

July thoughts

Just before the 4th of July we thought we were getting caught up with the moisture that had fallen and then came more rain, hail and wind. Since then we are back to square one trying to get everything picked up in time for wheat harvest. It appears the conditions are perfect for weed growth and noxious weeds. Again, it is the duty of the landowner to mow as stated in the June thoughts. The Box Butte County Road Department is mowing along the oil roads that have not been hayed. As for the noxious weeds, Cody Renkoski is working that department and can be reached at 308-249-7624.

As said earlier, with wheat harvest around the corner we are working to correct any deficiencies in the roads that may slow the process. Each operator has been maintaining their respective roads in preparation for the harvest if there are any field accesses that are in need of repair, please call the office or talk to the operators, we will try to accommodate your request. A goal of this department has been to clean up the driveways. As tenants and crops change, producers tend to put an approach in wherever - without consideration to the road, drainage or travelers. There has been a permit system in place for a period of time now, new drives being installed without the permit are being removed until the permit has been completed.

Our department could certainly tell when the crops needed moisture and the pivots were turned on. Another duty of this office is to review those complaints, and again there is a policy in place for responding to those calls. The site will be visited, a form completed, property owners and tenants (if known) will be notified. This is a three-step process that can culminate with the County Attorney as directing water onto the roadway is a punishable offense (Class IV misdemeanor). It is also a punishable offense to ditch within the right-of-way.

The Box Butte County Road Department is also looking for help; in particular one full-time truck driver and one full-time motor grader operator. If you are interested in either position, please stop by the office at 101 Howard Street for an application. As always; if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 762-6797. Have a safe harvest and summer.