

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

June 18, 2025

Agenda Item: 9b

Action

Public Comment Allowed: **No**

Topic: **Request to Adopt 736-015-0030- Day Use Permit Out of State Rates**

Presented by: **Katie Gauthier, Government Relations Manager**

Background:

Recently adopted rule changes add a 25% surcharge on all campsites, buildings and facilities for out-of-state visitors beginning July 1, 2025. During the initial rulemaking processes a surcharge was not included on daily or annual day use parking permits. This request to adopt rule changes adding a surcharge to day use parking permits. This would allow the agency to fairly and consistently implement the new surcharge across all site types and activities.

The out-of-state camping surcharge was enacted by state law in 2022 for RV campsites, and OPRD expanded it to all site types via rule changes in September and November 2024 for stays beginning July 1, 2025.

The proposed rule change would add the 25% out-of-state surcharge to parking permit fees. Based on current rates, out-of-state visitors would pay \$12.50 per day or \$37.50 for an annual parking permit or \$62.50 for a 24-month permit. If approved, the change would begin July 1, 2025.

Oregon residents would continue to pay the same parking permit rate of \$10 per day, \$30 for an annual permit or \$50 for a 24-month permit.

The rule change also proposed eliminating sales of 24-month parking permits starting in 2026. Existing permits would be honored until they expire. The 12-month annual permit will continue to be sold.

These changes are intended as part of an ongoing effort address financial challenges and help keep pace with rising costs while continuing to provide exceptional outdoor experiences.

Public Comments

Public comments were opened April 1 through April 30. Eleven written comments were received during that period. A public hearing was held on April 24 with no one attending the hearing.

All comments are available on our rulemaking website at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Pages/PRP-Rule-2025-Day%20Use%20Parking%20Permit%20Out-of-State%20Surcharge.aspx>

Commenters were generally supportive of adding an out-of-state surcharge for the day use parking permit.

Seven commenters supported either the rules in general or out-of-state surcharges specifically. For example, one commenter said, “I expect more need for maintenance services due to high popularity of our beautiful natural areas, and the money must come from somewhere. Higher fees for non-locals is not uncommon in other states such as Hawaii, so this concept is not unusual. Lastly, I don't believe it would be an unfair burden, as compared to other states such as California and Washington, many of our public-use fees are quite reasonable.”

Commenters were opposed to elimination of the 24-month permit.

Seven comments specifically requested it remain an option. For example, one commenter said, “I have purchased the 2 year permit for a long time. I am a state resident. It is the most convenient way.. Not having to do it every year. Funds for the 2 year easily could be allocated over the period covered. That would give OPRD a idea of funds available in the future for planning.”

Staff Recommendation

Based on public comment, staff recommend retaining the 24-month pass for the time being. Commenters were very supportive of the convenience and discount this permit offers to visitors. Staff also recommend adding the out-of-state surcharge on day use parking permits to maintain consistency across all site types and activities.

Prior Action by Commission: Commission approved out-of-state surcharge rule changes in September and November 2024.

Action Requested: Adopt proposed amendments to 736-015-0030- to update day use parking permit rules to add an out-of-state surcharge.

Attachments:

Attachment A proposed rules clean copy
Attachment B proposed rules marked copy

Prepared by: Katie Gauthier

9b Attachment A Marked Copy

736-015-0030

Day Use Parking Permit

(1) Purpose: Based on the department's goal to manage increased use of park areas, the director may require a motor vehicle day use parking permit in all park areas. This charge is a parking fee and not a charge for recreational purposes under ORS 105.672 to ORS 105.696. The immunities provided under ORS 105.682 apply to use of state park land for recreational purpose.

(2) General Regulations:

(a) All park properties require a day use parking permit when posted.

(b) Parking permits are to be clearly displayed through the windshield of motor vehicles with the expiration date visible;

(c) Persons with motorcycles or other motor vehicles, such as convertibles, where the permits could be subject to theft, may keep the permit with them and must show it to an enforcement officer or park employee upon request.

(3) Day Use Parking Permit Fees:

(a) Daily Motor Vehicle — \$7-15;

(b) 12-month Permit — \$30-60;

(c) 24-month Permit — \$50-80;

(d) The director will determine the day-use parking permit fee within the range.

(A) The director will review proposed changes in the parking permit fee on an annual basis.

(B) The department will post changes on the department website for a minimum of 30 days prior to the effective date.

(C) The department will post information about the day use parking permit fee on the department website.

(e) A 25-percent surcharge will be added to all day use parking permit fees for non-residents.

(4) The department may enter into a written agreement with privately owned commercial vendors and non-profit cooperative associations affiliated with the department under ORS 390.143 to sell 12-month and 24-month permits:

- (a) The director shall establish a maximum allowable fee of \$1 for vendors who sell the 12-month and 24-month permits;
 - (b) Non-profit cooperative associations affiliated with the department may by agreement retain fees in excess of the minimum vendor fee for use in funding interpretive programs in park areas;
 - (c) The vendor's fee will be included in the price of the permit;
 - (d) Only a park employee may issue replacement permits in the event an original permit is lost, stolen, or mutilated.
- (5) Daily Access Exceptions: The director may grant exceptions to the day-use parking permit requirement in selected park properties or under the following circumstances:
- (a) Emergency vehicles;
 - (b) Government vehicles on official business;
 - (c) Business and delivery vehicles on official business;
 - (d) A person who is currently a registered camper at a park area and clearly displays the overnight rental receipt;
 - (e) Park concessionaires and their employees;
 - (f) A person entering the park to engage in specially permitted non-recreation activities;
 - (g) Park volunteers on duty in the park;
 - (h) A person with a permit issued by another entity with which the department has a written agreement to honor their passes; or
 - (i) Other persons as designated by the director.

9b Attachment B Clean Copy

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