

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Authorizing a Pilot Project
Limiting Access to Reeder Road North of
Retenaar Road

ORDER NO. 41-2025

WHEREAS, the Oregon Vehicle Code defines a "Highway" to include every public way, road, street, thoroughfare and place within the boundaries of this state, intended for use by the general public for vehicles or vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, The Columbia County Board of Commissioners ("Board") is the Road Authority for all non-state highways within the County that are located outside of an incorporated city; and

WHEREAS, Reeder Road is a Highway over which the Board is the Road Authority to the extent it is located in Columbia County; and

WHEREAS, ORS 810.030 authorizes a Road Authority to place restrictions on the use of a Highway when necessary to protect the interest and safety of the public or to protect the highway from damage; and

WHEREAS, on weekends and holidays during the summer Reeder Road North of Retenaar Road becomes over crowded with vehicles seeking to access beaches on the Columbia River; and

WHEREAS, this overcrowding seriously impleads the ability of Law Enforcement, Fire Services and Ambulance Providers to respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, this overcrowding further leads to illegal parking on the road right of way and trespassing on private property;

WHEREAS, this overcrowding interferes with landowners' enjoyment of their property and the ability to restrict its use by the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has requested, at its own cost, to conduct an Access Control Pilot Project ("Pilot Project") for Reeder Road North of Retenaar Road.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. The Board adopts the above recitations as findings.
2. Based on these findings the Board concludes that restrictions on access to Reeder Road North of Retenaar Road during periods of high demand are appropriate to protect the interest and safety of the public.

3. To address these concerns ODFW is authorized to conduct Pilot Project for Reeder Road. The Pilot Project shall be limited to a 30-day period starting on the date the roadway is posted by ODFW in a manner that meets the requirements of ORS 810.030(3).
4. During the Pilot Project an ODFW issued access permit shall be required for any vehicle traveling on Reeder Road north of its intersection with Retenaar Road on any Saturday, Sunday or State Holiday. This restriction does not apply to any of the following:
 - a. Public safety vehicles including police, fire or ambulances.
 - b. Vehicles driven by public employees engaged in work activities.
 - c. Vehicles registered with ODFW that are driven by individuals owning property abutting Reeder Road north of its intersection with Retenaar Road, their family, and their guests.
 - d. Business visitors delivering to or providing services to properties abutting Reeder Road north of its intersection with Retenaar Road.
5. Prior to starting the Pilot Project ODFW shall obtain a Road Construction Permit from the County Public Works Department authorizing the activities they wish to conduct in the public right of way.
6. The County Public Works Director shall report back to the Board on the outcomes of the Pilot Project along with a recommendation on if these restrictions should continue in place.

DATED this 25 day of June 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Approved as to form.

By: 

Office of County Counsel

By: 

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: 

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner