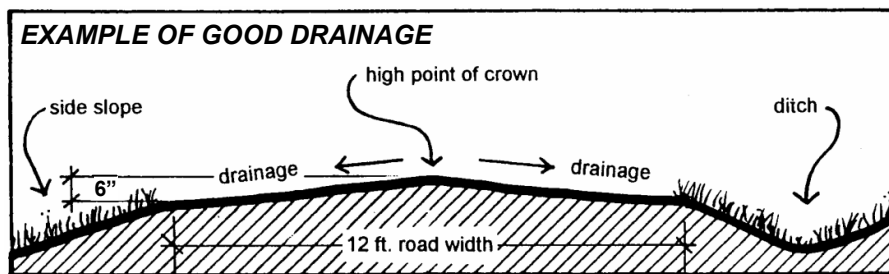


Appendix N: Choosing a Contractor and Requesting an Estimate

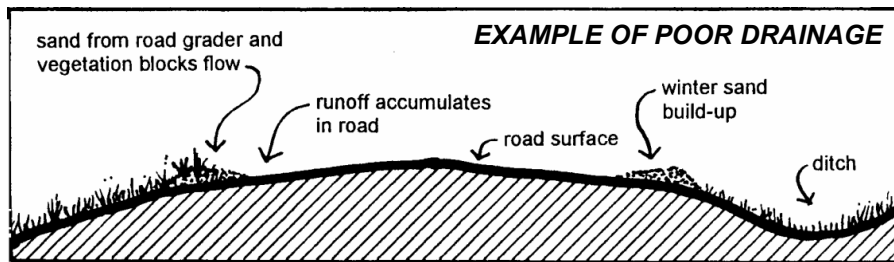
Contact Local Contractors:

Ask to see other gravel roads which the contractor has worked on. This will give you a good idea of what you can expect for your project and whether the contractor uses proper road maintenance techniques. Some key things to look for include:

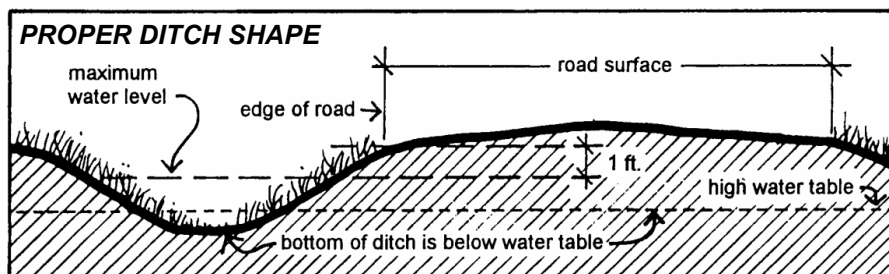
Presence of a crown: road should have a noticeable pitch towards the ditch/shoulder. The pitch of the crown on a gravel road should be about 8%, or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of crown per foot of road width.



Presence of grader berm: the transition (laterally) from road surface to shoulder to ditch should be free of obstruction. Below is an example of a road profile where material is trapping water on the roadway, and is what you do not want to see on the gravel road. This will result in the erosion of road surface material and possibly increase the incidence of potholes.



Ditch shape: the shape of the ditch should be a rounded-V. The side slopes of the ditch should not be steeper than a 1.5:1 slope.



Soil stabilization: after construction all areas of exposed soil (except for the travel way) should be stabilized using vegetation, rock, or erosion control mulch.



Consider hiring a "certified contractor." The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has developed an incentive program to recognize contractors who make an ongoing effort to learn about erosion control practices. This program, called the Voluntary Contractor Certification Program, provides contractors with training in environmental laws and erosion control practices that relate to working near sensitive natural resources. A certified contractor is not necessarily more qualified to work on private roads, but does have more training in erosion control measures and understands the relationship between eroded soil and lake water quality. See DEP's Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center website at www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/training or call Bill Laflamme at 287-7726 for a list of certified contractors.

Request an Estimate:

- Request estimates from more than one contractor.
- Provide contractors with a detailed description of the work you want done and request itemized estimates in return. (See Appendix N).
- Ask for a "not to exceed quote" to ensure that the job stays within your budget.
- Ditch by the day. If your road needs to be ditched, plan on at least a day's worth of ditching at a time because of equipment transportation costs. It is easy for a contractor to quote you for a day's worth of ditching. You will still want to prioritize which sections of road you will want to ditch first.
- Plan ahead! Available contractors can be very hard to find as the construction season approaches.



Camp road undergoing reconstruction. Road has been regraded to direct runoff to rip rap drainage ditch / detention structure along road side and new grass strip has been installed for soil stabilization.



Same section of camp road several months after reconstruction.