**Plowing Protocol**

This protocol guides plowing the parking lot with the Skid steer. All skid steer operators will be approved by the Trails Coordinator and will follow the Skid Steer Operating Procedures.

The goal is to use the skid steer as much as feasible to plow the access road and parking lot, reducing use of the (more expensive) Pisten Bully for plowing.

Plowing will normally be undertaken on the access road when there is 10 cm or more of new snow (if its snowing maximum accumulation should be 30 cm or people get stuck…), and the parking lot will be plowed after 10 to 15 cm. Plowing should be planned for times when traffic is light, preferably early in the mornings.

Plow Technical Details

* When greasing the skid steer (at least every ten hours) remember to also grease the plow which has two grease zerks per side.
* When inspecting the skid steer (start up routine) ensure that the hydraulic hoses are positioned and restrained with a bungee cord so they do not get caught and torn when rotating the blade

Plowing Sequence

* Plow a few parking spots closest to the lodge first.
* Then plow the access road, followed by lower parking lot, and finally upper parking lot.

Plowing details

* When plowing the access road, ensure you plow to the edge of the road/ditch and do not “over plow” into the ditch. At the start of the season memorize where the ditches are located.
* Leave a berm right at the ditchline so that the edge of the road is visible to other operators and to drivers.
* Generally, it is necessary to make four passes to remove the snow two passes are fine where there is only a small accumulation of snow, or where it snowing and will be plowed again soon.
* The first pass on each side clears the center of the road and the second pass pushes back the snow to the edge of the road.
* When the banks become deep, the skid steer will not be able to push them back and the road will start to get narrower. When the road is too narrow, it will be necessary to cross plow. If the weather is going to warm, and then freeze its important to cross plow before the snow sets up too hard.
* When cross plowing, it is important to “define” the ditchline. With some down pressure on the blade you will feel when the blade drops at the ditchline. When you find the ditchline, rase the plow 20 to 30 cm to create an “edge” to the road but be sure to push the rest of the snow past the ditch and as far into the right of way as feasible. Be sure not to drop into soft snow in a deep ditch, but after the snow has been compacted a bit it is easy to push a “ramp” all the way into the timber, creating more space for the next snowfall

Lower Parking Lot

* Push back snow around the gate and do not accumulate snow where “The Way Home” crosses the road. It may be necessary to carry snow in several passes through this narrow section.
* Keep easy access to the Kiosk and do not place a high bank on the south-west corner where people leave the parking lot at the tunnel connector. Generally, push as much snow to high banks on the east and south sides of the parking lot.
* Early in the year make sure the snow banks are as far back as feasible; during a deep snow year we don’t have enough room!

Upper Parking Lot;

* Avoid snow accumulations at the four entrances to the parking lot; the upper entrance to the lodge, the entrance to the stadium beside the wax hut, the Caretaker hut, and one entrance to biathlon
* These entrances need lots of space, especially early in the season, so push snow far away
* Generally, try to push most of the snow to the south side, then to the west side, of the parking lot. For both of these edges, try to build a snow “ramp” where the skid steer is climbing the old snow bank and try to get as much snow into the trees. In a deep snow year, the banks need be fairly high.

Specific Tips

* Keep a reasonable amount of down pressure on the blade, so compacted snow is “cut” and the accumulation of layers of snow is avoided.
* If you have too much down pressure, the machine will spin; play with the angle of cut (blade angle) and down pressure to get a clean job.
* Don’t be too fussy; a few “windrows” of snow are fine. It will snow again…..