



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed rule change:

**Lincoln County ocean shore
vehicle restrictions**

Date comment received:

June 15, 2023 10:39 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Came
here as a last of life trip, only to face the yellow barricades....bad
karma....

Horrible
decision for old and elderly....younger generations don't care....



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vehicle restrictions**

Commenter name (if provided):

Skott Shaw

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Date comment received:

June 14, 2023 07:39 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

skottshaw@yahoo.com

Public comment:

This has been a sore spot with me ever since I first moved here in 1998. That access is disgusting. The trash, the vehicle fluids, the disrespect of the beach and the generous rules allowing them to park there. I used to walk that section of beach almost daily and the abuse of the marked boundaries of the parking space was an everyday occurrence. If you make the section bigger, it will just lead to people pushing the boundaries again and making it 400 or 500 feet. From simply the situations I've seen, emergency vehicles or personnel would have a very difficult time just navigating through the crowds.

It is amazing to have our beautiful Oregon Beaches protected and public but it is our jobs as Stewards of the protected areas to make sure they stay safe and clean for generations to come. I believe the access should be shut to all motorized vehicles permanently.



Submit a public comment on a rule

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Date comment received:

June 13, 2023 08:35 AM

Commenter name (if provided):

Bill Smith

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

Support.

Beaches are for people and wildlife, not cars and trucks.



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Commenter name (if provided):

Cindy Smith

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

I support closing the 15th street beach access to motor vehicles for the busy Summer season, with the possible exception of people with handicap parking passes. It makes sense to allow handicap beach access for those who cannot navigate the stairs.

The large number of vehicles on the sand lead to a great deal of trash. Why people who drive onto the beach cannot remove their trash when they leave is a mystery. The 15th street beach is frequently dirty - cans, bottles, food scraps, we've even had people leave furniture.

It is difficult to safely navigate the beach when it becomes a parking lot. Even worse when someone decides turning cookies in the sand is a good idea when there are kids and dogs at play.

I object to extending vehicle access from 150 to 300 feet in the alternate season. Why do this? It is not good for the beach, not good for wildlife, and since there are fewer vehicles, there is no need for them to spread further.

Date comment received:

June 13, 2023 08:33 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cindysmith00@gmail.com



Submit a public comment on a rule

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vehicle restrictions**

Date comment received:

June 13, 2023 06:26 AM

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Ringwald

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Keep things the way they have been for years, Too raise funds for Lincoln City beach clean up by selling a yearly permit to drive a vehicle on the beach. Thankyou



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Commenter name (if provided):

Sussie Due

Location (if provided): Newport, OR

Public comment:

I honestly do not think ANY vehicles should be allowed on our beaches with the exception of the following:

Emergency, Rescue, Clean-up (general maintenance) or Patrol vehicles

Individuals that are disabled and cannot walk to a particular area to sit and enjoy the beach. Must have a special permit to do so.

Date comment received:

June 13, 2023 05:59 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

teckelhut.acres@gmail.com



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vehicle restrictions**

Commenter name (if provided):

Julie Mohr

Location (if provided): Salem, OR

Date comment received:

June 12, 2023 09:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jules4je7@gmail.com

Public comment:

In the interest of both the safety of animals on the beach, as well as the safety for humans, it seems most sensible to restrict vehicles from the beach areas along all of our coast. Just look at the recent rule and how it has helped Pacific City and see the difference! No more irresponsible drivers putting children and other beach goers at risk now that driving isn't allowed. And there is less compacted sand and car oil dripping directly onto the coastline. Thank you for your consideration!



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Commenter name (if provided):

Lynnae Ruttledge

Location (if provided): Tierra Del Mar, OR

Public comment:

I strongly support not just this proposed rule but going further with a blanket restriction on recreational vehicle access to all our public beaches.

As a Tillamook County resident, I can tell you that doing well-intentioned clear signage (Motor vehicles not allowed beyond this sign) and/or doing partial closures (for the Spring/Summer months) does not have much impact. People still say 'I didn't see the sign.' They also illegally camp overnight and leave their trash behind.

OPRD, the County and the City do not have sufficient enforcement resources to safeguard our natural resources.

Close the public beaches NOW.

Date comment received:

June 12, 2023 06:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynnae.ruttledge@icloud.com



Submit a public comment on a rule

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vehicle restrictions**

Commenter name (if provided):

Debbie Hamilton

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

I'm happy the beach is being closed off to vehicle use. It gets very congested on 15th St. Thank you.

Date comment received:

June 12, 2023 01:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

deborah.hamilton8663@gmail.com



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed rule change:

**Lincoln County ocean shore
vehicle restrictions**

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Whitehead

Location (if provided): Salem, OR

Date comment received:

June 12, 2023 10:12 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

attywhitehead@gmail.com

Public comment:

I am a long time resident and business owner in the Lincoln City area. My business, located at 4649 S W highway 101, Roadhouse 101 and now Rusty Truck Brewery and the 20 or so local residents it employs are highly dependent on the tourists that visit our local community.

My view, which probably reflects the view of many other locals who are dependent on the tourist industry is that closing the 15th St drive down beach is a bad idea. There are those in our community which long for days gone by when this was a quiet little beach town, whose economy was supported by logging, fishing and retirees' social security checks. The reality is that our economy is almost entirely dependent on the thousands of tourists which flock to our beaches every week, especially in the summer season. We need to embrace this reality, which means we need to make our beaches more accessible rather than restricting access.

On a personal note, I'm now 67 years old and beginning to feel the effects of my old age. The 15th St drive down beach has been an easy way for me to access the beach especially when I don't have the time or energy to take other than a short respite from my busy schedule to enjoy the view and the sounds of the surf. More importantly, I now am my 90-year-old father's caretaker. He lives independently in North Lincoln City, but he no longer drives. He also has congestive heart failure, COPD and balance issues which makes it impossible for him to access the beach without the drive down access on 15th St. My father in turn was the caretaker for my mother, who had similar disabilities and they both would frequently use the 15th St access to sit near the water, have lunch or enjoy the sunset before her death about 5 years ago. It's a very special place to my father Russ, and it in turn had become a place that Russ and I frequented together, sometimes just sitting in my truck talking and reminiscing about our family and my mother. We were both extremely upset a couple of weeks ago when we were going to use the access, only to see the bollards and the sign closing the access until September. I know that the city has attempted to provide handicap access by putting down wheelchair "mobi" mats and providing three wheelchairs at one location with big yellow tires. I can tell you that my father has too much pride to be pushed around in a wheelchair with big yellow rubber tires and I can't push him. The closure of the 15th St drive down beach has effectively deprived my father and at least hundreds of other similarly disabled people beach access in the Lincoln City area.

I have taken the time to watch the virtual meeting of City, State and interested parties about the supposed rationale for the proposed closure. The reasons boil down to the fact that too many people are using the access and a small minority are abusing the privilege. Cars get stuck and emergency vehicles could be blocked. On the days when there are a lot of people using the access, traffic and pedestrian accidents are more likely and the police have a hard time doing their jobs, controlling traffic and preventing rowdy behavior. Although I believe the police Chief Broderick when he says the crowds are difficult, crowds are difficult anywhere. It's your job- do it. If the police can't because of lack of resources, they need more resources. That should be the focus of the City rather than the knee jerk reaction of closing the access. As to the other reasons given, I call B.S. Our emergency vehicles that access the beach are 4-wheel drive and can go around a stuck vehicle. Also, there are multiple other access points to the beach throughout Lincoln City for emergency vehicles. There is not one instance of an emergency vehicle failing to render aid because of a stuck vehicle and as documented in the virtual meeting not one injury to a pedestrian. Finally, I find it hard to believe that any vehicle gets stuck for more than a few minutes when the beach is crowded with lots of vehicles. Although there are some ill-advised people that use the access with two-wheel drive vehicles the vast majority are 4-wheel drive trucks and SUVs. We all know the 4-wheel drive crowd is equipped and ready to tow a stuck vehicle. I have hooked my tow strap to a couple of vehicles on the 15th St and witnessed others doing the same. Vehicles getting stuck when there are lots of people is not the issue but 2-wheel drive vehicles when there are not lots of people probably are. The solution is prohibiting all non-four-wheel drive vehicles.

I think the State or any decision makers should be skeptical of the reasons given for the recommended closure and ask for proof of the reasons stated. You will find the proof lacking and inadequate to justify closing this access to the disabled. You will also find that this access is a substantial benefit to Lincoln City's tourist trade which should not be lightly disregarded.

As a final point, I am a retired attorney with some experience in ADA issues. Because of my recent retirement I am unable to provide legal advice. I would ask the ADA issues be reviewed in your decision-making process.



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vehicle restrictions

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Edwards

Date comment received:

June 11, 2023 02:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

medwardsnewportbeach@gmail.com

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

My wife and I live a few blocks from the #43 beach access in Lincoln City. During the summer months, the 15th Street access point in Lincoln City is extremely busy with automobile traffic. During the five years we've lived here we've noticed that most of the visitors are just down on the beach enjoying the day; however, on several occasions we've witnessed four wheel drive vehicles spinning brodies on the sand in high pedestrian areas. This particular access point (15th Street) also has a healthy tide pool area that provides habitat for mussels, anemones, sea stars, sanderlings, oyster catchers, harbor seal pups in the spring, and turnstones, among other sea creatures. I can't imagine that these animals thrive in the presence of so many stinky, noisy vehicles. My biggest concern is that the area is not policed and the one beach access point is often crowded with vehicles. Cars often get stuck in the sand which closes off emergency access further. If someone is drowning in the ocean and there is a Toyota Paseo high centered on the sand blocking the Humvee's beach access, that will delay a rescue and with waters as cold as they are and rip currents as powerful as they are, that delayed emergency response could be the difference between life and death. The Lincoln City Police Department is already understaffed and shows no signs of remedying their low staffing so providing a full time beach monitor to control the traffic, beach access and to maintain order seems like a non starter. Unless the city is somehow able to dedicate a continual summer police presence at the popular beach access points thus ensuring the safety of beach goers and the tide pool habitat I am a big NO on providing beach access to vehicles. All that being said, I would encourage the city or parks department, whoever does the work, to provide more beach pathways like the one in Taft. My wife's operates a wheelchair and lives in Taft. He appreciates the beach access provided to him in Taft. Providing more beach access to more people is consistent with Oregon's values and the popular provision to allow unfettered public beach access from Fort Stevens to Brookings. As much as some folks say otherwise, the car is not an appendage of the person. People are guaranteed beach access in Oregon, not their cars.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Proposed rule change:

Lincoln County ocean shore vehicle restrictions

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Robertson

Date comment received:

June 10, 2023 01:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

paul@robertsonenvironmental.com

Location (if provided): Lincoln City , OR

Public comment:

As a long time Lincoln County and Lincoln City resident I am a strong advocate for protections for our oceans, beaches, and in particular our near shore environments, including tide pools where the diversity of sea life present is most substantial. As such I am in strong favor of permanently closing motor vehicle accesses within Lincoln City, with the exception of emergency vehicles. This includes two points, one at Northwest 15th the other at Northwest 34th Street in Wecoma. Motor vehicles have many times been stuck on the beach and even inundated by tide Waters providing a direct pollutant load to our natural world that is 100% avoidable. In the case as is most common with beach access, where vehicles don't get stuck on the beach, there exists a significant pollutant load from example, copper from brake pads which is toxic to fish, plus the organic pollutants found in leaking brake fluid, leaking oil, antifreeze, and/or leaking fuel lines, not to mention the demonstratively recognizable increase litter load associated with vehicle parking that is witnessed each and every year at Northwest 15th. This area is home to an enormous tide pool resource which is not only a value outright, but is a source of local food where muscles are harvested as well as other intertidal species.

Notably the 15th Street access point is in the Cascade Head Marine Protected Area while the NW 34th Street access is in the Cascade Head Marine Reserve, both of which are in the international we recognized UNESCO Cascade head Biosphere Reserve. The risk to biodiversity, as well as human food consumption within such areas increases the cause for permanently closing these points of vehicular access.

The Wecoma site it's only recently become understood to have been an access point for motor vehicles, but has beyond the biological risks associated with allowing motor vehicles along our seashore has significant access issues to begin with and is reason enough for a permanent re-closure of this access point.

The Northwest 15th access point is routinely also impassable for vehicles of all sizes and has led to higher risk motor vehicle activities when vehicles do get stuck, where people try to rev their way out of the situation, risking additional vehicle malfunctions IE oil leaks, coolant leaks etc.

It is for these reasons and more that I urge you to permanently close these access points within our

city yet maintaining them for emergency access and pedestrian access alone. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Paul Robertson, MSc
Environmental Scientist
Robertson Environmental LLC
1746 NE Lee Place
Lincoln City, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

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vehicle restrictions**

Date comment received:

June 9, 2023 10:09 PM

Commenter name (if provided):

Samantha Auteri

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

As an Oregon Coast Native and Lincoln City local, I believe that vehicles should not be allowed on the beaches at all. Nature has a hard enough time keeping up with the mess people leave on the beaches here, keep cars on the road.



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Commenter name (if provided):

Dave Price

Location (if provided): Lincoln City, OR

Public comment:

The Lincoln City beach accesses need to be protected. First, the 34th access, which was "discovered" as a previously approved access point for vehicles just a few years ago, ceased being used as a vehicle access years ago for a reason: it's wildly unsafe. Simply approach the parking lot in a vehicle from the beach, and you'll know that, a) most vehicles have to GAIN speed to get through the soft sand far from the water to avoid getting stuck, and b) there is NOWHERE for pedestrians approaching the beach through the tiny parking lot to run in the event vehicle meets pedestrian. Horrific accident waiting to happen. Entirely avoidable by permanently ending vehicle access to the beach.

The 15th street access should be restricted beyond the May to September suggestion. I would argue vociferously for year-round pedestrian-only access.

I'm not a newcomer here. Twenty-eight years ago I moved to Lincoln City, and my first year was spent in a rental at NW 11th and Harbor. Every week, we'd see cars racing down to the D River, well past the "No vehicle access past this point." That behavior continues today, thus making the expansion of the access zone essentially meaningless. Today's users do not pay attention to such signage. The only safe and responsible solution is blocked-by-bollards or some other closure.

Thank you for seriously considering this. It's LONG overdue and appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

Date comment received:

June 9, 2023 06:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

oregondave@gmail.com