

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2026

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Agenda Item: 9a **Action**

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: **Request to open recreational vehicle license fee revenue rules  
OAR 736-007-0000 / 0050**

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

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### **Background:**

The County Opportunity Grant Program (COGP), administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), provides financial assistance to counties for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and planning of county park and recreation areas that provide camping facilities. The COGP is part of a larger program established in 1983 to provide revenue from RV (recreational vehicle) registration fees to counties for park and recreation sites and programs.

The COGP is governed by Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 736-007-0000 through 736-007-0050. These rules establish program definitions, eligibility requirements, application and scoring criteria, project administration standards, committee composition, and long-term stewardship obligations associated with grant-funded projects.

### **Need for Rulemaking**

While the COGP rules have generally functioned well, OPRD has identified a need to update and clarify portions of the rules to reflect current program practices, improve administrative clarity, and ensure consistency with related state and federal grant programs. Many of the proposed changes are the result of:

- Program administration experience gained over multiple grant cycles
- Feedback from grant applicants and project sponsors
- Alignment with comparable OPRD grant programs, including the Local Government Grant Program (LGGP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program
- The need for greater flexibility in application timelines and committee operations
- Increased emphasis on long-term stewardship, compliance, and accountability for grant-funded investments

Several existing rule provisions reference specific dates, procedural requirements, or practices that are no longer necessary or that limit the department's ability to adapt to changing circumstances. In other cases, current rules lack sufficient clarity regarding application requirements, scoring criteria, project administration expectations, or post-award responsibilities.

## Summary of Proposed Rule Updates

The proposed rulemaking represents a comprehensive but targeted update intended to modernize the COGP rules without altering the core purpose or structure of the program. Key areas of focus include:

- **Clarifying and expanding definitions** to improve consistency and reduce ambiguity across program administration
- **Updating application requirements** to clearly identify required materials such as maps, forms, schedules, and match documentation
- **Providing additional guidance on planning grants**, including eligibility and submittal expectations
- **Clarifying scoring criteria** to improve transparency for applicants and consistency in evaluation
- **Increasing administrative flexibility** by removing fixed dates for application deadlines and advisory committee meetings
- **Formalizing project administration practices**, including time extension amendments and grant acknowledgment signage
- **Updating Advisory Committee provisions**, including chair selection and flexibility in identifying qualified committee candidates
- **Adding a conversion rule (OAR 736-007-0045)** to clearly establish long-term stewardship requirements and align COGP with LWCF and LGGP conversion standards
- **Adding an emergency procedure rule (OAR 736-007-0050)** to allow the department to respond efficiently to unforeseen or urgent circumstances affecting program administration

Collectively, these changes are intended to improve program clarity, reduce administrative risk, strengthen long-term protection of public recreation investments, and ensure the rules accurately reflect how the program is administered today.

## Rulemaking Process

If the Commission approves opening rulemaking, OPRD will convene a Rule Advisory Committee (RAC) consisting of county representatives, subject matter experts, and other involved community members. The RAC will review and provide feedback on the proposed draft rules prior to a formal public comment period and public hearing, consistent with Oregon's rulemaking requirements.

OPRD anticipates that RAC input and public comments will help refine the draft rules before returning to the Commission for consideration of rule adoption.

**Prior Action by Commission:** Division 7 rules were last amended in 1995.

**Action Requested:** Staff requests permission to open recreational vehicle license fee revenue rules OAR 736-007-0000 through 0050.

**Attachments:** Attachment A: Marked copy of draft rules

**Prepared by:** Robert Ellison, Policy Advisor