



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Norma Goss

Date comment received:

August 9, 2025 10:37 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

hyvasti@msn.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

So important to have sound control and flag standards. Most important also to have adequate staff to enforce. To assist with sound control would be to have limits on the number of people allowed in to the area and a curfew. I would hope this would decrease the accident rate and therefore not overwhelm our local emergency services.



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Carol Griffith

Date comment received:

August 9, 2025 05:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cjaygrif@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I live approximately 2 miles across Sandlake from the Sandlake Recreation Area. The noise that resonates from the off road vehicles is seriously earsplitting/deafening. We have to close our windows and come in from our patio to be able to carry on a conversation. We have to wear noise cancelling headphones when we work outside because the noise is so intense. We are awakened by the engine roar in the middle of the night because there seems to be no enforcement of the curfew.

I support adjusting the decimal limit to 96 and adding the language that provides more enforcement of the limit. I suggest lowering the number of all terrain recreational vehicles that are allowed and an increase in the permit fees.

I would also suggest one solution to many issues would be the installation of charging stations and incentives to transisition to all electric vehicles.

Thank you for allowing public input on this important issue.
Carol J. Griffith



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathleen Miller

Date comment received:

August 9, 2025 08:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kkm97112@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Our family has owned property on Sandlake since 1975. We have seen the regulations and permit system decrease to non existent over the decades at the Sandlake recreation area.

I consider the 96 proposed decibel limit not low enough and according to ODOT, 57 db is the allowance in neighborhoods next to roadways.

I do support the language that supports the proposed decibel level and enforcement, its a start.

One way to reduce noise is to limit and enforce the NUMBER OF VEHICLES carrying multiple quads and overall capacity at the site.

Creating a permit fee system that actually has the ATV users pay a high fee (they currently pay a pittance of \$10 for a 2 year permit).

The fee could support:

1) Employees to enforce ordinances.

2) 1st aid stations / an EMT /ambulances on site to stop the multiple ambulance calls screaming down Sandlake rd. at all hours all year long.

Also they could establish volunteer teams to help with concerns.

Safety issues are a great concern, currently allowing children to drive.

1) I would like to see a higher minimum age and weight to drive full size ATV's.

2) enforce the alcohol/ drug intake.

I'd like to see encouraging the use of EV's by bringing in power sources for charging . Look to the future and promote environmentally sound solutions.

I cannot use my own property outside most days without noise cancelling headphones. As property owners and the nearby Sitka Sedge State Park that many people use as a way to enjoy nature.

Serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance where preserving those qualities serve an important public need. As for Sitka Sedge, if the area is to serve it's intended purposes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,
Kathleen M



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Julie Piazza

Date comment received:

August 10, 2025 09:34 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jbc.58@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I don't feel the proposed changes are enough to quell the CONSTANT din from Sandlake Recreation are. I live across from Whalen Island Park and the noise is magnified by the estuary and funnels right up our hill. It goes on day and night every day. IT IS LOUD. It goes on well after the curfew of midnight and starts up by 7:00 AM or earlier.

Switching jurisdiction to the park rangers seems futile. Right now the police aren't enforcing anything. How effective will the park rangers be? Over this last 4th of July it was CRAZY. We had to deal with not only the noise from the ATV's but a bombardment of illegal fireworks AND the constant sirens from emergency vehicles going to rescue who ever wrapped themselves around a tree. It was just plain dangerous.

I'm glad that these conditions are being examined and the effort to make changes is happening. However it's not enough. A limit to the number of ATV's allowed and a big increase in fees would go a long way to cutting back on the noise and earning revenue for the park. Setting a reasonable decibel level, below 96, is imperative. Also an earlier curfew that aligns with campground rules and is enforced will help the residents sleep better at night!

All the good intentions and proposed changes won't amount to any relief if not consistently enforced. I love where I live but the noise pollution is a constant distraction and hazard. I hope the powers that be realize we the residents are not happy.



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Neil Beauchamp

Date comment received:

August 10, 2025 04:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nbeaucha@frontier.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}**Public comment:**

I live in unincorporated Washington County, in a location where I hear unreasonably loud modified exhaust systems and amplified stereo music from vehicles on a daily basis. I also use the Neighbor social app where I read comments posted by neighbors as well as comments posted by individuals from neighboring communities. It's not unusual to see comments from Neighbor social app users expressing frustration with excessive vehicle noise (modified exhaust systems as well as amplified music). I don't own or operate an ATV.

My perception is that vehicle noise complaints about cars, trucks and motorcycles in my area are treated as a low priority at best. Some Neighbor app users speculate that it's because noise is not viewed as a safety issue. That is, it's viewed as a quality of life issue. As law enforcement resources are limited, it's not unreasonable to assume that police departments prefer that officers target illegal activities that are viewed as safety issues (e.g. traffic violations) rather than quality of life issues.

I'll speculate that other reasons for lack of enforcement might be the cost police departments incur in having to maintain calibrated equipment needed to measure decibels. Or the lack of technical automotive training or experience one might need to identify 1) vehicle exhaust components that either don't comply with DEQ noise requirement or 2) exhaust components that may have been tampered with.

Under enforcement of noise laws is not unique to Oregon. An article published by the Providence Noise Project (<https://providencenoiseproject.org/noise-cameras/>) states that in 2022 Providence Rhode Island police received 5,500 noise complaints from all sources and issued an “absurdly low total of just 19 citations” pertaining to non-compliant mufflers and excessively loud music from vehicles.

For meaningful enforcement of ATV noise laws, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department would have to implement and require annual equipment inspections for ATVs permitted to use public lands. ATVs that fail to pass the annual equipment inspection (focused on noise) would be prohibited from using those public lands. The requirement would be similar to the vehicle noise inspection program that DEQ used to require in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. (Our lawmakers in Salem repealed funding for the program in 1991.) Doing anything less is just paying lip service to ATV noise laws.

As a side note, I don’t foresee Oregon effectively enforcing vehicle noise laws pertaining to cars, trucks and motorcycles, in the absence of adopting new technology. Specifically, installing noise cameras. See <https://providencenoiseproject.org/noise-cameras/>



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynnae Ruttledge

Date comment received:

August 11, 2025 08:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynnae.ruttledge@icloud.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}**Public comment:**

I live in the coastal community of Tierra Del Mar in south Tillamook County, just south of Sitka Sedge State Recreation Area. I support the development and ENFORCEMENT of the ATV Sound and Equipment Rules. OPRD has the experience and expertise to develop the rules, using effective stakeholder engagement and involvement.

Our residential community and public beach is @2 miles directly south from the Sand Lake Recreation Area. We watch and hear emergency responders traveling to and from the Sand Lake Recreation Area along Sandlake Road as they deal with the myriad of ATV accidents and incidents that occur throughout the year. We can hear the excessive noise of ATVs during the day and far into the night.

As a walker that frequently likes to enjoy the Sitka Sedge State Natural Area, the excessive noise of the ATVs is overwhelming. It compromises my user experience and disturbs the wildlife.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for public comment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Colleen Kiernan

Date comment received:

August 15, 2025 08:33 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kiernanco@aol.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I have had the privilege of volunteer hosting the last 5 summers at Sitka Sedge Natural Area. The noise and safety at Sand Lake is a constant bother across the estuary. The ATVs are loud and the exhaust travels over with certain winds. The first responders are constantly on the move with the riders over there.

- it would be great to have them have noise reduction devices on the rigs to make them quiet
- I would hope that helmet laws are in place for all riders
- the 4th of July was out of control with about 10K at the park. A permit system that allows only so many rigs at the park on any given day would be sensible