

A gravel road with several large puddles of water on its surface, indicating winter maintenance. The road is flanked by trees and utility poles under an overcast sky.

Gravel Road Winter Maintenance

How the Barry County Road Commission maintains winter gravels

Challenges

- Changing Road Conditions

- Freeze/thaw cycle
- Holes

- When do we plow?

- When and how do we treat?

Pre Winter Prep

- Scraping/Shaping
 - 4%

Snow plowing

When to Plow:

- Non-Frozen roads
 - Wet/Heavy snow
 - 3" or more
 - Carry blade $\frac{1}{2}$ " above road surface
 - Minimize gravel loss
- Frozen roads:
 - 1" or more
 - Blade contacts road
 - Keep crown bare

How and When to treat:

- Do not treat non-frozen roads
- Frozen roads
 - 9 to 1 mix
 - 9 parts sand, 1 part salt
 - Applied on the crown

Ice

Pre Ice event:

- Rough up roads if conditions allow
- “Crack” crown open
- Pull in loose material

During Ice event:

- Treat center of road with 9 to 1
- Trucks and Graders keep crown open/soft

Post Ice Event

- Treat with 9 to 1
- Graders with Sandvik blades break up ice

Less Than Desirable Road Conditions

Pot holes

- Scrape when conditions allow
- “Mine field” areas
- When unable to scrape, fill large holes and larger areas with crushed aggregate approx. 1” in size

Hard Pack Snow

- Trucks treat with 9 to 1 winter mix
- Graders scrape crown with Sandvik blades

Questions?

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