

April thoughts

Although the weather hasn't decided if spring is here to stay or if winter will linger on a few more weeks, the Road Department has been blading roads to remove the signs of winter and has started making progress on the 2018 One Year Plan. The Box Butte County Board of Commissioners considered both written and oral comments before adopting the plan. We hope the weather and staffing allow enough time to complete the plan and keep up with our regular maintenance activities.

With spring here on the calendar, we can expect that many are doing their Spring Cleaning. Unfortunately, when some clean they deposit items that are no longer of use to them in the county road right-of-way (ROW). We have already started picking up tires, wood, sofas and appliances and request that if you already have the items loaded in the vehicle why not take them to a "second time around" store if it is good enough condition or a recycling facility or landfill if it is not. Littering and illegal dumping are punishable offenses, we do work with the Sheriff's Office to curb this practice. Another issue that comes about every spring is sign vandalism, the Sheriff is already assisting us on a recent rash of destruction. Spray paint defaces the signs and cannot be removed without damaging the reflectivity; and hunting down and shooting a defenseless sign, what a waste of ammunition. Signs are expensive; the prices vary with the cost of aluminum but we recently paid \$36.65 for a double arrow and \$29.75 for a diamond (such as a No Outlet) sign. A weekend of someone's "fun" can easily cost over \$250, with out salary, not to mention the liability.

The Road Department has also seen some permits go out, a Hay Harvesting Permit went out this morning and earlier a Utility Permit was issued. A permit to harvest hay on the ROW that is adjacent to your property is not necessary but if you intend to harvest someone else's ROW, you need a permit. A Utility Permit is issued, and there is a \$50 fee, whenever something is put in the ROW that moves a service from one point to another (examples might be water, electricity, natural gas, communications...) Should we find that a permit was not obtained the owner will be contacted and the permit will be issued and fee assessed at that time. Another permit is a Driveway Permit, all too often farm practices and tenants change causing new drives to be installed without input from the County. These drives will be removed when they are installed without a permit and getting a permit doesn't necessarily mean you will get the drive where you want it.

As always; if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 762-6797. Have a safe Spring.