

SNOW REMOVAL PLAN



Butte County Public Works Snow Removal Plan Updated: October 14, 2016

Introduction

The Butte County Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining the safety of those roads formally accepted for public maintenance by the Board of Supervisors within the unincorporated areas of Butte County. As part of its mission, the department provides sanding, de-icing and snow removal operations on its road system to mitigate the hazardous driving conditions during snow and ice events.

This plan is designed to enhance the safety of the roadway system during winter snow and ice events; however, snow and ice events are variable and cannot be controlled. Individual drivers must use caution when driving in these conditions. This plan does not guarantee that roads will be free from snow and ice after plowing. **Bare, snow free pavement should not be expected and cannot normally be provided.** This plan attempts to maintain an adequate driving surface for properly equipped vehicles and drivers prepared for winter conditions.



Event Background and Response

Butte County Public Works is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,310 miles of roadway. This road system is divided by area into four Road Maintenance Districts (District); Chico, Gridley, Oroville and Paradise. Each District is responsible for the roads within its boundaries as shown in Appendix A. The Gridley District, which normally is not affected by snow events, shall be responsible for the roads in the Concow Area as well as provide support as needed to the other Districts.

The Director, Assistant Director, Superintendent Maintenance Operations and/or Supervisor Road Maintenance for each District, otherwise known as “Department Management” need to consider the following:

- Availability and location of snow removal equipment and materials.
- Predicted length of event (ie. will the response require a multi-shift response?)
- Employee safety working at night and in remote areas.

While each snow event is unique, it is likely that the following call-out procedures will be utilized:

- In the event of a winter snow or ice advisory, with predicted snow accumulations below the 4,500 ft. elevation, Department Management will call in the personnel it feels will be required to have an effective initial response.

- If the snow event is predicted to arrive after 10:00 p.m., Department Management may decide to delay response until early the next morning, typically before 5:00 a.m. In order to clear the roads before the morning commute begins.
- In the event of wet pavements and predicted temperatures below freezing, Department Management will authorize the activation of sander units. The goal is to be pro-active and to sand and/or place de-icer on selected known areas that are prone to freezing to reduce the potential for ice induced accidents.

Level of Service by District

Snow removal operations are very dependent upon the nature of the storm event. Each storm will present differing conditions that may require modifications to the procedures contained here.

In general, primary/arterial roads will be cleared first, followed by secondary/collector type roads and finally local residential roads.

Residential gravel roads will be plowed, but only after paved roads are cleared and as time and equipment allows, the plows will not attempt to clear anything less than 3 inches of accumulated snow. A cushion of snow will remain between the bottom of the plow and the surface of the gravel road.

Once roads have been cleared, sand will be applied only in icy areas near intersections, hills and curves. Sand should be used sparingly as excess sand remaining on dry pavements can be nearly as dangerous as ice, and excess sand must eventually be swept from the road.

De-icers, most commonly called “salts”, may be used to help control ice. Their use will be restricted to specific areas to help minimize their possible effects on the environment and equipment. Butte County Public Works maintains a supply of de-icer salts in the Paradise yard. While other areas may use this material, its use must be coordinated as only specific equipment is to be used to spread such products.

Paradise District

The Paradise District's initial priority for snow removal operations is along the Skyway corridor. After the Skyway corridor has been plowed, remaining roads in this area will be plowed according to the following schedule: Priority 1, Priority 2, Priority 3 (see below).

Areas known to have traction issues include Colter Way and the Magalia dam area. Sand or de-icers may be used in these areas.



Priority One Roads (in alphabetical order)

- Columbine Road (Skyway to Cedarwood Elementary School)
- Coutolenc Road
- Dogtown Road
- New Skyway
- Ponderosa Way (Skyway to Pines Elementary School)
- Skyway (Town of Paradise to Columbine/Nimshew intersection)
- Steiffer Road (Skyway to Crescent Drive)
- West Park Drive (Ponderosa to Wake Court)

Priority Two Roads (in alphabetical order)

- Andover Drive
- Carnegie Road
- Colter Way
- Creston Road
- Dalton Way
- Imperial Way (Steiffer Road to Northwood Drive)
- Lakeridge Circle
- Nimshew Road (Skyway to Vorheis Lane)
- Northwood Drive (Imperial Way to Rosewood Drive)
- Ponderosa Way (Hobart Court to Creston Road)
- Rosewood Drive (Skyway to Northwood Drive)
- Skyway (Nimshew/Columbine Intersection up to Stirling City)
- South Park Drive
- West Park Drive (South Park Drive to Wake Court)
- Wycliff Way

Priority Three Roads

All other paved County maintained roads

Stirling City will be plowed by the crews opening up the Skyway above Nimshew Road. Only after all other roads are cleared will crews attempt to clear the Skyway above Stirling City.

The Skyway above Inskip is not maintained in winter.



Chico District

Based in Chico, this district plows snow in Butte Meadows, Cohasset, and Forest Ranch. Each of these areas will be treated separately.

Butte Meadows

The Butte Meadows area will be plowed in the following order:

- 1) Humboldt Road from Highway 32 to Skyway
- 2) Humboldt Road from Skyway to the green gate
- 3) Biggers Subdivision and Scout Road
- 4) Skyway from Humboldt Road to the bridge

Skyway beyond the bridge is not maintained in the winter.

Public Works has a contract to utilize a snow blower to augment operations in this area. The Supervisor Road Maintenance of this District will coordinate snow removal efforts with this individual on an as needed basis.

Sand is usually required on Humboldt Road from Highway 32 to Skyway. Ice is known to occur in the area of the Low Summit on Humboldt Road which may benefit from the use of de-icers.

Cohasset

The Cohasset area will be plowed in the following order:

- 1) Cohasset Road
- 2) Paved section of the Vilas
- 3) Gravel section of the Vilas and Mud Creek Road.

Sand may be required on the hills near the CDF station. Intermittent patches of ice that remain on Cohasset Road several days after a storm event may benefit from the use of de-icers.



Forest Ranch

Forest Ranch is one of the lower areas of Butte County that require snow removal. Sand is not usually required in this area. Roads that may require plowing include:

- Forest Ranch Road
- Garland Road
- Stage Road
- Sugar Pine Road
- Schott Road (to the school)

Oroville District

The Oroville District handles snow removal in the Bald Rock and Forbestown areas. After the Priority One and Two roads have been plowed, county crews will clear other paved, County maintained roads in these areas. Gravel roads are cleared last, and then only after an accumulation of at least 4 inches of snow. A layer of packed snow is left on gravel roads.

Primary and other paved roads are sanded as required. Historically, de-icers have not been used in these areas, but may be on a case by case event. With the exception of gravel roads, County maintained roads with icy conditions will be sanded as needed.

Priority One Roads

Bald Rock Road
Forbestown Road
Lumpkin Road
Oroville/Quincy Highway

Priority Two Roads

Black Bart Road
Old Forbestown
Rockerfeller Road
Stringtown Road
Zink Road (paved section)

Roadways that are Sanded

Bald Rock Road (lower end) from Oroville-Quincy Hwy to Town Hill Way
Bald Rock Road from Rockerfeller Road to Lower Zink Road
Oroville-Quincy Hwy @ Lake Madrone Dam
Forbestown Road @ Rex Lane
Forbestown Road from Upper Black Bart Road to Robinson Mill Road
Forbestown Road @ Rebie Way
Lumpkin road from Forbestown Road to McCabe Creek.

Gridley District

Snow removal is not generally required by the roads in this district; however, during winter storms this district may be required to maintain the roads in the Concow Area.

Concow

Roads in the Concow area will be plowed according to the following order:

- 1) Concow Road and Big Bend Road
- 2) Dark Canyon Road, Detlow Road, Lunt Road, Nelson Bar Road and Pinkston Canyon Road
- 3) Gravel Roads: Deadwood Road and Jordan Hill Road

Please note that gravel roads are cleared only after an accumulation of 4 inches or more. As noted before, no attempt is made to clean gravel roads to the point gravel shows through, a packed snow road should be expected.

Sanding is routinely done along the shady and steeper of sections of Concow and Big Bend Roads. Other areas may be considered depending upon the storm event.

County Wide Precautions:

- Keep cars, basketball hoops, etc. out of the County right of way
- Keep a good distance between yourself and the plows when they are near
- Private contractors are available to do driveways and private roads for a fee
- Snow removal in driveways are the owner's responsibility

Was your road overlooked?

If you live on a County maintained road and it was overlooked, please contact Public Works Department at (530)538-7606 or (530)538-7681. Your road name will be placed on a list of roads to be plowed, and be given to the area foreman at noon and 4:00 p.m. County road conditions are updated on the Public Works website at www.buttecounty.net/publicworks - just click on road closures.





**Butte County Public Works
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
P: (530) 538-7681 * F: (530) 538-7171**