



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Eric Ballas

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 05:53 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ericballas@gmail.com

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

### Public comment:

I fully support this rule change. Our family would love to have more stays at Oregon State Parks cabins and yurts. However, the process of making reservations is too cumbersome, and seems to involve staying up to book sites at midnight when they go on sale. The notification system for available sites following cancellations is also too cumbersome; clicking on each individual campsite for a notification of availability, as opposed to general notifications for campgrounds on specific weekends, would be much more user friendly.

I like the idea of reducing the number of people making blanket reservations and cancelling them, especially for cabins and yurts. Being asked to pay more is not a huge burden, as they are still an affordable lodging option.

Thank you,  
Eric Ballas  
Tigard



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Ed TOMLIN III

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 08:51 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

eltomlin@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Re: SAP Plan Reduction

Do not be audacious and forget the men and women who served our country for the freedom we experience today. Those Disabled Veterans, who survived the carnage, still experience and suffer physical and/or mental impairments themselves.

Parents, spouses, siblings, children, friends and loved ones of Fallen, Missing and Disabled Veterans can relate to the **cost of freedom**.

I am a Vietnam Disabled Veteran, 3rd generation Veteran and 5th generation Oregonian who is concerned with the disturbing reduction plan of the SAP Program.

Even though, I have skin in the game, I would not attempt to speak for all Disabled Veterans. I do know that impairments and health issues can dictate the time taken to spend a comfortable time at the Oregon State Parks whether it be Day Use or Overnight. Let us **not assume** that we know the circumstances and what is best for all Disabled Veterans. I do not know of any Disabled Veteran that takes advantage or abuses the award that is in presently in place.

I would like to see Oregon lead this Country by showing respect and **not discount those whom we can never repay**.

I pray that the assigned Commission Review Board has compassion and empathy in making a responsible and accountable decision to reject the proposed SAP plan reduction.

Respectfully,

Ed Tomlin III





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Ed TOMLIN III

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 09:10 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

eltomlin@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Re: No Shows

The No Shows seem to be an increasing issue. A courtesy call is simple but it seems difficult for some people to understand courtesy. I see people with their phones constantly so you would think they could make a call.

I see the Full Campground No Vacancies with open sites many times. I am with the folks that do not like to see a lot of regulations but this one probably needs attention. I am sure there is a lot of good ideas out there, keep it simple.

Respectfully,  
Ed Tomlin III



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

JAMES HAMMAN

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 10:47 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jimhamman@comcast.net

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

**Public comment:**

I am a disabled veteran who has greatly enjoyed camping at many wonderful state parks in Oregon since becoming fully disabled a few years ago. Most of my camping adventures have been along the coast in the region of Florence and Lakeside during the hot summer months. Not only have I experienced the pleasure of the scented woods and their many remarkable creatures, but I have made many new friends (both human and canine) along the way. Park staff have always been very friendly and accommodating, demonstrating true professionalism in every instance. Camping at state parks has afforded me a degree of comfort, with access to electricity and hot showers. In brief, my experiences camping at the many wonderful campgrounds and using the day use areas in Oregon has been very therapeutic for me. As I am on a fixed and limited disability income, I would not have been able to make use of Oregon's state campgrounds were it not for the 10 free days of camping made available to disabled veterans under the current policy. The program has enabled me to cultivate new friendships, improve my physical health, and enjoy the many wonders of nature. I know many fellow veterans benefit in the ways I have, because I have spoken with them on the topic. I hope you will consider the many ways the program benefits our nation's wounded, and choose to continue this important benefit.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

K Kerr

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 11:08 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

kathleenjean.kerr@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

While I support strict cancellations and no show policies, I do not support dynamic pricing. It is becoming increasingly expensive to enjoy outdoor activities / campgrounds in Oregon already and raising costs will only make it more out of reach for the average person.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Bruce Ecclestone

**Date comment received:**

January 6, 2026 11:34 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

bde1053@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I'm lost, Are you saying you are for Veterans with 100% disability wil only be able to camp free for 10 days a year.

It is hard enough to get a site to camp 6 months in advance during peak times. I have tried to get a sight 6 months and have been informed all sites are full. All sites should be open at camp sites six months in advance. Yes Im a 76 year old 100% disabled vet that cant sit up till midnight to call in for a site My camping helps me to relax and forget what happened to me in Viet Nam. Maybe the state of Oregon needs to have a state tax to help the budget of the state dedicated for the state funded activiities to support your veterans who served this country, lost limbs, were sprained with agent Orange and now have numb legs some who cannt walk . 10 days a year for us.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Emily Rea

**Date comment received:**

January 7, 2026 04:55 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

emilyannrea@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

As an oregon resident for my entire life I'm tired of constant increases in fees and taxes. We got to stop increasing prices on hard working tax paying Americans. We aren't able to enjoy the beauty of this once great state with the increase on fees nearly as often due to the cost. When will this state say no and stop raising cost on everything. To find state funding we need to cut other unnecessary expenses and supporting all the non American citizens in this state. We also need to get all the able body people back working in this state which would create more income for this state instead of increasing fees on us hardworking Oregonians that want to just enjoy this states beauty.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Leslie Weidemann

**Date comment received:**

January 7, 2026 06:26 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

lesbustermeg@netzero.net

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

**Public comment:**

I think you should keep the veterans part of the rule the way it is they earned the right to that. raising the annual fee would make most people stop coming to the parks. I understand the need to raise the camping fees as we use the state campgrounds quite a bit. I think that all out of staters need to pay a higher price for using any of the oregon state parks and campgrounds.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mercedes O'Callaghan

**Date comment received:**

January 7, 2026 11:25 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mercedesreeder@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Sounds good! Dynamic pricing is a great idea. Do what you need to do to continue your wonderful service. Hopefully we can get more cabins and yurts in the future!!!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

renee bertch

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 04:06 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rbertch@gmail.com

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

### **Public comment:**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed cuts to the Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass for disabled veterans. As a disabled veteran, the current benefit of 10 free camping nights per month has an awesome opportunity to see and enjoy the beauty of Oregon. Time spent outdoors in the state parks is one of the few things I can count on for healing, stress relief and connecting to nature.

The proposed changes to cut this benefit to just 10 nights per year and eliminate free day-use parking would take away a vital resource and a meaningful symbol of honor for our service and sacrifice. I urge the department to maintain the current, essential benefits, to continue honoring disabled veterans in a meaningful way.

VR Renee Bertch



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

H Chiang

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 04:24 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

chiang\_h@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

Agree with most of the changes but have concerns about dynamic pricing. Camping is one of the few vacations that's accessible for lower incomes. I hope this doesn't mean that it'll be like rideshare where prices are crazy expensive during peak or holiday times.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 05:28 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ianwilliams123456@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to offer additional perspective on the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass, specifically the proposal to limit free camping to 10 nights per calendar year.

From an operational and practical standpoint, this approach does not align with how disabled veterans actually use Oregon's state parks.

Disabled veterans rarely use parks in long, uninterrupted stays. Medical appointments, mobility limitations, pain management schedules, and energy constraints typically make extended trips impractical or impossible. Instead, many veterans rely on short, recurring visits—often one or two nights at a time—planned around health and family obligations. The current monthly structure supports this reality.

An annual cap of 10 nights effectively converts the Special Access Pass from a recurring access benefit into a single-use allowance. In practice, it means a veteran could exhaust the entire year's benefit in one visit, leaving no flexibility for the remainder of the year. That structure does not reflect real usage patterns and unintentionally penalizes veterans whose disabilities require shorter, more frequent stays.

Additionally, annual caps create unnecessary administrative and behavioral friction. Veterans must track cumulative usage across the year, hesitate to use the benefit early for fear of losing it later, and may avoid parks entirely to preserve a limited annual balance. Monthly availability avoids these issues and naturally spreads usage throughout the year, which is operationally healthier for both users and parks.

If the concern motivating this proposal is strain on park capacity or resource management, a yearly cap is a blunt instrument. It does not differentiate between responsible, low-impact use and sustained occupancy. More targeted solutions—such as residency requirements, minimum disability thresholds, or reasonable consecutive-stay limits—address capacity concerns directly without making the benefit impractical to use.

The Special Access Pass works today because it aligns policy with reality. Veterans can plan responsibly, parks experience distributed use, and the benefit fulfills its intended purpose. A shift to an annual limit would break that alignment.

I respectfully ask OPRD to reconsider this aspect of the proposal and retain a structure that reflects how disabled veterans actually interact with Oregon's state parks.

Thank you for your continued consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ian Williams  
USAF Retired



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 05:29 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

klindenmscrc@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

OPRD:

I received this below announcement (italics) that your department has proposed to reduce the earned Veterans benefits to 10 nights/year from 120 nights/year.

As

a licensed clinician specializing in serving Veterans and a multi-generation Veterans family member, I would request you return to the drawing board. The evidence is in: spending time in nature benefits Veterans with disability across disability, diagnosis and condition. Earned benefits do not get cut.

These proposed cuts are unacceptable and I am frankly outraged to even read of this and asked to comment.

Please be advised this ill-conceived proposal will end up in court.

Save money ahead of time and find somewhere else to cut funding.

I think your department should be writing a formal apology to Veterans and Veterans Families.

Please confirm you have received my correspondence.

Sincerely,



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 05:30 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

fred97267.fr@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I agree with removing the nonresident park passes. Would like to see the VA park changed to 5 days amount and the Veteran pay 25 to 50% of the going rate. I don't think the price should go up more than 10 to 20%



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 05:31 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dj@djbreslin.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello! I think Oregon State Parks are some of the best in the country and I thank you for that.

Prior camping stay limit was 14 days and then you must leave for 3 days (for any given park).

Now, the limit is 14 days within a 30 day period, which is more restrictive.

I appreciate the motivation for that change, especially around the late spring, summer, and early fall camping seasons, to ensure availability for everyone.

However, I'm an avid winter camper and I see the parks are largely empty. I would stay more frequently if the older rules applied. As it is, I'm more frequently locked out of some of my favorite parks because of the new stay limits. This is lost revenue for the state park system. Perhaps not a ton, but some!

My suggestion for your consideration is whether there can be a seasonable adjustment to the stay limits. Perhaps from November to February, the old stay limits could be in place, or something like that. Hopefully implementing that in the reservation system would not be too complicated and it wouldn't be confusing to the public, but I can see those being issues.

Thanks for considering my thoughts!

-DJ Breslin



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Carl Darnell

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 10:11 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

gropingthefullness@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am a service-connected disabled veteran. I am so grateful for Oregon State Parks for providing free campsites and I use them every year. I understand the financial strain on Oregon State Parks and that changes need to be made. I would like to see the current 10 days per month changed to 20 per year instead of the 10 per year being proposed. I seldom stay past 2 or 3 nights at a time and have only used 10 days in one month once. I try very hard not to take advantage of the waived fees and I think Oregon State Parks are the best in the country. I credit my access to the state parks with a significant reduction of my symptoms and keeping my state of mind positive. I appreciate this opportunity to express my viewpoint and I support whatever changes you ultimately make. Thank you. -Carl Darnell



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Thomas Allen

**Date comment received:**

January 8, 2026 10:27 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

tallencoco1@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

I would like to voice my concern over the huge cut in free camping days for disabled veterans. I think going from 120 to 10 days of free camping per year is an excessive cut that puts an additional burden on most of our veterans.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Frank Scheer

**Date comment received:**

January 9, 2026 04:57 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

scheer19699@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I wish to voice my objection to this change. How dare you attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the disabled. It is absolutely immoral. How about cutting some of the graft, corruption and unnecessary regulations.

You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Sincerely,  
Frank H Scheer  
Veteran



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Peggy Judkins

**Date comment received:**

January 9, 2026 08:05 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

pjudkins1@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am so disheartened at the site fees now. I am getting ready to book Harris Beach and I am appalled. I live in CA so I already pay a huge amount extra but now it is unaffordable for me. It is so sad. We have been visiting this park for many many years.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Collin Ledford

**Date comment received:**

January 10, 2026 12:20 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

collin@collinledford.com

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

### Public comment:

I am writing to submit public comment in opposition to the proposed changes to the Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass (SAP) program, particularly the proposed cap on annual camping nights and the provision that would count late-cancelled reservations against that cap.

I want to note at the outset that I do not oppose limiting SAP eligibility to Oregon residents. Given demand pressures and budget constraints, that element of the proposal appears reasonable. My concern is specifically with the sharp reduction in allowable camping nights and the rigidity of the proposed enforcement mechanisms.

My father is a service-connected disabled veteran, and camping in Oregon's state parks plays a critical role in how he manages PTSD. Extended time in outdoor, low-stimulation environments provides structure, calm, and emotional regulation that is difficult to achieve through other means. Camping is not an occasional recreational activity for him, but an important component of his mental health and overall well-being. A cap of ten free camping nights per year would significantly diminish the therapeutic value of this program for veterans who rely on it most.

Because the SAP program also serves foster and adoptive families, these changes would have broader consequences as well. Foster families often face significant emotional, logistical, and financial challenges, and access to affordable outdoor recreation can provide meaningful relief and stability. Reducing the benefit for one eligible group necessarily reduces it for all.

If a night cap is implemented, a higher threshold than ten nights would make a substantial difference in preserving the program's intended purpose. I am also particularly concerned about the proposal to count late-cancelled reservations against the annual cap. Veterans managing PTSD and families involved in foster care may face medical, emotional, or situational barriers that make timely cancellations difficult or unpredictable. Penalizing those

circumstances risks disproportionately harming the very populations this program is designed to support.

I understand the need for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to manage limited resources and growing demand. However, I urge OPRD to reconsider the proposed night limits and cancellation penalties and to explore more flexible approaches that maintain meaningful access for disabled veterans and foster families while still addressing cost and capacity concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during this rulemaking process and for your consideration of the needs of those the SAP program was created to serve.

Sincerely,  
Collin J. Ledford



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Erin Gilbert

**Date comment received:**

January 10, 2026 08:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

caniac369@comcast.net

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

### Public comment:

Please do not increase fees on camping sites, cabins, yurts, RV sites, etc any more so than was already done recently. The dynamic pricing is a horrible idea. You are going to price out families on tight vacation budgets that already go camping as a way to spend time with their kids. I would not be able to afford to pay more than the current fees, increased drastically just from last summer. Maybe if the state were to focus on true infrastructure and maintenance instead of pet products that have no relevance to long-term sustainability there would be no need for this. Or only increase fees to those coming from out of state. Oregon residents already pay an insane amount of taxes to support entities within our state government. Also, making any further changes to the cancellation policy is going to be horrible for people who have run into unavoidable situations that require them to cancel their reservation. For example, last Summer we found ourselves in a situation where the year we had reserved at Cape lookout was no longer going to work as we were going to bring our new puppy. We had rented a non-pet yurt. I thought I was doing the right thing by canceling and was given no leeway or ability to request an exception and we lost an entire nights rental fee on the yurt. Further, the yurt stayed vacant for that first night which is ridiculous.

In all honesty I don't know why I'm bothering to submit this, state government never listens to the public despite requesting comments such as this forum. Our governor doesn't care, why should we believe that the people considering these changes care about what the public thinks?



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Cynthia Hartman

**Date comment received:**

January 10, 2026 11:03 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

hartman.cynthia@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello, I'd just like to ask prices not raise so much people in lower incomes can't afford to take the family camping. ARBNB already so high so many people can't afford. Affordable camp sites allow people to get out in nature. Urging to keep this in mind when setting prices. Only wealthy people can ski now. Losing an outdoor escape for the lower income is tragic.  
Thanks for considering. Cynthia



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

David Grant

**Date comment received:**

January 11, 2026 10:45 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dgrantc@hevanet.com

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



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Leigh Roberts

**Date comment received:**

January 12, 2026 01:22 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

leighbert@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello,

I don't understand why there is special dispensation for foster and adoptive families, and yet none for the seniors that have been keeping the state parks afloat for decades. If you are going to be fair and equitable the only groups to be granted special privileges should be service-connected disabled veterans and seniors. If any group is singled out it should be for modest discounts for only Oregon citizens should be recipients.

I understand the need to bring in more revenue but everyone should share the burden.

Sincerely,

Leigh Roberts



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mr. Newman

**Date comment received:**

January 12, 2026 03:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

chasenewman87@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Instead of completely eliminating eligibility for those who have served our country but don't live in the state of Oregon, why don't you start with refining eligibility criteria? Make it easier for veterans residing in Oregon to qualify and enhance requirements for veterans residing outside of Oregon to qualify. This way you wont completely exclude those who have sacrificed for the good of Oregon but don't live there.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Daniel Kopisch

**Date comment received:**

January 12, 2026 05:49 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

Daniel@kopisch.com

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

**Public comment:**

I disagree with Dynamic pricing, i think it is a poor model. I would prefer to have static pricing that could be more on weekends but it should not be much more. If a campsite is more then a cheap motel i think we are having issues with the model. Camping in the past has been affordable and should remain that way. Camping during holiday weekend should not cost ~100 a night for a public campground. That would be excessive and does not line up with the vision of making public land accessible to all.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

austin Meier

**Date comment received:**

January 12, 2026 11:21 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

austinmeier@duck.com

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

### Public comment:

Fine with everything except the dynamic pricing based on calendar/demand. I assume this will result in price increases for holiday and the such. This will bias camping opportunities towards the wealthy, and discriminate against poorer persons. Usually if you don't have a lot of time off (blue collar jobs, etc) you will only have opportunities to go camping with your family on holidays or other times when you have time off. If now you have to pay extra to camp on those dates, you are getting double dinged.

Otherwise fine with changes.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Linda Mayfield

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 01:50 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

lindamayfield61@yahoo.com

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

### **Public comment:**

Getting outside and connecting with nature has many health benefits, particularly for our disabled veterans. We agree the disabled veteran benefit should only be for Oregon veterans. We disagree with your proposal to go from 120 days (20 days each month) to 10 days a year. That doesn't show appreciation for the veterans who proudly served our country. Why not first try limiting this to Oregon veterans first to see how much revenue will be gained? There are better ways to make up for the budget shortfall than this. For example, utilize volunteers more; secure corporate sponsorships; all sites should be available for use. At Champoeg, there are two sites that remain open and mostly unused for camphosts that come in early. That's a significant amount of revenue LOST! McIver has one site (A44) never used. 3 summer months of revenue LOST, but you want to take a benefit away from disabled Oregon veterans?? Your proposed dynamic pricing will cause a hardship for you g families making camping out of reach. Most private RV parks require two weeks advance notice of cancellation. Agree with your proposed cancellation policy. There is no reason to cause hardship for Oregon disabled veterans and young families. Balancing your budget at their expense is a travesty. You should form a blue ribbon committee to come up with options before taking away camping from those who won't be able to afford it.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mike

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:09 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

autoescape05@yahoo.com

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

### Public comment:

As a frequent camper at Silver Falls I am extremely disappointed with the proposed rules. Charging out of state residents 25% more for all sites is extremely unfair and unjustified. I am sure that Oregonians would be unhappy if they were charged more at state parks outside Oregon. You claim that rates will slowly increase. Well a 40..9 % increase for RV sites in one year (from 25 to 26) is not exactly slow in my book. Furthermore, the rates were increased to extremely close to the maximum allowed. Dynamic pricing is extremely unfair, unethical and will encourage campers not to cancel. At Silver Falls for example, you have to be on the computer 6 months in advance just to get a site during summer months. Every cancellation is rebooked within hours not days during summer months. Silver Falls is 100% full in summer. I stay for extended periods of time and have done some observation. At 2 am in the morning there are a number of empty sites. Yet the website shows no availability. So people are not cancelling as it is and dynamic pricing will further encourage people not to cancel if they get little refund. Furthermore, it unfairly impacts those campers who camp for a number of weeks, ie retirees. Also seniors with health problems may not have the luxury to cancel weeks in advance. Last minute change in circumstances are part of life no matter what age group. To conclude keep the cancellation policy the same.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Charles Hayes

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:14 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

bassone2@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Why would park passes be assigned to vehicle license plate number? Vehicle sales the fact that a person uses different vehicle for different activities at parks. Whether day use of boating or just picnicking. Etc



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:35 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

creswell.grange@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

January 12, 2026

Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission  
OPRD.Publiccomment@oprd.oregon.gov  
725 Summer St NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) benefit for disabled veterans.

During your meeting in early 2026, you will be considering a proposal to reduce the current SAP benefit from 120 nights of free camping per year for disabled veterans to just 10 nights per year.

This is a very drastic reduction that would have a significant impact on the well-being of many disabled veterans, by limiting their access to the outdoor experiences and accommodations that can be highly beneficial to their physical and mental health.

We also are opposed to the proposal to limit the SAP for disabled veterans to Oregon residents only. Our state benefits from the security provided by our national military. We owe a debt to all disabled veterans

regardless of their state of residence. Also, when considering the cost of providing these benefits, it is important to consider the benefit out-of-state veterans visiting Oregon provide to our state economy during their stay here.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We hope to see a strong commitment to upholding the rights of disabled veterans. Please continue to support our veterans and their well-being.

Sincerely,  
Martin McClure  
President, Creswell Grange  
541-214-9263

This letter was approved by the membership of Creswell Grange #496 on Monday, January 12, 2026



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:36 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ianwilliams123456@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide continued feedback on the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass and want to close by offering a constructive perspective that recognizes both the challenges OPRD faces and the needs of disabled veterans who rely on this program.

I fully understand that Oregon's state parks must be managed sustainably and equitably. Capacity constraints, budget pressures, and increased demand are real considerations, and it is appropriate for OPRD to periodically review long-standing programs to ensure they continue to function as intended.

However, the proposed reduction of free camping from 10 nights per month to 10 nights per calendar year goes beyond a reasonable adjustment. It transforms a practical accommodation into a benefit that many veterans will find too limited to use meaningfully. In doing so, it risks solving the wrong problem while creating new ones—reduced access, diminished trust, and the perception that the program's purpose has been fundamentally altered.

Throughout this discussion, a more balanced path forward has consistently emerged—one that aligns with regional norms and addresses resource

concerns directly:

- Limit eligibility to Oregon residents, ensuring the benefit primarily supports those who live, work, and pay taxes in this state.
- Establish a minimum service-connected disability rating of at least 30%, consistent with Washington's model and reflective of the veterans most affected by long-term disability.
- Retain a monthly availability structure, whether at the current 10-night level or another reasonable monthly threshold, so the benefit remains usable and aligned with real-world veteran needs.

This

approach preserves the integrity of the Special Access Pass while responsibly narrowing its scope. It focuses restrictions where they are most effective—eligibility—rather than reducing the benefit to a level that undermines its purpose.

Oregon

has long demonstrated leadership in balancing stewardship of public lands with compassion for those who have served. I believe the Special Access Pass can continue to reflect those values if adjustments are made thoughtfully and proportionally.

Thank you for your time, your work managing Oregon's state parks, and your willingness to consider public input on this issue.

Respectfully,

Ian Williams  
USAF Retired



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:37 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dgrantc@hevanet.com

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

### **Public comment:**

My husband is a disabled veteran. We have stayed in every Oregon State Park that has an RV campground (53 in total). We enjoy the State Park system. The increases proposed in Oregon State Parks are extreme.

We

have other options to camp, such as, private campgrounds, city campgrounds, county campgrounds, forest service campgrounds, BLM campgrounds and Corp of Engineer Campgrounds.

All of these options are equal to or less than the proposed State campground rates. We will look for options other than the State when reserving or choosing a campground.

The reduction in nights per month for disabled veterans is a broken promise to Oregon Veterans.

We

can understand excluding disabled veterans from other states because those same states don't reciprocate. But reducing camping for disabled veterans by 92% is just wrong.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation need to reevaluate how it spends money. We see nothing mentioned about cutting management or getting longer service life out of lawnmowers, service trucks or equipment.

Oregon

Parks and Recreation has quit managing Cascadia and Joseph Stewart

Parks without asking the users. Now Oregon State Parks and Recreation is proposing to cut services and increase prices. We feel this is wrong.

With great disappointment in Oregon State Parks and Recreation.

Carol & David Grant



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:39 PM

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

**Public comment:**

January 8, 2026  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,  
We are writing in regards to the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) benefit for disabled veterans in Oregon. The Oregon State Grange has a long history of supporting veterans and our members are expressing their concerns regarding this issue.

As you prepare for your meeting in early 2026, we would like to draw your attention to the proposal that seeks to reduce the current SAP benefit from 120 nights of free camping per year to just 10 nights. This drastic reduction would significantly impact the rights of disabled veterans and limit their access to the outdoor experiences and accommodations they deserve. The SAP benefit plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being of our veterans, allowing them to enjoy the natural beauty of Oregon's parks while fostering a sense of community.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to the SAP benefit and we hope to see your continued commitment to upholding the rights of disabled veterans in Oregon.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We appreciate your ongoing support of our veterans and their well-being.

Sincerely,



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:40 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

Russ\_McDougall@msn.com

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

**Public comment:**

To the Oregon Parks Commission,

I

am writing today to ask that you mitigate the impact of the proposed rule change concerning the Disabled Veteran Special Access Pass.

As

a native Oregonian I have enjoyed and revered our State Park system and appreciated the opportunities you gave disabled veterans. I agree with the proposal to limit the Pass to Oregon Veterans. Discount programs are not reciprocal in other states for Oregon veterans in their parks. I feel the change to 10 days of free camping per annum is overly placing the needed budget change on the veterans. Loss of free camping days coupled with increased camping fees will severely impact Oregon veterans from enjoying what we served to protect.

This Pass has enabled me the opportunity to enjoy and introduce my grandchildren to more of our State and its Parks system.

Sincerely,

David R McDougall USN (Ret)



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:40 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rob.jubie@googlemail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello,

I was just reading about the debt and proposed price increases for our Oregon State Parks.

I understand why the price increases but I do not understand the budget shortfalls. I'm aware that the State Parks took a financial hit during COVID. But the parks are booming now with campers! The last few times I went camping, it was difficult to get spots.

With

that revenue coming back and donations from citizens, I would think that is enough. I don't see where the debt is coming from! There are Parks that still have maintenance issues, poor roads, closed bridges (Carl G Washburn) and broken septic systems (Cape Blanco) that had money allocated for it to just be stripped away from them for other State projects outside the State Parks!

Where

is the actual money going to? I personally would love to see an honest breakdown of public funds, where the money is going.

I also strongly disagree with changing the rates for disabled Oregon Veterans to only get 10 days per year! That's ridiculous. That was such a wonderful benefit as I am one who uses it often. That should only be for Oregon Disabled Vets but it should stay the same. PLEASE DO NOT

CHANGE IT!

V/R

Rob Jubie



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:41 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

outlaw07525@live.com

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

**Public comment:**

After 34 years of military service including 29 years with oregon national guard and life time residence of oregon. This proposed change is a kick in the teeth to all that have served to give our state and nations all their freedoms. There is to much tax and lottery money spent on programs or grants that do the great state of oregon no good. Also timber management could bring in income for the state to use on parks which could help with fire control as well. Let's get smart oregon



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:42 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mustang03e@live.com

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

### **Public comment:**

Read

recently that you're planning on changing the rules concerning the SAP so that disabled veterans will be limited to no more than 10 nights per year for waiver of overnight camping fees. The rationale given was to "Help manage growing demand and reduce program costs."

If

you want to significantly reduce program costs, you might consider setting a threshold for granting the SAP. Under current practice, you've been granting the SAP for any level of disability. Consider the following; while Nevada and Oregon have no minimum requirement as to level of disability for issuing an SAP, neighboring states have a different approach when it comes to determining eligibility.

| State      | Minimum % disability |
|------------|----------------------|
| Washington | 30% disability       |
| California | 50% disability       |
| Nevada     | 60% disability       |
| Arizona    | 100% disability      |
| Idaho      | 100% disability      |

If

you must reduce the cost of this program, you might consider leaving the current benefits in place, but reduce the number of passes by setting a minimum disability required higher than it is now.

I heartily approve of limiting issuance of the SAP to Oregon residents only. This is in line

with other states' practice.

Thank you,  
Bryan Lavender  
Capt. USMC (Ret.)  
Lifetime Member of Disabled American Veterans



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

chrisarne@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I'd like to understand the proposed changes, decreasing the number of free nights camping for Disabled Veterans. Since moving to Oregon a few years ago, this is one of the positive Oregon management efforts that I genuinely enjoy and share with others (how good it is). If only 80% of pass users stay 10 nights or less, that means that 20% of passholders account for \$1.1 Million in revenue per year? That's a lot of SAP holders. (\$2.2M over 2 years as reported in savings with implementation) I would like to voice my opposition, as I near retirement and see myself taking advantage of this more and more in the future.

As

a person with disabilities, access and use of our recreation spaces can be rewarding or challenging, please don't add more barriers.

Chris Arne



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:44 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

howell70@sbcglobal.net

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

### **Public comment:**

To Whom It May Concern,

As

a resident of Oregon, born here 73 years ago, I'm adamantly opposed to the proposed Oregon State Parks 2026 fee hikes. Having lived through the initial days of the lottery, it was NEVER intended nor sold to the citizenry as a way to partially fund our parks. It was to be used for schools ONLY. Yet non-receipt of these funds is floated as the reason for the fee increase.

#### Camping

is one of the affordable vacation outlets for our citizens at the lower end of the economic spectrum. The fees you propose are beyond the reach of many Oregon residents, families, and veterans. Dynamic pricing is ridiculous and exorbitant. I searched several websites and the actual price hikes are hidden in convoluted language, giving the state carte blanche to raise prices as they deem necessary. Undoubtedly, this action is part of the strategy to hide from the public the true extent of the proposed costs.

I understand you are proposing limiting the amount of days a veteran can stay in the parks without a fee to just 10 nights per season. This is a travesty and a slight toward all veterans in this state. I spent 25 years serving this country in some of the worst locations on earth! I endured countless missed holidays and birthdays while remaining on post in such locations as Somalia, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Yet recognition for this service has been discounted to just 10 days of camping per season. "We appreciate your service" are just hollow words!

Yes,

there is undoubtedly a budget shortfall, but it's due to mismanagement of our state government. We spend millions on homeless initiatives, childcare subsidies, healthcare, housing, free school lunches, and countless other initiatives for many who had the same opportunities as our veterans but did not make that sacrifice. We pay high gas prices, taxes, food prices, and vehicle registration. So let's just pile on more costs so everyone is priced out of the state.

I

do not support these fee increases. You are closing the door to a low-cost vacation opportunity for hard working individuals, veterans, and families in our state. I am happy to talk about my opposition should you choose to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Farley Howell



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:52 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

slbamind27@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I live in Brookings and walk at Harris Beach campground daily. This Summer I noticed the large 4 door trucks that are around 24 ft long and have hoods so high that it would cause serious injury if a pedestrian was hit.

It was obvious that the trucks could not fit on the paved areas. They stuck out in the street and could not fit crosswise on the paved area. It was so nice when most of the big rigs pulled out but you could see the damage left in the ground. The park should be utilized in such a way that it is for the people of Oregon.

I would like to have a tiered fee so that people who are out of state are charged much more. If you can afford a motor home with all the comforts of home and the cost of fuel is no problem, Then you can afford to pay especially if you are from a far off state. Thank You!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:53 PM

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

**Public comment:**

Lane Pomona (county) Grange #14 met on 1/10/26 and approved the attached letter as our comment on the proposed reductions to the SAP benefit for disabled veterans. The letter is signed by Cookie Trupp, President of Lane Pomona Grange #14.  
--Mark

Lane Pomona Grange  
PO Box 4  
Springfield, OR 97477  
January 10, 2026  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission  
725 Summer St NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,  
We are writing with regards to the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) benefit for disabled veterans in Oregon.

As you prepare for your meeting in early 2026, we would like to draw your attention to the proposal that seeks to reduce the current SAP benefit from 120 nights of free camping per year for disabled veterans to just 10 nights per year. This is a very drastic reduction, would significantly impact the rights of disabled veterans, and limit their access to the outdoor experiences and accommodations they deserve.

The SAP benefit plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being of our veterans, allowing them to enjoy the natural beauty of Oregon's parks while fostering a sense of community. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We hope to see a strong commitment to upholding the rights of disabled veterans in Oregon. Please continue to support our veterans and their well-being.

Most Sincerely, , -



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

January 13, 2026 04:54 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

roguerivernelson@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I think it is appalling that you would take away. The veterans' benefits that they deserve. After defending this country.  
Not their fault that the governor cannot balance her budget.