

§ 170.121

limits, maximum vehicular size, and weight limits, and identify needed traffic control devices; and

(c) Erect, maintain, and enforce compliance with signs and pavement markings.

§ 170.121 What is a cultural access road?

(a) A cultural access road is a public road that provides access to sites for cultural purposes as defined by individual tribal traditions, which may include, for example:

- (1) Sacred and medicinal sites;
- (2) Gathering medicines or materials such as grasses for basket weaving; or
- (3) Other traditional activities, including, but not limited to, subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering.

(b) A tribal government may unilaterally designate a tribal road as a cultural access road. A cultural access road designation is an entirely voluntary and internal decision made by the tribe to help it and other public authorities manage, protect, and preserve access to locations that have cultural significance.

(c) In order for a tribal government to designate a non-tribal road as a cultural access road, it must enter into an agreement with the public authority having jurisdiction over the road.

(d) Cultural access roads may be included in the IRR Inventory if they meet the definition of an IRR.

§ 170.122 Can a tribe close a cultural access road?

(a) A tribe with jurisdiction over a cultural access road can close it. The tribe can do this:

(1) During periods when the tribe or tribal members are involved in cultural activities; and

(2) In order to protect the health and safety of the tribal members or the general public.

(b) Cultural access roads designated through an agreement with a public authority may only be closed according to the provisions of the agreement. See § 170.121(c).

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SEASONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

§ 170.123 What are seasonal transportation routes?

Seasonal transportation routes are non-recreational transportation routes in the IRR Inventory that provide access to Indian communities or villages and may not be open for year-round use. They include snowmobile trails, ice roads, and overland winter roads.

§ 170.124 Does the IRR Program cover seasonal transportation routes?

Yes. IRR Program funds can be used to build seasonal transportation routes and a tribe may request that BIA include seasonal transportation routes in the IRR Inventory.

(a) Standards for seasonal transportation routes are found in the design standards identified in appendix B to subpart D. A tribe can also develop or adopt standards that are equal to or exceed these standards.

(b) Construction of a seasonal transportation route requires a right-of-way or use permit.

IRR HOUSING ACCESS ROADS

§ 170.127 What terms apply to access roads?

(a) *IRR housing access road* means a public road on the IRR System that provides access to a housing cluster.

(b) *IRR housing street* means a public road on the IRR System that provides access to adjacent homes within a housing cluster.

(c) *Housing cluster* means three or more existing or proposed housing units.

§ 170.128 Are housing access roads and housing streets eligible for IRR Program funding?

Yes. IRR housing access roads and housing streets on public rights-of-way are eligible for construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation funding under the IRR Program. Tribes, following the transportation planning process as required in subpart D, may include housing access roads and housing street projects on the Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). IRR Program funds are available after the projects are listed on the FHWA-approved IRR/TIP.