

## THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

The "good neighbor policy" is the practice of matching the highway right-of-way vegetation height to that of the adjacent privately owned land. Where the frontage of properties are cleared and maintained by cultivating, mowing, grazing or haying and lie directly adjacent to the right-of-way, the right-of-way is to be mowed full width on the final mowing cycle. Some areas may require mowing on each cycle i.e. residences and businesses. For wooded or brushy property or where agreed to by the property owner, this policy is not necessary.

Additionally, property owners whose property abuts the right of way on non-controlled access roads are allowed to mow and maintain their frontage under certain circumstances. Refer to Ark. Code Ann. §27-64-103. This is extended to allow minor clearing that generally does not denude the right of way of vegetation. Major clearing that could affect public safety, cause drainage, or erosion problems may require a Department permit. Denuding areas greater than one acre also requires an NPDES permit.

On controlled access freeways, the right-of-way is maintained at standard mowing widths or established mowing widths regardless of the adjacent property. If an adjoining property owner requests additional mowing and/or clearing, the Department will review the request. The review would include District, Environmental and Administrative personnel. If approved, the permit would typically allow the property owner to do selective clearing and/or mowing and be accomplished and maintained by the owner at no expense to the Department.