



October 20, 2020

Tillamook County Board of Commissioners  
201 Laurel Ave  
Tillamook, OR 97141

**RE: Vehicular Beach Access**

Dear Tillamook County Commissioners,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Three Capes Organizing Committee and our broader statewide membership in Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on restricting vehicular beach access at the Tillamook County access points: Tierra del Mar, McPhillips Drive, Cape Kiwanda and Pacific City Turnaround. The Pacific City area and its beaches represent some of the most important cultural recreational beach and ocean opportunities for a wide array of Oregon users and visitors to our state. Surfrider commends the strong commitment of the county to seek a variety of strategies for public engagement in this process and we look forward to continued dialogue as the County seeks solutions to a number of beach management issues. As an organization representing a local organizing committee in Pacific City in addition to Chapters and membership throughout the entire state, we offer the following comments on limiting vehicular beach access in the proposed Tillamook County areas.

On behalf of our broader statewide membership, Surfrider Foundation, with the below conditions, supports limiting vehicular access at Cape Kiwanda and Pacific City Turnaround. Under the same conditions, our immediate/local Tillamook County membership and Three Capes Organizing Committee supports limitations at all four access points. Because of the number of statewide users and the broader, collective implications of closures in all four locations, Surfrider Foundation's statewide membership would appreciate further dialogue, planning and public discussion for the collective impacts of these decisions. Given the continued growth in beach recreational use in the Pacific City area, we think it's essential to make these decisions in the context of long-term planning together with transportation infrastructure, development and beach management.

Conditions for Supporting Limited Vehicular Access at Cape Kiwanda and Pacific City Turnaround:

- Vehicle access shall be permitted for any recreational activity where use of a vehicle is required for the safety of the activity, the special needs of an individual or group (ex. ADA) or the feasibility of the activity (kayak, dory or other boat launch). Such a standard creates a more just and uniform demonstrated need for driving activities on the beaches rather than singling out individual groups.
- Vehicle access shall be permitted for stewardship and restoration activities where a need for vehicular access is demonstrated
- Limitations to vehicular access should not impede or in any fashion interrupt the access of emergency vehicles, equipment and first responder staff.

As a guiding principle, Surfrider Foundation views beach access as a universal right and as such we affirm a strong organizational [policy on beach access](#). However, as a grassroots environmental organization, we work towards

both the preservation and enjoyment of our coastal resources and seek to balance beach preservation and protection efforts when securing, augmenting or managing beach access. Driving on the beach, as an access opportunity, is extremely unique and situational to various locations where allowable in Oregon and as such, management of this activity should be varied along the Oregon coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charlie Plybon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlie" and last name "Plybon" clearly distinguishable.

Charlie Plybon  
Oregon Policy Manager  
Surfrider Foundation  
South Beach, OR

Lisa Macy-Baker  
Three Capes Organizing Committee  
Surfrider Foundation  
Tierra Del Mar