



March 14, 2024

Commissioner Casey Garrett, Chair  
230 Strand St.  
County Courthouse Room 338  
St. Helens, OR 97051

RE: In the Matter of the Proposed Vacation of a Portion of Mayger Fill Road, at the Old Fire Hall

Position: **OPPOSE**

Dear Chair, Garrett and members of the Columbia County Board of Commissioners.

I am writing to you today on behalf of all Delta Waterfowl members in The State of Oregon and The Pacific Flyway. **Please OPPOSE** This potential road closure. If this road were to be closed it would prevent free public access to the Mayger Road boat ramp in turn preventing access to the Columbia River in this region.

Delta Waterfowl is a leading conservation group founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba, with its United States Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. We work to produce ducks through intensive management programs and conservation of breeding duck habitats. Delta conducts vital waterfowl research and promotes and protects the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting in North America.

Currently, the Mayger Road boat ramp is the only ramp on this section of the Columbia River that is suitable for putting in small vessels. The sandbars in this area slow the water down enough for individuals to safely put in vessels as small as kayaks and canoes. There is no other boat ramp within 10 miles in either direction that is safe for vessels of this size, as the current is too strong.

These other ramps may be suitable for large vessels such as riverboats, but many individuals do not have the financial or physical resources to gain access to that equipment. It is important that everyone has access to the river, not just individuals with the means to use larger vessels.

Hunting and fishing are long-standing traditions on the Columbia River as well as a source of revenue through tourism. It would be a shame to see this tradition negatively impacted by a lack of access to the Columbia River. It is the duty of The County Board of Supervisors to make decisions that positively affect the citizens of Columbia County. If the availability of Mayger Road is protected this will ensure hunters and fishermen can continue to enjoy these historical wildlife areas.



Delta Waterfowl is committed to protecting the rights and promoting the interests of sportsmen and sportswomen across the country. We encourage Columbia County to use any authority you have, to ensure all Oregonians have access to this highly sought-after recreational destination.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CH", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Christopher L. Hoon  
Manager of Government Affairs – Pacific Flyway  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation