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Policy Title	Date:	Motion No.
<u>Brush & Tree Control Road Allowance</u> <u>Road Allowance brush control</u>	October 13, 2020	389/20

Purpose:

To establish a policy for removal of trees and brush from County Road Allowances.

The removal of brush from county ditches is vital for the safety of the public. Brush and/or trees growing in the road allowance can cause many problems including reduced visibility of traffic, signs, vehicles, and wildlife. Additionally brush and trees can cause excess snow drifting and reduced drainage. Brush is controlled along roadsides to minimize drifting of snow, provide optimum drying/melting of the road surface, unimpeded drainage, and to protect the integrity of our road structures.

Policy Guidelines:

~~Council recognizes the removal of trees and brush from roadside ditches is vital for the safety of the traveling public. Trees or brush growing in the road allowance can cause many problems including reduced sight distance at intersections, reduced visibility of traffic signs and wildlife, serious snow drifting, reduced drainage, and inhibits dust clouds from dissipation created by traffic.~~

The County will remove trees and brush within developed road allowances to maintain road safety, enhance visibility, and ensure proper functionality of road infrastructure as resources allow.

Under the Federal Migratory Bird Convention Act, no disturbance to nests or nesting birds is allowed during breeding and nesting periods (April through August). If trees/brush are to be taken down during this period a Wildlife sweep will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to commencing to identify any nesting birds within the area.

Policy Procedure:

- 1) Inspections of County Road allowances for brush control will be completed by County staff ~~annually~~ within to determined control areas. ~~Under the Federal Migratory Bird Convention Act, no disturbance to nests or nesting birds is allowed during breeding and nesting periods (April through August). If trees/brush are to be taken down during this period a professional biologist within the realm of wetland sciences needs to be contacted to identify any nesting birds within the area.~~
- 2) Mechanical brushing of County Road allowances will be prioritized in the following manner:
 - ~~a.)~~ a. Arterial, collector and local roads where brush and/or tree species pose a risk to:
 - ~~i.)~~ i. Traffic safety.
 - ~~ii.)~~ ii. Road maintenance operations/ upgrade roads.
 - ~~iii.)~~ iii. The integrity of the road surface.
 - b. ~~b.~~—Hamlet, country residential or single residential.



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c. e.—Dirt Trail Road Allowances and Undeveloped Road allowances.

3) Brushing requests from the public may be taken and, if approved, will be added to the schedule based on priority

3)4) The County will mechanically brush from the edge of the road surface to the fence line where safe to do so.

4) The County will conduct chemical brush control applications annually within a designated control area.

5) Chemical brush control will be used in specified control areas to manage any brush regrowth, as well as areas where mechanical brush control is not necessary.

6) Chemical control areas will be designated at the discretion of County staff and follow up any mechanical brush control operations.

7) All brush control requests on County road County Road allowances, not determined in the priority list, will be inspected by County staff and considered for brush control work. Upon completion of inspection, the request will be prioritized and scheduled for completion accordingly.

8) The County may control brush on private land for the purpose of maintaining sightlines and visibility at road intersections. The County may control brush on private land to maintain road allowances and ensure sightlines at intersections, provided it serves County interests. Brush removal on private property will only proceed after a Right of Entry Agreement is completed, with no compensation provided to landowners.

1) Kneehill County will not engage in any brush control activities on private land until a written agreement is obtained between the County and the landowner.

8) The County will make every reasonable attempt to remove tree stumps within road slopes when the equipment is available and the weather is conducive to the work.

9) The County will make every reasonable attempt to remove residue of burn piles when the equipment is available and the weather is conducive to that type of work with a goal of having the project cleaned up within one year of the pile being burned.

10) No compensation will be given to landowners for trees or brush removed from the road allowance.

2)11) Reasonable attempts will be made to contact landowners affected by these brushing activities prior to commencing work. This may include notification through verbal communications.

Kenneth King,
Reeve

Mike Haugen,
CAO



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Approved: October 13, 2020 389/20
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