

January 7, 2018

Wickersham Ranch Owners and Neighbors:

As you know we had a substantial amount for work scheduled for last year that was not completed due to the inability of the vendor to meet schedules. Work specified included major grading and repair, application of rock from our quarry at key corners and the construction of rolling dips at troublesome drainage locations, most of which were originally specified by me last March.

The vendor had completed most grading during the regular season, though not according to our original schedule. He started stockpiling rock for dips and corners several months ago but no other progress had been made toward the rock application goals.

The vendor decided to work on the road over the holidays. Work performed included using material from the Silva Ranch that is substandard and applying that rock to numerous road surfaces at locations NOT requested by us. Much of this work occurs on the Silva Ranch and it may have been initiated by them.

Much of the work that was done was NOT authorized by the Road Committee and it was not the specific work that we had requested. The result is that many parts of the road are now muddy, slippery and potentially dangerous in wet weather. Hopefully the surface will stiffen up as the material dries.

However, rain is forecast for next week and that may make the situation worse.

All drivers are urged to use caution on all parts of the road. Use your rural road driving skills and if you don't know how to drive rural roads in muddy conditions consider delaying your trip to the ranch. Obviously 4WD is a must.

If you have traveled the road in the last few hours please report conditions to the Road Committee.

Coordination with the vendor is my responsibility so ultimately this is a failure on my part. I personally apologize for any inconvenience.

As the vendor became available we had discussed the possibility of applying rock during the wet season. But that was based on application of our rock, which is very high quality and not muddy at all, and at limited locations at larger creek crossings and for rolling dips. The material that was substituted by the vendor is the key problem. If that material does not stabilize I will require removal of it and restoration of the road surface at the vendor's expense.

I am contacting the vendor to see what happened and discuss corrections. Unfortunately, as always, corrective work in winter can make things even worse so anything we prescribe will include the possibility of just riding it out.

I'll issue updates when useful.

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"Schools began with a man under a tree, who did not know he was a teacher, discussing his realization with a few, who did not know they were students. The students aspired that their sons also listen to such a man."

Louis Kahn