

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of a Seasonal Limitation on
Access to Reeder Road North of Retenaar

ORDER NO. 5-2026

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, historically 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 impairs 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 public; and

WHEREAS, to address this problem, on June 25, 2025, at the request of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) authorize ODFW to conduct a 30-day Access Control Pilot Project ("Pilot Project") for Reeder Road North of Retenaar Road; and

WHEREAS, that initial Pilot Project sufficiently improved conditions that on July 30, 2025 the Board adopted Board Order 51-2025 extending the Pilot Project through Labor Day 2025; and

WHEREAS, as required by Board Order 51-2025, the County Public Works Director in conjunction with ODFW provided the Board with a report on the outcomes of the Pilot Project on October 29, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as part of that report the County Public Works Director recommended that the Pilot Project restrictions to access to Reeder Road North of Retenaar be continued indefinitely starting June 15th each year and continuing through the end of Labor Day weekend that year.

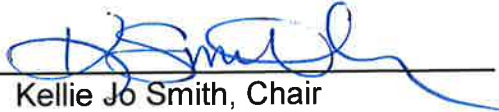
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:


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 are appropriate to protect the interest and safety of the public. These restriction shall be in place starting June 15th each year and shall continue through the end of Labor Day weekend of that year, the "Restricted Period".
3. To address these concerns 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 during the Restricted Period. This requirement 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.
4. Each year prior to the start of the Restricted Period, 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 to enforce the restrictions of this Order.
5. Each year, following the end of the Restricted Period, the County Public Works Director shall brief the Board on the impact of these restrictions during the prior Restricted Period. As part of that briefing the Director shall

recommend if these restrictions should continue in place and if there is a need to change the restrictions in any way.

DATED this 11 day of March 2026.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

By: 
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Approved as to form:

By: 
Office of County Counsel

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner