Memorandum

To: Distribution  
From: Paul Ferry, P.E.  
Highways Engineer  
Date: December 30, 2014  
Subject: Back Slope Rounding

Due to a number of factors, including construction practices, utility requirements and design issues, the design of back slope rounding will be eliminated from the plans on all projects. Over the years back slope rounding evolved from a grading item, staked in accordance with a defined set of dimensions, to the provision of a theoretical catch point at the top of the cut to provide sufficient width for utility relocations.

Since back slope rounding will be eliminated, the construction limit will be located at the catch points at the top of cut sections.

Despite the elimination of back slope rounding, additional width may be needed at the top of cuts for the relocation of utilities. Designers need to contact the Utilities Section during the project development process to determine where utilities will be located. Since the need for additional width will not be apparent from the construction limits, designers will also need to coordinate with the Right-of-Way Bureau to ensure that adequate width is provided at the top of cut sections when needed.

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact Paul Ferry.

Copies:

- Dwane Kailey, Chief Engineer
- James Walther, Preconstruction Engineer
- Kevin Christensen, Construction Engineer
- Bob Vosen, Missoula District Construction Engineer
- Bill Fogarty, Butte District Construction Supervisor
- Doug Wilmot, Great Falls District Construction Engineer
- Clay Blackwell, Glendive District Construction Engineer
- Mike Taylor, Billings District Construction Engineer
- Shane Stack, Preconstruction Engineer – Missoula District
- Dustin Rouse, Preconstruction Engineer – Butte District
- Steve Prinzing, Preconstruction Engineer – Great Falls District
- Gary Neville, Preconstruction Engineer – Billings District
- Jim Frank, Preconstruction Engineer – Glendive District