


# Gravel Roads

Stabilizers



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- 40 years in Transportation Maintenance, Construction and Design
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# Unpaved Road Dust Control and Stabilization Treatment Selection Guide

Acknowledgement

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# Course outline and timing (Continued)

- Soil Stabilizers (Dust Palliatives) February 4,2021 (10:00 – 12:30)
  - Snow Plowing on Unpaved Roads
  - Different Families of Stabilizers
  - Installing and Maintenance of stabilized roads,

# Plowing and Plows

- Know your equipment!
- Know your route, at night
- Do you know where the end of the curb, guardrail ends, the manhole that has a lip, the railroad tracks, bridge expansion joint are?
- Have you calibrated your sander?
- Have you checked your cutting edges?





In a bad winter - trees, buildings and machinery are often close to the road



# Bales too close to R-O-W!





# Seems Minor in the Fall







Then the problem grows!

End result!





In deep snow use your plow first



# First break-through





# First pass is critical

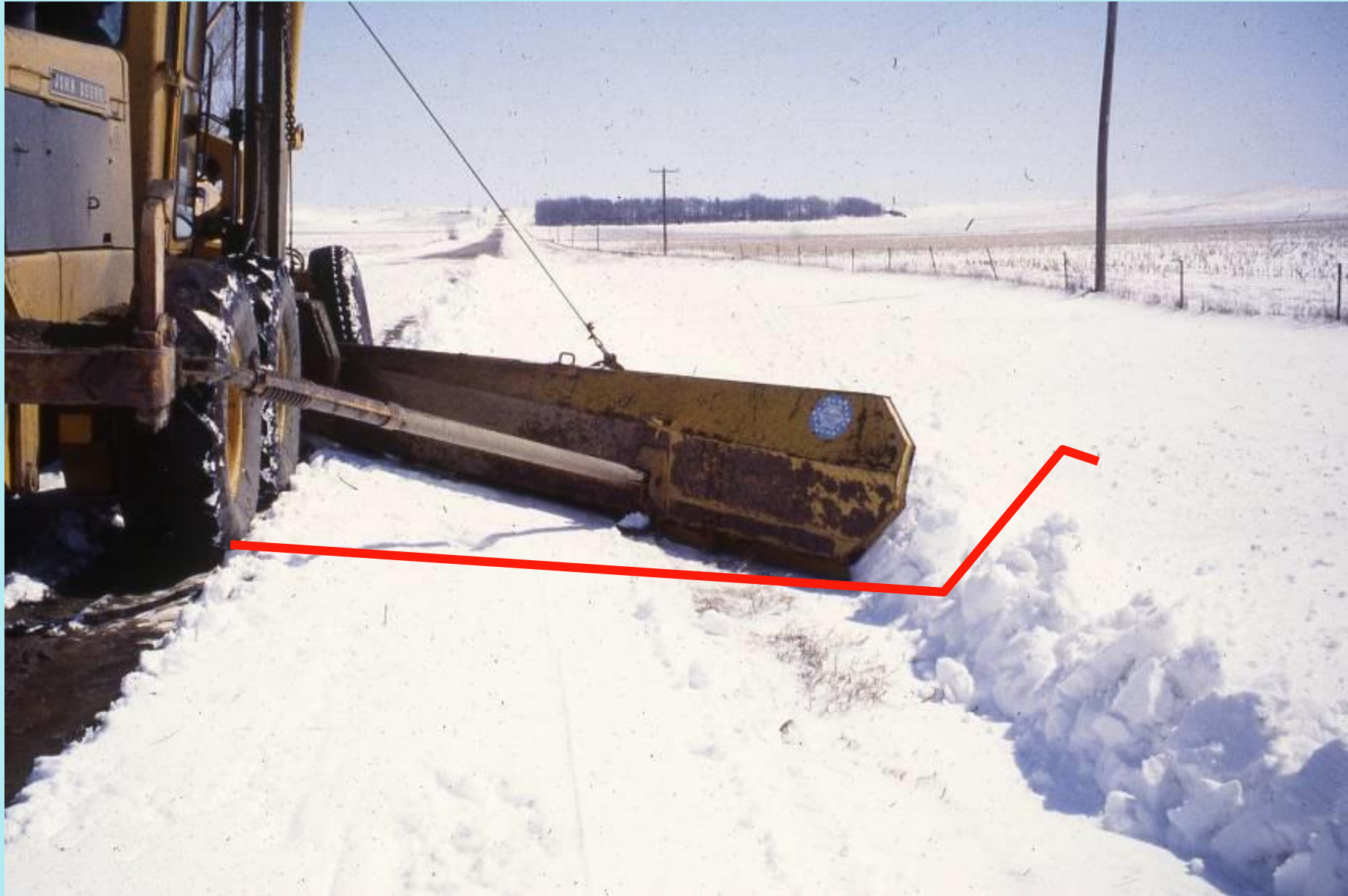


Use of under blade, V-plow & wing simultaneously –  
requires skill!

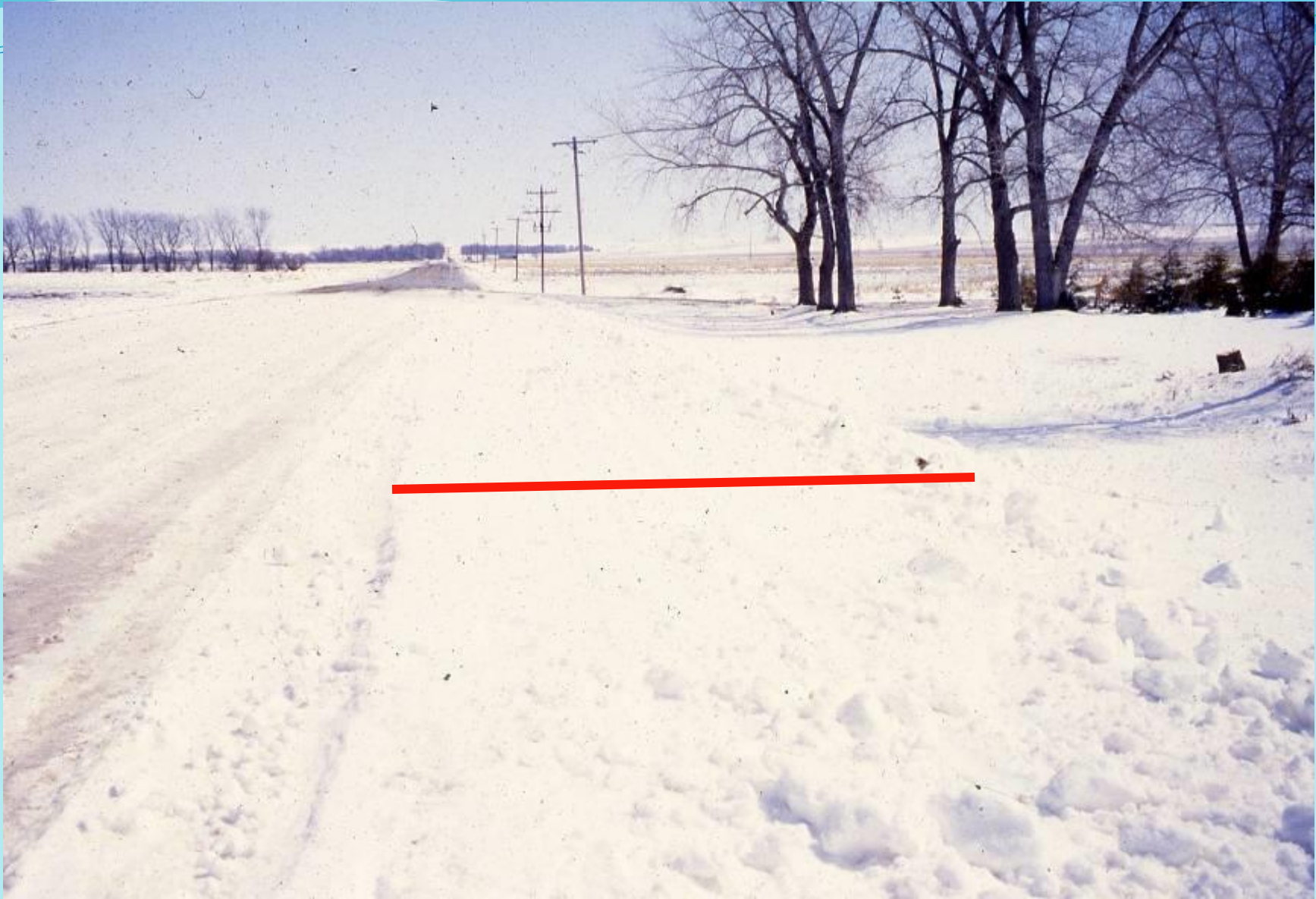












# Idaho Unpaved Road Stabilization

## Current State of Practice:

1. Most agencies have a Transportation Management Plan
2. Most agencies are doing some stabilization
3. Gravel Roads Workshop



# When Consider Stabilizers or Dust Suppressants

- Define stabilization, modification, dust abatement
- Goals, Objectives, Expectations
- Economics
- Environmental
- Effective Life









# What is Dust?

## **DUST IS:**

- **Material that can pass through the #200 sieve**
- **Material that has broken free from the rest of the surface material**
- **The particulate matter that can float in the air**
- **Particles from soil and rocks**
- **Different from Plasticity Index**

*Dust can be controlled, managed, reduced, or eliminated.*

# What Contributes to or Causes Dust?

- **Vehicle Speed**
- **Number of Vehicles**
- **Number of Wheels per Vehicle**
- **Vehicle Weight**
- **Gradation of the Surface Material**
- **Compaction, Cohesion, Bonding,  
Durability of the Surface Fines**
- **Breakdown or loosening of material**
- **Lack of Moisture**

# Dust Abatement Material Types

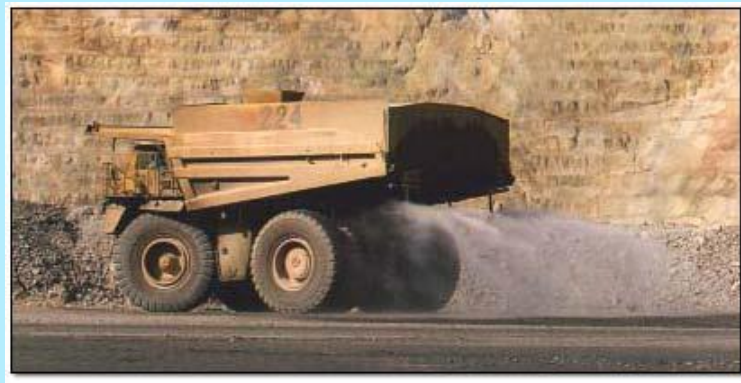
- 1. Water
- 2. Water Absorbing
- 3. Organic
  - Petroleum
  - Non-Petroleum
- 4. Electrochemical
- 5. Synthetic Polymer Emulsion
- 6. Clay Additives



# Dust Abatement Material Types

## 1. WATER

- Binds material together with surface tension
- Wet material doesn't float in the air
- Easy to apply, but dries out easily



# Salts

## 2. WATER ABSORBING

- Calcium Chloride
  - Magnesium Chloride
  - Sodium Chloride
- 
- Absorbs moisture from the air
  - Holds moisture longer in the material
  - Increases the surface tension between particles
  - Can be rewetted and reworked



### 3. ORGANIC

- **Petroleum**
  - Asphalt Emulsion
  - Modified Asphalt Emulsions
  - Cutbacks
  - Dust Oils
- **Non-Petroleum**
  - Lignosulfonates
  - Tall-Oil Emulsions
  - Molassas & Sugar Beet Oils
  - Animal Fats
  - Vegetable Oils
- **Binds particles together with adhesion**
- **Relatively insensitive to moisture**



Asphalt emulsion



Ligno is soaking into the loose gravel.

Road is dust free and ready to drive on after ligno application is complete.



#### 4. ELECTROCHEMICAL

- Enzymes
  - Ionic
  - Sulfonated Oils
- 
- Changes the characteristics of clay particles
  - Relatively insensitive to climate conditions



## 5. SYNTHETIC POLYMER EMULSIONS

- Polyvinyl Acetate
  - Vinyl Acrylic
  - Polymer Combinations
- 
- Binds particles together with adhesive polymer properties



PVA



Vinyl Acryl

## 6. CLAY ADDITIVES

- Bentonite
- Montmorillonite
- Used to *add* PI to the material
- Agglomerates with dust





# Procuring and Specifying Chemical Treatments

- Regardless of the process followed, practitioners are encouraged to mandate that suppliers provide:
- A certificate of compliance stating that the supplied product meets a minimum category specification and that the chemical formulation is safe for humans, mammals, and plants.
- A comprehensive safety data sheet (SDS, previously known as material safety data sheet [MSDS]).
- Mix design test results showing that the required minimum strength can be achieved at the proposed application rate if the objective of the treatment is long-term stabilization (see Chapter 4).

# Application Techniques

- Asphalt emulsion = spray or mix, cure
- Portland Cement = mix, add moisture, cure
- Lime = mix, cure
- Remaining liquid treatments = spray or mix, penetrate, cure
- Remaining dry treatments = mix, cure



















# Application Techniques

- Proper Spread/Mixing Rates – quality control
- Climate & Curing
- Compaction

# Gravel Road Cost Analysis

- Joe Weist, P.E.
- Highway District Engineer
  - 1975 to 2011
- Lakes County Highway District
  - Coeur D' Alene, Idaho