

Gila County Policy GUIDELINES TO PRIMITIVE ROADS	Policy Number: PWS-001	Page
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I. PURPOSE:

To establish a uniform countywide policy pertaining to the designation and maintenance of "Primitive Roads" per A.R.S. § 28-6706.

II. POLICY:

To help clarify which County Maintained Roads are designated as Primitive Roads; the guidelines used in the selection of Primitive Roads that the County will maintain; and the signage requirements mandated for Primitive Roads.

III. PRIMITIVE ROAD STATUTE (A.R.S. § 28-6706):

A. The board of supervisors or the governing body of a city or town may designate a public road within its jurisdiction as a primitive road as prescribed in this section.

B. Neither a county, city or town nor its employees are liable for damages or injuries resulting from the use of a primitive road designated under this section except for intentional injuries or gross negligence caused by an employee acting within the scope of the employee's employment.

C. The board of supervisors or the governing body of a city or town shall not designate a road as a primitive road unless it was opened before June 13, 1990 and was not constructed in accordance with county standards.

D. The county, city or town shall place signs on every road designated as a primitive road in locations adequate to warn the public. These signs shall state "Primitive road, caution, use at your own risk. This surface is not regularly maintained."

E. A board of supervisors or the governing body of a city or town shall not designate a state or county highway as a primitive road.

SIGNATURE:


CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2/19/2019
DATE

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**GILA COUNTY
GUIDELINES TO PRIMITIVE ROADS**

1. ROAD ELIGIBILITY:

Primitive road classification shall apply to public roads meeting all the following criteria.

- a) Opened before June 13, 1990.
- b) Not constructed in accordance with County standards.
- c) Not a County or State Highway.
- d) Shall have adequate easements dedicated to the public.
- e) Shall be in a condition that County can blade with minimum cost and risk.

2. PREDOMINANT TRAFFIC TYPES:

Dispersed recreation, local access, government, farm or ranch, administrative.

3. SURFACE TYPES:

Native material or gravel; paved roads are not eligible for Primitive Road designation.

4. CROSS SECTION CHARACTERISTICS:

- a) Does not conform to County standards.
- b) May have inconsistent width, but roads must have minimum widths to safely operate equipment for blading.
- c) Surface can vary from native material to rock and gravel.
- d) Surface must be in a maintainable state when designated by the County as a Primitive Road.
- e) Drainage features typically poor to non-existent. County forces will basically maintain existing roadway conditions.
- f) Drainage ditches may be cut as part of the blading maintenance activity.

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5. WARNING SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS:

- a) On roads designated by the County as Primitive Road, the County shall place warning signs in locations adequate to warn the public that state:

- b) The warning signs shall be a horizontal rectangle with a size of 30 x 48 inches with a yellow background with black legend and border and be in general accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- c) The warning signs for any road designated as a Primitive Road in a residential subdivision shall be posted at the entry to the subdivision.
- d) No roads shall be designated as a Primitive Road without the proper warning signs being posted.
- e) Warning signs shall be installed a minimum of 300 feet from the beginning of a road designated as a Primitive Road.

6. PRIMITIVE ROADS BLADING MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES:

- a) The Regional Roads Managers for the County will be primarily responsible for determining the schedule of blading maintenance for Primitive Roads, according to the Gila County Policy/Procedure Guidelines.
- b) Roads that are designated as Primitive Roads will receive blading maintenance at a schedule that should not exceed three (3) times per year that occur throughout the year to take advantage of roadway moisture conditions.
- c) All Primitive Roads will be maintained in the general condition they are received at the time of designation.
- d) Limited drainage projects and surfacing, if available, may occur on Primitive Roads to reduce wear and tear on equipment.

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- e) All driveway culvert cleaning and installation will remain the responsibility of the homeowner.
- f) Drainage problems will only be addressed as outlined above.
- g) No Primitive Road will be brought up to County Standards using public funds or County forces.

7. EXTINGUISHMENT OF EASEMENTS:

A.R.S. 28-7214. Extinguishment of easements

If this state or a city, town or county does not own title to a roadway but holds right-of-way easements, the easements may be extinguished by the governing body's resolution.

- a) If Gila County extinguishes an easement within two (2) years after its creation and a request for extinguishment comes from owner(s) of the easement, the owner(s) requesting extinguishment shall reimburse Gila County all costs associated with maintenance of the easement from the time of acceptance until extinguishment.
- b) All requests for extinguishment shall be in writing and directed to the Director of Public Works.

8. PRIMITIVE ROAD DESIGNATION APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

The following items shall accompany any request by the public to designate a road as a Primitive Road prior to consideration by the Board of Supervisors. These items will be submitted to the Public Works Department for review.

- a) An application letter and Petition outlining the request for the road to be designated as a County maintained Primitive Road.
- b) Documentation that the road was opened prior to June 13, 1990.
- c) A map showing the existing location of the road and all properties that it traverses will be provided by Gila County Public Works Department.

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- d) An easement dedicating the roadway to the public shall be signed by all affected property owners on a form provided by Gila County Public Works Department.
- e) After review of items a) through d) above, the Public Works Department will prepare a recommendation for action to the Gila County Board of Supervisors.
- f) Upon adoption of the Resolution accepting the grant of the Primitive Road easement by the Gila County Board of Supervisors, the road will be designated as a Primitive Road.

