



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Board of County Commissioners  
**From:** Mike Russell, Public Works Director, Roadmaster MR  
**Cc:** Ed McGlone, Assistant County Counsel  
**Date:** July 17, 2025  
**Subject:** Report Back - Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Pilot Project to Control Traffic on Reeder Road During Weekends and Holidays

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### Action Requested

Staff from Public Works and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will be coming to the Board to discuss ODFW's implementation of traffic control measures on Reeder Road.

The Board will be asked to determine whether or not to extend the Public Works permit that covers this activity.

### Background

Steve Niemela of ODFW came to the Board in June to share their plan to enact a temporary ODFW rule that limits wildlife area parking off Reeder Road, north of Rentenaar Road, on weekends and state holidays starting June 28, 2025, and ending September 1, 2025 (Labor Day). Along with this, they wanted to establish a checkpoint at the intersection of Reeder Road and Rentenaar Road to control entry and hire a third-party vendor to manage traffic and help with crowd control.

The Board subsequently adopted Board Order #41-2025 that authorized a 30-day pilot project with the intention that staff would come back to the Board and provide an opportunity to see how the project was progressing and determine if it should continue.

Pursuant to the Board Order, Public Works worked with ODFW to complete a permit that was issued on July 3, 2025 (see attached).

### Implementation and Observations

ODFW started operations related to the traffic restrictions on July 4, 2025.

On July 9, 2025, the traffic control vendor provided a report that indicated that about 892 vehicles came through on Sunday, July 6, which was the busiest day. No more than a few minutes of queue time on Reeder Road was observed that day. ODFW staff spent a lot of time helping people walk through the program, which took some time but occurred on ODFW property off Reeder Road. ODFW added an informational center at our shop on Reeder, before getting to the check station, to help people get their passes before they hit the check point to help facilitate customer service and traffic flow. ODFW engaged in word-of-mouth, social media, direct outreach, and local news media efforts to get the word out about the change in access to the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

On July 13, 2025, the Public Works Director visited the area to observe operations surrounding the check point. It was probably the busiest day yet for the area. The Director observed a queue of no more than 6 to 10 vehicles at any given time (this was between 2:30pm and 4:00pm). ODFW staff indicated that all 1,500 parking passes had been sold by 3:00pm and started turning people without parking passes away. ODFW staff said that they had seen about 900 passes arrive that day, meaning about 600 people with passes had not shown up yet. There were about 200 parking spaces available beyond the checkpoint at around 3:00pm, mostly at Collins Beach, and vehicles were continuing to arrive and leave the area. There were no observed backups or stop-and-go traffic along Reeder Road except right at the checkpoint.

Public Works staff have not received any complaints about the pilot project at this time.

ODFW staff will be joining County staff at the meeting scheduled for this item to provide more in-depth information about how the project is going and provide the Board with a full discussion on the matter.

**Recommendation**

The pilot project seems to be running smoothly and ODFW continues to refine its process. In light of how it seems to be going and ODFW's efforts to facilitate the project, Public Works has no concerns at this time about extending the project.

**It is the Public Works Director's recommendation to have the Board authorize the continuation of the project.**