



PUBLIC NOTICE

Oregon Department of State Lands

Date posted: July 1, 2025

Comment Opportunity: Leases, Licenses, and Registrations on Oregon-owned Waterways

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) is seeking comments on proposed changes to administrative rules (OAR 141-082) to achieve sustainable operations in managing waterway authorizations for marinas, ports, docks, floating homes, and more, as well as implementing best management practices to protect the health and safety of waterways.

The comment period is open from **July 1 - August 15, 2025 (closes at 5 p.m. Pacific)**.

Why are Changes Needed?

The people of Oregon own the beds and banks of all navigable and tidally influenced waterways throughout the state. Oregon-owned rivers, lakes, and the territorial sea are shared resources the public may use for navigation, recreation, commerce, and fishing. DSL oversees these waterways by promoting healthy, safe, and responsible waterway use. Marinas, ports, docks, floating homes, and other uses of public waterways require authorization from DSL. Some authorizations, including leases and registrations, compensate the public and ensure the use does not adversely affect the health and safety of public lands or waters or unreasonably interfere with other uses.

In recent years DSL has explored strategies to achieve sustainable operations in managing waterway authorizations and ensure lease rates are consistent and fair. In addition, Oregonians have experienced serious environmental risks and unexpected financial liability from some private uses along waterways such as neglected structures and stockpiling of hazardous and derelict boats. DSL has identified best management practices for waterway leases that will help protect the health and safety of public lands and waters and minimize operational risks.

A [rulemaking advisory committee \(see RAC roster here\)](#) was convened from November 2024 – March 2025 to inform the proposed changes and a [summary of RAC input can be found here](#).

What's Proposed

- **Use a single method for calculating compensation for waterway leases.** Currently, people and businesses leasing waterways can choose from three different methods. This creates inconsistency, administrative inefficiencies, undervalues land, and can result in inequities for users on the same waterway.
- **Increase application fees and introduce new fees for late renewals and legal consultation.** Existing application fees do not cover the full administrative costs of processing. Adding new fees helps recover costs associated with delays and legal review when required.
- **Require financial assurances, reduce lease terms, and update application requirements.** Oregon's waterways have experienced serious environmental harms and financial risk due to some private uses of public lands. Greater protections are needed to mitigate those risks.
- **Add clarity and minor updates.** It's been over 11 years since the last update to these rules. Minor updates provide clearer and simpler language where currently it is confusing or unnecessarily complex.

See all [proposed changes to OAR 141-082 here \(PDF\)](#), as well as a [summary of the fees and compensation here \(PDF\)](#).

This rulemaking also includes minor amendments to OAR 141-145-0060, which outlines the compensation method for authorizing remediation and habitat restoration activities on State-owned submerged and submersible lands. The proposed changes align this rule with updates to OAR 141-082 to ensure consistency across both divisions. All relevant comments received during this comment period will be reviewed and considered for both sets of rules.

How to Comment

Visit the DSL website to see a draft of the proposed rules and program fees, all related materials from the rulemaking process, and the online comment form: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx

The comment deadline is Friday, August 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (Pacific).

After the comment period is concluded and comments addressed, proposed rules are presented to the [State Land Board](#) for a decision at a future Land Board meeting where testimony can be provided. If adopted, these updated rules and related fees are anticipated to go into effect on July 1, 2026.



Public Hearings

Feedback on the proposed rulemaking can be provided during the following public meetings which will begin with an information session with time for questions, followed by a public hearing. Recordings and minutes will be posted online afterwards.

[Help us plan for your attendance and RSVP here \(not required\).](#)

Virtual (online only):

- Monday, July 21 at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 30 at 10 a.m.

How to access the virtual meetings:

- Meeting ID: 250 886 8653
- Join online: [Click here for the meeting link](#) (Passcode: w#EnJ067)
- Join by phone: 1-669-444-9171 (Passcode: 87671005)

In-person:

The meetings held at the in-person locations are in-person only and will not have virtual access.

- **Florence, OR:** Tuesday, July 22 at 6 p.m. at Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street, Florence, OR 97439
- **Bay City, OR:** Wednesday, July 23 at 6 p.m. at Bay City Community Hall (City Hall), 5525 B Street, Bay City, OR 97107
- **Bend, OR:** Wednesday, July 30 at 6 p.m. at Larkspur Community Center, 1600 SE Reed Market Road, Bend, OR 97702
- **Portland, OR:** Thursday, August 7 at 6 p.m. at The Portland Building, Meeting Room 108, 1120 SW 5th Ave, Portland, OR 97204



Written Comments

Comments may also be submitted in writing by [online form](#), emailed to dsl.rules@dsl.oregon.gov or mailed to DSL (Attn: Rules Coordinator) at 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301.

Stay Updated

For the latest news on this draft rule and other proposed changes to administrative rules, subscribe to receive email updates or see the DSL website: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx