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(Neb.)-Crews Work To Repair Washouts, Few Roads Still Closed

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/10/2014 02:37 PM



(REGIONAL)-With spring less than two weeks away, the warm, sunny weather that the region has been experiencing the past few days continues to melt what's left of the area's snow. While much of the snow is now gone, road crews are working hard to make county roads passable once again. Rachel Mader with the Sioux County road department said, "The water is receding, but people still need to be cautious, because what is left is a mess."

All roads in Sioux County are back open now, except for the north end of Morrill Road. The washout there completely washed under the road and around the culvert, making it impassable until repairs can be made. Mader said she is not sure when it will be back open again, but that it is on the high priority list. Although all other roads in the county are open, some of them are not in the best condition in some places. She is asking drivers to "just be careful."

Mader said she thinks part of the reason for the flooding, which is not a normal yearly occurrence, is that a lot of the run-off the county experienced came from every which direction--locally, Wyoming, and South Dakota, all of which had plenty of snow. With the ground just now starting to thaw, the run-off was not absorbed into the ground very well and there was no real place for it all to go. She said it's a good thing this doesn't happen every year.

Dawes County highway superintendent Larry Hankin agreed that things are getting a lot better as the water recedes. He said crews have been able to get some of the county's washes all filled back in. East River Road is open again, although there is only one lane right now where the wash was located. However, two other roads are currently closed due to flooding. One portion of West Ash Creek Road up through the timber is closed where water is still over the road. Hankin says they are having problems with the culvert there. Also, Whitney Lake Road is closed from Brown Road to North Whitney Lake Road because the lake has backed up onto the road, making it a hazard.

Hankin says the roads that crews are able to repair, have been taken care of. A couple of other locations will have to dry out a little bit more before they'll be able to be filled in and fixed properly. He hopes it'll be later this

week.

County roads are not the only thoroughfares being impacted by snow run-off and melting ice jams. For a little while over the weekend, Highway 20 was closed in eastern Wyoming due to flooding. It since has reopened.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail news@chadrad.com.)

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