



File Code: 2720

Date: January 24, 2011

Michael Berriochoa
President Chinook Pass Cabin Owners Association
4715 W. Mojave Drive
Pasco, WA 99301

Dear Mike,

Re: The request to plow snow from the tract's road.

The Forest Service has jurisdiction of the roads and the Forest Service is responsible for operations on Forest System roads. In this letter I will explain the Forest Service's snow plowing policy as it relates to the recreation residence tracts. There has been no change in policy.

- The snow plowing permit is a *Road Use Permit*; it is not a special use permit; snow plowing is not a part of the recreation residence permit.
- The Forest Service does not normally plow snow on any of its roads, nor does the Forest Service permit contractors or users to plow roads without a permit or contract.
- Anyone under contract or permit is required to post a bond or cover themselves and the Forest Service with liability insurance against any repair costs for road damage or damage to other property.
- Individual permits will not be issued to property owners when multiple owners are in need of using a specific Forest Road, as is the case in recreation residence tracts. Tract associations may apply for a road use permit.

Permits must be applied for and approved. Liability bond or insurance needs to be in place before a permit can be issued.

Any permit issued will include a map in the permit's Operation Plan showing roads approved for snowplowing, snow storage or parking.

- Snow plowing maps will be formulated to allow safe parking while maintaining security for the cabins. History shows that cabins with vehicle access are most often burglarized.
- Plowing of individual cabin driveways will not be authorized although access to some cabins may be better than at other locations as a result of the plowing Operation Plan.
- Specifications on width to be plowed, snow depth to be maintained on the roadway to preserve the road surface, and drainage structure requirements will be identified in the Road Use permit and Operations Plan.



- Use of equipment with cleats or other tracks will not be allowed. Snow plows or blowers on tractors or other snow removal equipment will be identified and written approval is required before commencement of work.
- Operators of snow removal equipment will be named in the Operation Plan. Substitute or additional operators must be requested in writing and should not operate until they gain written approval.
- A copy of the permit must be with the operator during snow plowing operations.

Depending on the sensitivity of road locations and the amount of plowing requested additional costs for preparation of Environmental documentation may be needed and will be billed to the applicants. If Environmental documentation is required it may take 6 months to complete.

Sincerely,

Irene Davidson

IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger