on vacation).
  - R. In all snow removal situations there will be consideration for individuals using snow machines. Adequate snow will be left for safe snowmobile operation.
  - S. Permission for temporary parking at the highway has been granted by the US Forest Service for situations when Rim Road is closed due to excess snow conditions. This is temporary permission and does not allow for storage of any vehicle or trailer. Additionally, an area for the safe loading and unloading of school buses has been granted by the Forest Service.

#### The Winter Committee

- A. The Winter Committee shall be made up of 5 to 7 winter residents.
- B. HRSID Directors who are also winter residents shall automatically be members of the Winter Committee. The remaining committee members shall be winter residents appointed by and approved by the current committee at the regularly scheduled meeting prior to the winter season.
- C. Committee members generally serve terms of three years (time frame for a HRSID Director), but there are no specific term limits. Vacancies or changes in members will be an agenda item for the Winter Committee meeting held each fall.
- D. Committee Officers are: Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- E. The members of the Winter Committee shall vote on all substantive issues or changes in policy, which shall be approved or denied by simple majority and documented in the meeting minutes. A majority of members, including at least one HRSID Director shall constitute a quorum.

#### Committee Responsibilities

- A. The Winter Committee shall meet at a scheduled meeting in the Fall. Additional meetings shall be scheduled based upon issues needing committee attention.
- B. The Winter Committee shall update the Winter Plan as required. Updates should be completed prior to the Winter Meeting to ensure discussion by the committee.
- C. Issues under the jurisdiction of the Winter Committee include:
  - 1. Ensuring winter residents receive copies of the approved winter plan.
  - 2. Selecting and managing the contractor responsible for snow removal on the primary road.
  - 3. Managing the annual budget for snow removal and securing snow removal funds, including the distribution of funds to authorized snow removal individuals.
  - 4. Ensuring snow removal on secondary roads is in compliance with the Winter Plan.
  - 5. Ensuring communication among winter residents during extreme adverse weather.
  - 6. Notifying, as soon as possible, other committee members and HRSID Board Members of any serious incident with the Hoback Ranches winter road network.

Hoback Ranches Service and Improvement District Board provisions

- A. All costs associated with winter plowing and snow removal, including the cost of signs, delineators, equipment, repairs and fuel shall not be eligible for HRSID funding. Owner operators of snow removal equipment shall be fully responsible for individual liability insurance.
- B. Parking at the Highway is no longer an option for Hoback Ranches winter residents. The Winter Committee exists to provide for safe snow removal or plowing of only those Hoback Ranches roads specified in this plan.
- C. The Winter Plan provides the standards for safe snow removal. Failure to comply with these standards could result in secondary road closures until compliance is obtained.

Winter Committee Members for Winter 2017-2018

**Chairman:** Gary Ryan  
**Vice Chairman:** Bruce Bartley  
**Treasurer:** Stephanie Housley  
**Secretary:** Thomas Sramek  
**Members:** Richard LaBrecque  
Woody Caldwell