

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2016

---

Agenda Item: 12b

Information

Topic: 2016 First Day Hikes

---

Neither snow nor cold nor bitter wind stopped rangers from across the state from enthusiastically leading their appointed First Day Hikes on January 1. Apparently, these conditions did not deter First Day hikers either. For 2016, 27 parks held a total of 31 hikes, and all were resoundingly successful. The 979 hikers trekked a combined 2,799 miles, with some on horseback at Elijah Bristow.

Hikers found themselves accompanied by a soaring bald eagle on the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail and rough-tailed hawk at Stub Stewart, while hikers along the coast spotted gray whales. Participants at Harris Beach had the privilege of watching the crabbing fleet drop their pots—a beautiful sight if you enjoy Dungeness crab.

America’s State Parks began sponsoring First Day Hikes in all 50 state park systems to encourage people to get outdoors. The nationwide effort began in 2012 “to promote State Parks and promote starting off the year right with a healthy, outdoor active lifestyle.”

Since offering First Day Hikes in 2012, Oregon State Parks has seen participant numbers steadily increase. This year was not different. Participation increased slightly from last year, by 25 visitors. However, the total number of hikes offered (31) and miles hiked (2799) decreased.

Park staff continue to report that First Day Hike participants are making this a family tradition, and the yearly pins have become a collector’s item.

Publicity for this year’s First Day Hikes included:

- Banners and flyers sent to all parks that requested them, as well as 1,500 First Day Hike pins.
- One statewide and 28 local news releases sent on behalf of all parks hosting First Day Hikes.
- Some parks also reached out to their local communities with information.
- Oregonstateparks.org website feature, Your Parks Go Guide stories, Facebook and Twitter updates leading up to the hike.

Participating parks included:

**Coast**

Beverly Beach  
Bullards Beach  
Cape Lookout  
D River  
Fort Stevens  
Harris Beach  
Honeyman  
Nehalem Bay  
South Beach  
William Tugman

**Mountain**

Cottonwood Canyon  
Emigrant Springs  
Smith Rock  
Tou Velle  
Valley of the Rogue

**Valleys**

Champoeg  
Elijah Bristow  
Historic Columbia River Highway  
LL Stub Stewart  
Luckiamute  
Milo McIver  
North Santiam  
Rooster Rock  
Silver Falls  
Tryon Creek  
Willamette Mission  
Fort Yamhill

Based on the overwhelming success of First Day Hikes, the number of hikes and visitors continue to increase as it has every year since its start. Several parks reported that First Day Hike participants are making this a family tradition. We will continue to look at ways to make this New Year's Day event exciting for years to come.

**Prepared by:** Vicki Moles, Integrated Park Services  
Beth Wilson, Communications and Research Division  
Diane Navarrete, Communications and Research Division

# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2016

---

Agenda Item: 12c

Information

Topic: December 2015 Storm Damage

---

## Background

On December 07, 2015 Oregon experienced a severe weather event causing \$620,854 in damage to our parks. Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency on December 10, 2015 in 13 counties: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill. Park staff completed storm recovery estimates and submitted them to the state's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) review. At this time, FEMA has not declared a federal emergency thus we have not received any federal funding.

Storm damage assessed to our parks per county:

• Clackamas	\$11,900	• Lane	\$2,220
• Clatsop	\$183,000	• Lincoln	\$147,899
• Columbia	\$115,000	• Marion	\$18,800
• Coos	\$9,500	• Multnomah	\$5,700
• Curry	\$2,645	• Polk	\$13,400
• Hood River	\$500	• Tillamook	\$34,290
• Josephine	\$7,000	• Washington	\$69,000

**TOTAL: \$620,854**

## Current Status

We are continuing to repair storm damage throughout the park system using OPRD funding. Awaiting a determination from FEMA of a Federal Emergency which could release supplemental funding for repairs.

**Prior Action by Commission:** None

**Action Requested:** None

**Attachments:** None

**Prepared by:** Dan Jones, Safety & Risk Manager



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2016

---

Agenda Item:	12d	Information
Topic:	Beach driving in Lincoln County	

---

### Background

At the September 23, 2015 Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the department presented an informational item on beach driving in Lincoln City. In the summer of 2015 members of the public resumed using a beach access site that by administrative rule is open to vehicles. This drew attention because the site had not been used for vehicle access for some time due to site conditions. Based on inquiries from neighbors, the department anticipated that a citizen petition to close the access point to vehicles would be forthcoming. On October 13, 2015, the department received correspondence from Mary Griffing enclosing a "Petition to Disallow Vehicle Parking on the Beach at NW 35th" signed by 28 individuals.

### Access Points

- 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln City is maintained by the City with restrooms and paved access down to the beach level. This location is very popular for beach access and parking. Vehicles can drive or park 150 feet north from the access and 150 feet south of the access.
- 35<sup>th</sup> Court in Lincoln City is owned by the City, but has not been maintained by Public Works. In the 1990's the access was so poor, that OPRD signed the access with its regular Beach Rule sign stating "no vehicles", because the sand had eroded and the access was not passable. This summer a couple of people realized from the rules that this access was not a vehicle prohibited area, and the accretion of sand made it a passable access. Lincoln City Police called and wanted clarification about driving on this beach, I explained it was an open beach 150 feet each direction according to the OAR. They asked that we remove the vehicle prohibited sign. Then we had 3-4 residents call with a complaint that OPRD didn't have the right to open a new beach for driving.

ORS 390.668 states that proceedings to establish a zone of vehicle restriction can be initiated by either OPRD or a petition of 20 or more landowners or residents, or by a local governing body (City or County). OPRD has received a petition requesting a closure. Lincoln City is supportive of the request. OPRD has verified the signatures on the petition so the next step will be to schedule a public hearing in Lincoln City to discuss the issues with local residents.

Using input from the public hearing OPRD will prepare a report for the commission making a recommendation on whether to close the beach or take no action and leave it open. If closure is recommended a request to begin rulemaking would accompany the report. The rulemaking process will also allow for hearings and public comment, so the entire process could take the majority of 2016 to complete.

**Prepared by:** John Allen and Richard Walkoski