Lewis County Highway Tree Policy

Effective: December 8, 2014

The primary responsibility of the highway departments is to keep roads safe for the traveling public.   With this charge, the Lewis County Highway Department provides you with the following outline of its road way tree removal policy.

Trees in ROW (Right of Way):

Lewis County has the right to cut any tree in the ROW.   If any part of the base is in the ROW the tree is considered in the ROW.   We do, however, talk to the landowner and explain the reasons for cutting a tree which include: danger of falling in the road, branches falling in the ROW, previous accidents where vehicles have come in contact with the tree, inability for road crews to clean ditches due to roots and base of tree, or trees that shade the road. **(Anything that could make it dangerous to the traveling public).** We ask landowners to sign a tree release.

Trees Outside the ROW:

Trees outside the ROW may be cut under certain conditions such as: the tree is dead or dying and will likely fall in the road, branches are falling in the ROW, or tree presents a danger to the traveling public. We ask landowners to sign a tree release.

Trees Outside the ROW (Landowner request to County to cut):

Tree has to be close enough to the road and have the potential to cause danger to the traveling public including: shading road or causing slippery conditions, or tree is dead or dying and will likely fall in the road. Lewis County is NOT responsible for the removal of the stump. We ask landowners to sign a tree release.

Reasons Trees Will Not be Cut:

The primary job of the highway departments is to keep roads safe for the traveling public. We are not a free tree service for the public. Trees will not be cut if tree is out of the ROW and the threat is **ONLY** to landowner's property; that is the responsibility of the landowner. In addition, trees will not be cut if close to power lines and could endanger employees; in this instance, the landowner should contact National Grid.

Microburst, Tornado Etc.: In the storm zone only.

We will go out of the ROW in the storm zone to chip brush and take trees down to where they are no longer pose a danger to the public, ONLY if there is **NO** danger to personal property. We will not be responsible for any lawn damage.

For any trees that are cut, the land owner has first option to keep the logs; if they decline, we will dispose of the logs.

All decisions outlined above, including tree removal requests, will be reviewed and approved by either the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent, the General Highway Superintendent or the Tree Forman on the job.

TREE RELEASE

Dear Property Owner,

There is a need for tree work on your property and your permission is requested by the Lewis County Highway Dept. to perform this to the extent that such work is in the interest of both Lewis County Highway Dept. and yourself as property owner.

Lewis County Highway will exercise due care when on your property. Prior to start of the work, the property owner must provide Lewis County with location information of all privately owned underground and/or above ground structures. (i.e. sewage drains, sewage tanks), which are located within or near the project area. Lewis County Highway Dept. is not responsible for damages incurred to these structures due to misinformation. It is the intent that the effected property will be left in the same or improved condition when the project is complete.

The owner is responsible for stump removal.

We request that you sign this release, which indicates you have read it and agree to its terms.

David L. Becker
Superintendent

I hereby release the County of Lewis; its officers and employees, from all claims for damages that may have been done or which may occur by reason of such occupancy of said lands.

Project Location; _____

_____

_____

Do you want the wood from the tree;   Yes_____   No_____

Comments; _____

_____

_____

Location of underground structures; _____

_____

_____

Date; _____   Phone Number; _____

Owner; _____   _____
                 Print Name   Signature

Witness; _____   _____
                 Print Name   Signature