



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robin Cherry

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 05:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

trhcherry@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose this fee system. If passed this takes away from all lower income and veterans ability to enjoy the outdoors



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 05:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kataltair@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the argument of trying to cut costs to find other things and moving money around. However, limiting access to outdoor time on Veterans not only has the potential to limit our shelter options for those who utilize camping areas for shelter, but it also has the potential to have devastating impacts on Veterans already struggling with mental health issues. It is well documented that time outdoors helps people with trauma recover or stabilize. Our Vets already are struggling to provide for themselves financially. This limitation will take away time they can access camp areas that help mitigate worsening symptoms. If we limit days we are saying there is a limit to how many days you can struggle or that the state can define how many days is of benefit if you cant pay out of pocket. This change has the potential to follow many other states in turning what may seem like a reasonable change into eliminating access all together. The more that is taken away, the more likely it is to be taken further in the future. Oregon has made it pretty clear compared to other states that it has limited support of Veterans. This just furthers that narrative.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jesse Lene

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 06:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

j.lene@thefallenoutdoors.org

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

Public comment:

As a **service-connected disabled veteran** and a volunteer who works to maintain the mental health of veterans through outdoor therapy, I strongly oppose these proposed changes for the following reasons:

1. Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Populations

The proposed changes, particularly the restrictions on the Special Access Pass (SAP) and dynamic pricing, will disproportionately affect disabled veterans and foster families—groups that already face significant financial and emotional challenges. Outdoor recreation is not a luxury for these populations; it is a critical component of mental health and rehabilitation. Limiting benefits and introducing complex cancellation penalties creates unnecessary barriers to access.

2. Undermines the Purpose of SAP

The SAP was designed to recognize the sacrifices of veterans and foster families by ensuring equitable access to Oregon's natural resources. Reducing fee waivers by 46% and imposing stricter cancellation rules erodes this commitment. Veterans often face unpredictable health issues, making last-minute cancellations unavoidable. Penalizing these cancellations or counting them against benefit limits is punitive and fails to account for the realities of living with service-connected disabilities.

3. Financial Sustainability Should Not Come at the Expense of Accessibility

While I understand the need for financial sustainability, the proposed changes prioritize

revenue generation over inclusivity. Oregon State Parks are a public resource, and their accessibility should not hinge on dynamic pricing models that favor those with greater financial means. Veterans and foster families should not bear the burden of budget shortfalls caused by systemic funding issues.

4. Mental Health and Community Impact

Outdoor therapy is a proven method for improving mental health among veterans. Restricting access through higher fees, reduced benefits, and punitive policies will have long-term social costs that far outweigh short-term financial gains. These changes risk alienating the very communities that rely on parks for healing and connection.

Alternative Solutions

- Advocate for increased state funding or partnerships to offset operational costs.
- Implement targeted dynamic pricing only for luxury amenities, not basic campsites.
- Maintain SAP benefits without punitive cancellation policies, recognizing the unique challenges faced by veterans and foster families.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Mayfield

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 07:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

avdlmayfield@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

For years information has been provided on problems with the reservation system.

Cancellations should be addressed, but think it out.

Thirty day cancellation would do the job. Keep it simple.

Reimage Campaign is a bust. No imagination at all. Raise fees and cut services shows indicates a management problem. DMV mentality. I am glad to see that it was slowed and Oregonians were permitted input. Finally oversight.

Other States, counties and National Park Service have partnerships that help fund. Nothing new. Salem does not have Corporate sponsors, i.e., Google, Apple, Nike, Columbia, Verizon, Coca Cola, Data Centers, Big Box Stores, Boat Mfg. Sporting goods, RVs - too many opportunities. What about the Universities with billion \$ endowments, they can give, they use the services. First thing Salem should have done is planned a blitz of meetings to get sponsorship, donations and commitments. Responsible Oregon corporations wouldn't think twice about an opportunity to be involved to save Oregon Parks. Adopt a road, loop, tree, path, trail, hill, Creek - opportunity to excel and make parks great again.

Salem has not announced any budgetary savings prior to the rule 15 proposals. No announcement to stop all travel, expensive meetings outside Salem, summits, conventions.

How much moolah was spent last budget on Award of Excellence - attendance certificate.

We STRONGLY APPOSE changes to Special Access. Especially before any efforts are made to grow the revenue and reduce costs.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Mayfield

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 08:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

avdlmayfield@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

The "dynamic" fee changes need better thought out.

I would like to see less money spent on DEI programs and more emphasis on park employee morale and patriotic themes.

Customer satisfaction is tanking - the experience is too regulated. Too many rules. The rangers wanta be cops.

Too many employees not working toward the goal of a great visitor experience. OPRD doesn't have the vision.

Born, 1951 in Salem. Spent childhood, my kids, grandkids and recently a great grandkids birthday, bike rides, hikes, fishing, boating and of course camping. Was a time when the rangers walked and talked - now drive by at 3 times posted speed. I do not think many of them are enjoying their work. Spoke to one a few weeks ago and was told that it is the same old shit going on. Nobody knows why it's ran the way it is. Many ridiculous rules made by people who do not RV.

OPRD reimagine is looking to add Yurts and cabins. Very expensive, not happen and will not pay ROI for years. Just a diversion tactic. They look at stuff, talk the talk but can't walk the walk. Performance matters.

Millions \$\$\$ bonds raised years ago to add camping & facilities have been spent elsewhere, probably employees. I looked and have found no OPRD accomplishments being listed or spoken, less a guard shack.

We need to Reimagine what it takes to get things on the right track. Sure isn't increasing fees

and reducing benefits.

Vote NO to these proposals and use oversight to make change that will save our park system.
Do not shame Oregonians by restricting the Access Pass.

Thank you.

David Mayfield

USCG

1970-1976



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Heidi Geschwill

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 09:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hidawg@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it concerns,

Whether or not I agree with the fee increases and reasons why, I don't think disabled vets should see their benefits go down. If there is a group of people who deserve a perk, it would be our vets who have given part of their lives, and for some, their physical and mental abilities. It's quite a sacrifice folks. It would be nice to see a way to leave their level the same.

I do appreciate that the reservation scheme is finally going to punish those who reserve and then do last minute cancels and no-shows. I know people who do that, and I have been on the receiving end of not being able to get a site, because it's 'taken' but not really.

Thank you for reading and considering.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ryan Gascon

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 09:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hightimberdreams@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My name is Ryan Gascon, I'm am the co-founder and president of High Timber Dreams 501 (c) (3) located in Northeastern Oregon, as well I'm a service connected disabled Veteran. We support the needs of Veterans, first responders & youth through hunting, fishing and outdoor activities for their emotional and mental well-being. It's proven that the outdoors is one of the best places if not the BEST place for a Veteran to heal emotionally & mentally after time in service. We are respectfully requesting that NO changes be made to the Oregon State Parks Veterans pass. Support our Veterans who supported our freedoms.

Respectfully,

Ryan Gascon
High Timber Dreams



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kyle Ward

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 09:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

stachyman36@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Honorable committee members,

I'm writing you in regard to the proposed rule change for disabled, service connected Oregon veterans.

my family and I enjoy vacationing at Oregon State parks, and we can often join family for frequent family camp outs because of Oregon's generous rule regarding free camping for disabled veterans.

I feel that by limiting the number of days, and potentially losing parking privileges with negatively affect those of us that are now limited financially, as to what we can afford to spend on leisure.

It is my belief that by restricting the number of days allowed to camp under this rule will force veterans to have to unfairly compete for availability at campgrounds.

I am here by requesting that you vote. No on the proposed rule change for decreasing the veteran campsites per year.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Kyle J Ward
United States Army.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 10:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hanlon.noel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

It seems to me that the people who will be impacted most are the exact people who can benefit most of all from the time that they can be in our beautiful parks.

Please don't let only the ones who can afford to enjoy the outdoors be the only ones who can!

Nature can heal.

Believe it!

Be generous,

Thank you,

Noël Hanlon

Aurora, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Emily Welborn

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 10:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

emily.jane.welborn@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to express opposition to any reduction in veterans' access to Oregon State Parks, while also voicing support for reasonable updates to the park system's reservation and cancellation policies. I am the child of a service-connected disabled veteran and a former VA employee, and I believe it is possible to balance responsible park management with continued support for veterans.

I support the proposed cancellation and change policy updates, including no refunds on the day of arrival, penalties for no-show reservations, graduated refunds based on cancellation timing, alignment of change and cancellation policies, and restrictions on third-party or unauthorized resale of campsites. These measures promote fairness, reduce misuse, and help ensure campsites are available to those who intend to use them.

However, I strongly oppose any policy changes that reduce or eliminate veterans' access to Oregon State Parks.

Veterans experience higher rates of PTSD, depression, and suicide than the general population. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans die by suicide at a higher rate than non-veterans, making access to preventative and supportive resources critically important. Research consistently shows that time spent outdoors improves mental health outcomes, reduces stress, and supports emotional regulation. For many veterans, outdoor recreation is an accessible and effective form of care.

Free or reduced-cost camping in state parks provides veterans with opportunities to spend time in nature, connect with fellow veterans, and reduce isolation. These informal interactions allow veterans to bond, share experiences, and process trauma in ways that structured clinical settings cannot always replicate.

This program has had a meaningful impact on my family across generations. Growing up, we could not afford expensive vacations, but we were able to camp and visit Oregon State Parks. Those experiences taught me practical survival skills, fostered a lifelong respect for nature, and provided stability and connection for our family. More recently, this same pass allowed my father to travel affordably to attend my brother's wedding by staying in a state park at no cost.

Oregon's veterans have already borne significant personal cost in service to their communities and country. While reasonable policy updates are appropriate, those updates should not come at the expense of veterans' access to spaces that support mental health, family connection, and community.

I urge you to adopt the proposed cancellation and reservation policy changes while preserving veterans' access to Oregon State Parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Laine

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 10:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jraneel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My husband is an Iraqi war veteran. Camping gives him freedom and getting him out of the house can be hard at times unless its getting out in nature and camping. Limiting his camping will greatly affect his mental health. Please take into consideration he isn't the only veteran that cant be around lots of others in public and camping gives them a sense of freedom



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Mayfield

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 10:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

avdlmayfield@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

If OPRD cannot come up with more revenue by hard &/or smarter work - I suggest a televised Oregon State Telethon.

Maybe they could ask the Governor for fund raising help.

Go to the floor of State Government & nightly news and plead that "Disabled Vets, low income and foster kids" are getting hurt by drastic proposals. Not the rich.

Nothing is being done.

Pretty damn frustrating.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rod5033610070 Harder

Date comment received:

January 13, 2026 11:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rodharder@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

I am a retired disabled veteran with 22 years active duty and am 89 years old. I am adamantly opposed to this or any other proposal that further reduces benefits to those of us who have more than earned the meager remains of what we now have!!!!!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gary Holland

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

gholland68@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't agree with cutting the benefits from disabled veterans it seems Oregon is taking a lot of the benefits we use to have if it wasn't for us Veterans you the public wouldn't have the Freedom you have now. Not only are you taking some of our Hunting Grounds you have also not upheld the tax break written into law about property tax breaks, Camping in our State park gets us out of the normal day to day stresses, it helps us clear our minds and reset. Besides Weyerhaeuser is locking gates and not allowing us to get thru to state forest lands



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Duane Vaubel

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:12 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

sparky@sparkyelectric.us

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

Public comment:

I am not a disabled veteran but am a veteran. I do believe that these proposed SAP rules are not reasonable to any Oregon resident. I had to stop going camping with my family when park reservation rules made it near impossible to do last minute camping. Now I see that you want to exceedingly restrict Oregon disabled veteran's ability to enjoy outdoors Oregon by limiting them to 10 nights only. They are already living with disabilities limiting their abilities to get out into the outdoors. Don't add to that limitation.

Everyone should be responsible to respond properly to the rules of a cancelation policy and should be held to that responsibility.

Day use parking fee ranges as indicated at up to 350% increase over an unstated time frame is unacceptable. It is ok to cover reasonable cost factors, but arbitrary inflationary rate levels will increase abuse by rate setters and heavily decrease public use. Is that the intent?



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Phil Bigler

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:12 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

philbigler@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I am against any fee increases that impact disabled Veteran's, please carve them out and look other places for cuts.

Thank you

Phil Bigler

US Navy Submarine Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Swearingen

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:41 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mswearingen508@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My family has always been Oregon veterans from my Great Great Grandfather who came to Oregon working a wagon train joined the Oregon Militia and got wounded. All of my family has served as Oregon veterans. Why are you penalizing veterans who support this country. It's one thing that helps me keep sanity to go to our State campgrounds to enjoy the peace and solitude. It'll bring a hardship on disabled Veterans not to be able to get peace and solitude that our campgrounds offer. Most Disabled veterans don't have the funds to pay for the enjoyment of being away from the cities. The state supports people that don't belong here and you are punishing us for what they drain from our state. You can't change this benefit.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Hayden

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:56 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kevin.m.hayden@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am formally submitting my opposition to the changes regarding the Special Access Pass for disabled veterans as they are currently proposed. Specifically, the proposals to cap free camping at 10 nights per year and elimination or reduction of the free day-use parking. While I understand the Department's need to address budget shortfalls and campsite availability, drastically reducing these benefits is an excessive and harmful over correction. This change disproportionately affects Oregon's disabled veteran community for several reasons:

∨

Removal of a Critical Wellness Resource:

For many veterans with service-connected disabilities, camping and spending time in nature serves as a vital therapeutic resource. The proposed drastic reduction will discourage outdoor recreation that is essential for mental and physical rehabilitation.

∨

Financial Impact on Fixed Incomes:

Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes. The SAP currently allows for affordable travel and recreation

within our own state. Reducing this benefit effectively prices many veterans out of the public lands they fought to defend.

For example:

- o The average cost of a tent only site is roughly \$25. The proposed change could increase the cost to disabled veterans by over \$2,700! For some lower-income veterans, state parks provide their only affordable vacation option.

- o Oregon Parks and Recreation statistics state that 80% of pass holders don't use more than 10 nights a year. The 20% who do use the program more are more likely to be those veterans with the highest needs for these "therapeutic resources."

- o Eliminating the free day-use parking or even significantly restricting it would be just another move to a "pay-to-play" model pushing local veterans out of their own state parks.

v
**Broken
Promise:**
The SAP has been available as a token of gratitude from the people of the State of Oregon our disabled veterans' service and sacrifice. Slashing the benefit by over 90% sends a message that this gratitude is expendable when budgets are tight.

I urge the Commission to reconsider this specific change as it applies to Oregon's service-connected disabled veterans. If a reduction is still required, please consider a less draconian reduction, for example, 7 days per month, 60 days per year in no more than 10-day blocks, suspension of the benefit for a specified period, if an unused reservation wasn't cancelled, etc.

passes are provided to non-residents may be a solution. I'm not an advocate for complete stoppage, since veterans who visit Oregon from other states, specifically those that we border, spend money in the local economies as they travel to and stay at parks. However, there should be a way to brainstorm some additional options. A few options to consider might be:

v
Consider reducing the benefit for non-residents to five days per month, or 30 days per year, in no more than 10-day blocks.

v
Consider creating a separate non-resident pass available that would allow them to park a vehicle or camp at Oregon State Parks for a reduced fee.

In closing, OPRD estimates that their proposed changes will save \$2.2 million per biennium. Essentially, they are placing the burden of their budget shortfall directly on 41,000+ disabled veterans and foster families who currently utilize these services. For all of the reasons stated above, I implore you to consider these and other options that will assist in management of the growing demand at our state park and may provide additional revenue as needed.

Above all, make sure that any change continues to provide the access and affordability our service-connected disabled veterans have come to rely on. Do not penalize our disabled veteran community in the name of revenue growth.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Thank you for your attention and support in this urgent matter.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rocky Phillips

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:10 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rocky.lee.phillips@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the need for changes, however cutting free days for Disabled Veterans is a significant hardship for those who rely on our State Parks. Perhaps just limit to Oregon Disabled Veterans only, or some other compromise that allows Veterans like me to still utilize access to the parks without cost. That could be the least that the State could do for us.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Hanna

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:29 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

C_Hanna7@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled veteran I am 100% against this as it means a 46% reduction in benefits for us. Surely there must be other places to save money that doesn't come at the expense of those who served.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Trisha spencer

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:29 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

trish_spencer@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am not a vet but I do believe you should keep the rules the same as they are for vets and not change. They deserve to be recognized in many more ways than this, at least give them this. Dynamic pricing is ridiculous, don't take advantage by charging working people more when they go at popular time like holidays and weekends.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Angi Gregory

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:32 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

trev_tysmom@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

As the wife of a veteran, I find these cuts appalling! Why are veterans being punished? Maybe cutting your reservation budget and making campgrounds 1st come, 1st serve again?! It's ridiculous having to

Pay a reservation fee besides the fact that 4,5,6 campsites are reserved at a time and then people cancel them and they sit empty! Why shouldn't we be able to drive into a campground and get a spot that's sitting empty without paying a reservation fee because YOU insist that they must be reserved! Save Oregonians the money for reservation fees and stop paying an outside company to manage said reservations.

Veterans served and fought for your rights to work in these places and also for the freedoms of every individual who camps in these places or visits and plays at them and now you want to cut their privileges down ??? How absurd! Shame on you! Maybe it's time to learn how to work within your budget. You charge to park, you charge charge charge! When will it stop?! Vote better! Do better!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chelsea Eichenauer

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:56 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rylan10eich@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not take away from veterans, the hero's who were brave enough to fight for our once beautiful country or the foster children who are so blessed to get to spend some time outdoors.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jack Lawson

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 02:11 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jahla@peak.org

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

Public comment:

The proposed changes to are to drastic and sends a clear message of non-support for Oregon's disabled veterans. These cuts would significantly harm disabled veterans who rely on the state parks for healing and peace of mind. It is shameful for the Oregon Parks and Recreation to even consider this excessive rule change.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joy Kroenke

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 02:31 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

the2kronks@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

You're effectively GUTTING the Veterans benefits that are offered. 10 days of camping per month to 10 per year is disgusting. If there is a problem with cancelations, reflect that in a case by case basis with the Veteran who is making reservations. Completely obliterating the parking pass is a fail. If needed, offer it at a discount.

On that note, charging your RESIDENTS double fees for parking at beaches and parks IN THEIR AREA is ridiculous! We're homeowners in Coos Bay. Why would you charge an out of state person a mere \$15 more than us. We live here, support our community, volunteer and clean up (after tourists!) EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. This is outrageous.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Blessman

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 03:50 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

dblessman@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

The change to SAP for disabled veterans is too radical. It was 10 free days per month. The new rules only allow 10 days per year. This reduction is far more proportionally than the other rule changes. It appears the rule changes disproportionately affect disabled veterans (including me).

Please provide a more balanced change across the fee schedule. Example: Fees go up 10% and veterans access go down by 10%. A balanced approach to all populations

The changes to cancelation rules are fine.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cindy Baker

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 04:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cindyunion@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Our veterans and Foster families have don't deserve to have these rights taken from them. So many didn't even know they had them because of the failure of your offices to advertise. It seems our Governor will stop at nothing to grab a few more fistfuls of dollars. These Vets hardly even use these benefits which makes me think she is simply antagonizing them. I demand that you leave the veterans and Foster families issue of your plans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ricky Nelson

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 06:04 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

roguerivernelson@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm a disabled Oregon Veteran

As a Disabled Oregon Veteran

I'm in disagreement with the extreme proposal Oregon State Parks are making against Oregon Disabled Veterans and Foster Parents.

If anything taking away benefits from Non-residents is a place to start. But not from Oregon Residents

I personally haven't yet got to use the full 10 days month. But as retirement is now upon me. And a 5th generation Oregon resident. On a fixed income it is the only way for me to enjoy the Oregon State Parks.

I've made reservations for 2 different Parks at 2 different times this year so far. Total 9 days and making more. As I can afford to.(maybe if possible).

I'm in agreement with the reservation part but not the Camping.Or the taking of our Free day use pass.

Taking away or reducing benefits from the disabled veterans or foster kids.Is not a good idea. We fought for this country and state some did not return. This is one of the ways we cope with life. Now you put more stress and anxiety to alot of us. TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

I can though understand some taking advantage of FREE and booking incase I want to go.

If that happens more than 2 times in a certain period take away the benefit for 1yr or 6 months or 2 yrs what ever.

But don't penalize us all for a few that take advantage.

Remember we fought for our benefits and rights.

Foster Parents are doing use all a service that most all would not do.

Dont penalize them either.

Seems accountability may be part to blame.

Help keep OREGON DISABLED VETERANS and Foster Parents in our State Parks

Dont let just the rich enjoy one of our biggest assets.

PARKS WERE BUILT FOR FAMILY.

Not only that but we should have all gotten a notice on this. The Parks have all of our addresses and phone # VETERANS and Foster Parents for our cards. My other disabled veteran friends and I feel you WERE VERY SNEAKY ON THIS.

PROVE US WRONG AND LET US KEEP OUR PASSES



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Mioduszewski

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 06:39 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

matt.mioduszewski@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I strongly oppose the proposed fee structure and enforcement flexibility being contemplated for Oregon State Parks Day-Use Parking Permits. Specifically:

- 1. The effective price increase from \$30/year to potentially \$100/year (with the implied authority to escalate to this amount) represents an unjustified and disproportionate cost increase to the public.**
- 2. The removal—and potential reinstatement—of a two-year pass without firm price caps creates unacceptable uncertainty and undermines public trust.**
- 3. The proposed shift toward license-plate-linked permits provides no meaningful benefit to park users, while functionally pressuring households to purchase multiple passes.**
- 4. These changes appear to prioritize enforcement efficiency and revenue capture over equitable public access, which conflicts with Oregon's stated outdoor recreation values.**

1. Fee Increase Magnitude Is Excessive and Poorly Justified

Until January 1, 2026, the Day-Use Parking Permit cost **\$30 for one year or \$50 for two years**. Eliminating the two-year option and replacing it with a **\$60 single-year permit** is not a modest adjustment—it is a **140% increase over the prior one-year price**. And a **233% increase if you were to reach your cap of \$100**.

No clear, itemized justification has been provided explaining:

- What specific costs increased,
- Why those increases cannot be absorbed incrementally, or
- Why such a large jump was necessary all at once.

Absent transparent cost accounting, this reads not as cost recovery but as **price elasticity testing**—raising fees simply because the agency believes users will tolerate it.

Public lands are not a luxury product. Fee increases of this magnitude should require **explicit justification and renewed public comment**, not administrative discretion.

2. The Proposed Fee Schedule Creates Unacceptable Price Volatility

The Division 15 materials suggest the possibility of reintroducing a two-year permit in the future—but **without clear price ceilings or guardrails**.

This creates a scenario where:

- A two-year pass could quietly reappear at \$200,
- A one-year pass could be further increased without meaningful notice,
- Users are asked to accept open-ended pricing authority.

That is not reasonable. **Fee predictability matters**, especially for families, retirees, and lower-

income Oregonians who plan recreation budgets in advance.

If multi-year passes are reinstated, their prices should be explicitly capped and tied to CPI or documented operating costs—not left open-ended.

3. License-Plate-Linked Permits Reduce Flexibility and Harm Users

The proposal to “simplify” permits by linking them to a license plate is framed as a user benefit. For many park users, it is the opposite.

A physical hangtag or transferable permit allows:

- Carpooling with friends or family,
- Riding with a spouse or partner’s vehicle,
- Taking a friend’s car when your own is unavailable.

License-plate-restricted permits **eliminate this flexibility** and effectively force households to buy multiple permits to maintain the same access they previously had.

This is not convenience—it is **functional restriction disguised as modernization**.

There is also no user-side benefit to:

- Remembering and entering license plate numbers,
- Updating records when vehicles change,
- Losing flexibility for spontaneous trips.

The primary beneficiary of plate-locking is **enforcement efficiency and revenue stability**, not the public.

4. This Approach Undermines Public Trust and Access

Oregon's state parks are a public good, not a subscription service optimized for yield.

When fees:

- Increase dramatically,
- Are paired with enforcement-centric design changes,
- And are implemented with minimal constraint on future increases,

...they send a clear message that **access is secondary to monetization**. This is especially true when you have fee changes like Transaction fees going up to \$30 and additional vehicles going up to \$30. In many of these cases no new service or improved service is being provided, these are 'junk' fees used to fleece the public, nickel and diming for no added value.

That is especially troubling in a state that prides itself on outdoor equity and stewardship.

-Matt Mioduszewski



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anderson Kim

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 07:05 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

andersonkim13@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Related to SAP for disabled veterans, I think a better approach is to increase the eligibility of the pass. A disabled veteran with any rating includes 0%. A service member can cough wrong and get 0%.

The SAP is without a doubt a very generous benefit. From the perspective of equity, such benefits align with those with 90% - 100% rating more than it does with someone of 0% rating.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anderson Kim

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 07:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

andersonkim13@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

In addition, Lower's fee waivers by an estimated \$2.2 million per biennium (a 46% reduction) is possibly inaccurate. I assume many disabled veterans are off-peak users of benefits and will likely stop camping of the pass is severely restricted. Waived fees may not result in additional revenue.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anne-Marie Summerhays

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 08:46 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bunkport23@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

As someone who has lived, worked, and recreated in Oregon for more than 30 years, I am writing to comment on pieces of the proposed changes to the way our state park passes/day use fees are decided and implemented.

I am supportive of modest fee increases, but do not agree with the idea of dynamic pricing. Fees should be a known amount so that families can budget for them.

I do not agree with the idea of associating a license plate with a pass- this is limiting and promotes waste, pollution, is a step backwards. The pass goes with the person who purchased it, not the car they drive. People change cars, need bigger vehicles to accommodate more people for an outing, or rent a car for whatever the reason may be.

I do agree that no shows should not receive a refund.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Susan Douthit

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

susan_douthit@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

I do not agree on changing the fee structure for our veterans. I also do not agree with limiting any benefits/reductions to only Oregonians veterans.
We have asked enough of our veterans. Please do not ask more.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jason Jette

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jasonjette@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Although I do understand raising the pricea to combat budget shortfalls I believe the increase imposed at the start of 2026 will already limit access for those less fortunate. A further increase will make this issue worse.

In regards to the pass being applied to a plate my family has 2 drivers and 4 vehicles this would require multiple passes which would be cost prohibitive. I do not believe more than one pass should be required for a family of two only because of the number of vehicles they own.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:54 PM

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

Public comment:

In a majority of Oregon parks, campers have to book 5-6 months just to get a site during summer months. Dynamic pricing will only decrease the number of cancellations since campers will get little or no refund. Its pretty clear that you have to seriously reconsider keeping the cancellation rules unchanged. There is absolutely no way the proposed rule changes will work. They are just a clever and unethical way to generate more revenue..



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 12:58 PM

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Supinski

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 01:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jes.supinski@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Raising prices is not making park use equitable. Public lands should be for everyone, not just those who can pay high prices to use them. Please don't raise permit prices. Tying permits to vehicles makes them HARDER to use, not easier. The argument here is bogus.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marla Sg

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 02:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

f654531@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

A fee range this high is absolutely ridiculous. Sure, it won't jump to that price right away, but it will. It always does. What about 2027? Who's gonna say they're not gonna make that jump immediately? This is honestly stupid. Every citizen in the US, especially in OR, is getting fees and taxes out the a\$\$. We can't enjoy anything anymore unless we make over 100k and most people don't. Additional fees for using a website to book a reservation is also absolutely ridiculous. Considering there's not always a way to do it in person, or certain campgrounds are too busy for that. Dynamic pricing is also a joke. The weekends and holidays are when the average person has off from work but let's make them charge a fee out the ass because they have time off and want to spend that time doing something fun. If the state of Oregon would just take a budget class, so some thoughtful budgeting and minimal price increases, the state wouldn't have such a money problem. They get sooooo much of our money already. Learn to budget it. Price increases aren't going to fix things if you don't have a budget. An actual budget.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Allison Macika

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 02:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

allimacika@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

These changes will have a drastic effect on public lands access to some of Oregon's most vulnerable families, many of whom already face barriers to exploring their own public lands due to high prices.

While it is mentioned that integrating passes with license plates will streamline State Park visits and bookings, it will hurt access the most for those who cannot afford a new pass every time they have to hop into a different vehicle. If you have to carpool with a friend because your car isn't working, you will have to buy a new pass. If you have to get a different car because your old car stopped working, you will have to get a new pass. If you and visiting friends/family decide to all carpool together in a large rental car, you will have to get a new pass (this will in effect discourage carpooling at our busy State Parks).

Furthermore, the dynamic pricing hurts access to families' whose only time to visit together may be during school holidays, often some of the busiest days for recreation in Oregon. Imagine wanting to take your family to somewhere as beautiful as Smith Rock on one of your only days off together, only to get told that it will cost you \$25 to do so, or only to be told that Smith Rock is "full" due to online booking, and you are not even able to purchase a day pass. These prices are more reflective of a visit to a National Park, and while I understand the need of Oregon State Parks to generate revenue, too many of Oregon's poorest families will be barred from going to public lands in their own backyards due to exorbitant pricing and confusing policies.

Please do not create policies that keep some of our most vulnerable populations, who could benefit from public land access the most, from visiting our State Parks. Our lands are not only for the wealthy - every person in our state should have the ability to explore its beauty without worrying whether they need to wait until their next paycheck or not.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

S Schol

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 02:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

xcdfg@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I DO NOT support tying parking passes to a license plate. I often use either one of my vehicles to visit the parks. And if a get a new vehicle, it will have a different plate.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pepper Lawrence

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 03:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pvlawrence65@gmail.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anne Scalamonti

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 05:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

annescalamonti@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I strongly oppose these proposed fee increases, which place a disproportionate burden on regular park users without delivering meaningful improvements in access or services. Tying park passes to license plates, raising transaction fees, and reducing flexibility for families and carpooling makes Oregon's state parks less accessible, not more.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Harold Tiernan

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 06:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

woodrowvian@charter.net

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

Public comment:

This proposal, no matter the rationale and minute detail, is unconscionable and immoral. Whatever the justification, THROW IT ALL OUT AND TAKE YOUR CUTS FROM OTHER AREAS. What you've done here is slam the most vulnerable group of our disabled Oregon veterans population and the result not only looks terrible, but it also stinks to high heaven.

Please kill this change. It makes us all look thoughtless, miserly and just awful.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Leanna Orange

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 06:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

brittanylorange@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The cost to use the state park for residence is atrocious.

I moved here to access the beauty of nature, and in less than one year of my relocation the fees for residents have skyrocketed. I understand asking tourists to pay a higher fee to use the services but not the people who pay taxes and live here and support the community. A locals price would be highly beneficial.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 06:09 PM

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

Public comment:

Tying a annual or multi-year pass would mean someone with 2 vehicles would need 2 passes, and would discourage car-pooling in certain instances



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Don Roberts

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 07:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

donrob@Gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Strongly opposed the changes to veteran benefits. They are already offered free access yearly to national parks and the state should follow suit. This is a money grab and shame on you. If there is an issue with funding then we shouldn't be taking it out on oregonians who typically are good stewards of the land let alone disabled vets. Look to all the tourists who come to our state and don't follow the golden rule of leave it better than you found it.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Amanda Knott

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 08:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

amandarea101@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

There is very little in this world that families can afford to do, camping being one of them. Raising rates at any time just takes away from families being able to go and connect. Instead they are forced to stay home and can't enjoy the forest because of prices... heck a hotel is cheaper. If you need to cut cost have less forest service employees wandering around. When at Wallowa Lake I see so many forest service people wandering around and checking plates and doing who knows what. Why do we need 10 forest serve people there at a time?.. especially when there are multiple volunteers.

Also, you have people who sign their life away to fight for our freedom and you are taking camping away from them. Lots are disabled and mentally need the fresh air. Taking away free camping days means they won't get out because they can't afford to and therefore they aren't getting fresh air causing an ever deeper depression. Stop thinking about making money off everyone and think about how much of a better place we'd live in if everyone could get out and camp for a night to reset themselves.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lea Jordan

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 09:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Ms.LeaJordan@Gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a third-generation Native Oregonian, I have spent many decades camping, hiking, fishing, and enjoying all that our beautiful state has to offer. These lands are not just places I visit — they are part of my life, my history, and my well-being.

As a lifelong Oregonian, I have been deeply disappointed to see so many of our natural spaces — spaces that should be accessible to all — increasingly locked behind reservation systems and rising fees. Oregon's parks are a shared treasure, and access to them should reflect that.

If the reservation system must remain, I strongly urge the State to consider a balanced approach: reserve 50% of campground sites for advance reservations and leave the remaining 50% as first-come, first-served. This would help address the ongoing issue of no-shows and restore access for spontaneous visitors and local residents.

Additionally, reservations should be canceled at least seven days prior to arrival, or the refund should be forfeited, except in cases of inclement weather for winter camping. This would encourage accountability while remaining fair.

Oregon proudly honors its veterans, and I believe this should be reflected more meaningfully in our park policies. Please consider offering veterans two weeks of free camping per year, followed by a reduced fee. They have more than earned it.

I also ask that you honor Native Oregonian seniors with a reduced-cost lifetime pass. Many of us have supported and stewarded these lands for decades, and continued access should not become a financial burden in our later years.

I am also concerned about the proposed license plate integration that would link permits exclusively to a vehicle rather than to a person. While this may appear to simplify enforcement,

it creates unintended barriers. If I ride with a friend, carpool, or am a passenger rather than the driver, I would be required to pay again simply because my license plate is not attached to the permit. This approach disadvantages seniors, non-drivers, people who share rides, and those who choose carpooling as a more sustainable option. Access to public lands should not depend on vehicle ownership or who happens to be driving that day.

Raising park fees will inevitably exclude young families as well — families who deserve the opportunity to create memories in nature just as past generations did. We are living in a time when, as a state, we need to look at the bigger picture.

Access to nature is not a luxury — it is essential to mental health. We talk often about the lack of mental health resources, yet pricing people out of the outdoors removes one of the most accessible, proven ways to reduce stress, restore balance, and heal.

If fewer people can afford to enjoy our campgrounds, overall revenue will decline, and we will find ourselves back where we started — but with less public trust.

I understand that fees exist for a reason. In my more than 40 years of hiking, camping, fishing, and exploring Oregon's outdoors, I have witnessed far too much vandalism and trash left behind for others to clean up. That said, the financial burden of these issues should not fall so heavily on responsible park users.

Please take these concerns into thoughtful consideration. Oregon's parks belong to all of us, and access to them should reflect fairness, balance, and respect for the people who have loved and cared for them for generations.

Respectfully,
Lea Jordan
Native Oregonian



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Russ Rodgers

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 09:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rrodger4@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Disabled veterans were not informed about the public hearing in December and no one in this state who is disabled veteran has heard about this reduction and many would not be able to access technology as elderly veterans in the first place to be able to comment or respond to this disrespect. Reducing a program for disabled veterans in Oregon is a disgrace. What Americans would balance a budget off the disabilities of those who chose to defend this nation. Even suggesting this is disgusting. The budget situation in this state is directly tied to the funding of illegals in a sanctuary state. The Oregon budget has no problem making way for billions in spending on illegals, but will take 2.2 million from disabled veterans with no evidence that veterans are a burden. Disabled veterans who no-show for their reservation are dealing with their DISABILITY!!! Veterans are not out to screw anyone over. Disabled veterans need you - the parks department and Oregon to step up and responsibly address this budget issue without calling disabled veterans out and making them out to be a burden. Whoever suggested this as a legitimate way to save money for the state parks should be fired immediately. In no way should state parks rely solely on lottery funds. Please stop disrespecting disabled veterans past, present and future by starting this nonsense; forcing veterans to defend a benefit they earned and were given to heal in our state parks. You knew veterans would not be able to push this mess back up hill once you started it rolling down. Shame!!!! Shame!!!! Shame!!!! Shame on you!!! Leave Veterans alone! Do not reduce this benefit for veterans at all! Sure, if a veteran is unable to show up to campsite and do not cancel appropriately then have it go against their 10 days that month, but this benefit is for disabled veterans and you are trying to remove the camping portion, which is what disabled

veterans use the most. The day use is something veterans use when they go camping, no one drives 3 hours to use day use. Please understand that I am not trying to be angry, but you have started a process against disabled veterans that is unnecessary and most disabled vets will not hear about this, have not heard about it and will not be able to come against this. If that was your plan all along, then you don't understand the sacrifice men and women of this country have given to America. Do not cut this benefit. Find another way. It is as simple as stating that too many disabled veterans would be negatively impacted, so other means have been found to cover the shortfall. Please reconsider this proposition. Keep Oregon Parks Veteran friendly and welcoming for them as they need the parks to heal. Plenty of documented research has shown this and should be honored by the state of Oregon, Oregon State Parks and our Legislature. The commission should not deem this an appropriate course of action as it goes against the principles of freedom for Disabled Veteran American Citizens. Tina Kotek set sept 7-13 as veteran suicide awareness week; how will this help veteran suicide awareness and reduction. Disabled veterans have this benefit to help with healing and this could really hurt those who use it as such. If the governor and Oregon government and departments really cared about veteran suicide, they would not continue this reduction. Once again, stop this reduction and figure out a different way then saving money on the backs of disabled American Veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

JAMIE KELLY

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 09:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

legalgirl1@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am strongly opposed to the reduction of benefits that are vital to the well-being of all Veterans. I'm a single parent Veteran and I enjoy camping with my family and enjoy visiting different campgrounds. Without the Special Access Pass, we would be unable to go camping as we simply can't afford it. Most Veterans are on a fixed income especially those Veterans who are older. Please don't take away something that we rely on to maintain healthy emotions, healthy lives. Do better than this.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bill Adams

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

LIMA31USMC@GMAIL.COM

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

Public comment:

The Oregon Park system is wonderful. The only issue I have is it is very hard to get a reservation except when they are first made available.

I am a Veteran of the US Marine Corps served in Vietnam. I do have a disability rating due to combat actions while serving.

I would propose allowing 30 days free camping yearly and keeping the free parking.

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christopher Cunningham

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Christopher.m.cunningham1@Gmail.com

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

I am a disable veteran that uses the special access pass every year with my family of 6, we wouldn't be able to take vacations without the special access pass. Before I received my V.A. disability rating, we used the pass to stay at State Parks during the time we were homeless.

Another proposal would be a program for veterans and other homeless could use state parks for temporally safe camping during off season, Duties could be assigned to help the upkeep of the park. I would suggest to include a trailer where people needing services.

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Welborn

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

william.h.welborn@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Public Comment on Proposed Changes to Disabled Veterans' Special Access Permit for Oregon State Parks

As a 100% service-connected disabled veteran residing in Oregon, I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to the Special Access Permit, which would limit free camping nights to just 10 per year and restrict it to Oregon residents only. This change represents a 46% reduction in benefits, which feels like a breach of the social contract our state made with those who've sacrificed for our nation.

For me, these unlimited free nights in state parks have been a lifeline. Struggling with significant PTSD, I find it nearly impossible to engage in activities in crowded spaces. However, the peace of our parks has been one of the few things that gets me out of the house and active. Despite physical limitations from a knee replacement and the aftereffects of a badly broken leg, I cherish short hikes and the simple joy of popping into a park—it makes me feel like my service was truly worthwhile. This benefit has directly supported my mental and physical health, helping me reconnect with nature and myself.

This shift seems deeply political, perhaps a knee-jerk response to Oregonians across all affiliations widely rejecting tax increases. While I have some resources now and could theoretically pay more, I already shoulder high taxes, and I know myself well enough to admit I wouldn't pay extra fees for park access. Removing this jewel of a benefit would negatively impact my health, pushing me back into isolation.

Beyond my story, consider the broader harm: When I was younger, state parks were on

of the only affordable recreation options for my family. These changes would significantly impact low-income families who rely on accessible outdoor spaces. Let's start working together for the citizens of this state and country—stop treating us like tax slaves and preserve these hard-earned supports that honor service and promote well-being for all.

Please do not proceed with these cuts. Honor the sacrifices of disabled veterans and keep our parks open as a true benefit for all citizens.

Respectfully,

William H. Welborn

US Army, 1SG (RET)

Silverton, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nikki Flesch

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nh6459@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a 100% disabled veteran, this is absolutely disgusting. We deserve benefits for the service we did. Oregon barely has any benefits for 100% disabled veterans as it is and they want to continue taking more away. I understand wanting to cut costs, but stop taking things away from us veterans!! I'm sure there's other areas that the state can cut down on but no... it's democratically run. God forbid the ones who sacrificed receive benefits!! What a disgrace!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicole Marie

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nmf6459@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Have to remember, many veterans who are disabled many times need to cancel last minute. Whether that's because of PTSD and is incapacitated due to a situation that made them spiral and cut themselves out of society for a bit, veterans who have pain and all of a sudden their pain spiked and just can't get out of bed, or because of their TBI they totally forgot about their reservation. There's a whole list of reasons why a veteran may need to cancel or may miss.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Adam Giblin

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

agiblin08@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

It was my understanding that the State of Oregon supports their veterans. Reducing our ability to stay at State Parks to 10 times a year is not being supportive of veterans. It is in fact a slap in the face to all veterans. I use my pass to take my kids on camping trips and spend time with family so we can escape the hustle and bustle of life. Reducing this opportunity means I will end up staying at federal and private campgrounds.

As someone who

works in government finance, I 100 percent understand the need to increase funding, especially in the current fiscal environment that is Oregon. However, I am not convinced that this agency has fully evaluated the secondary impacts of this. For example, every time I have stayed at a state park in the last year, I have had family travel with me. This results in an additional 2 to 4 sites that are paid for at full price. If I am no longer staying at state parks, then the park will lose revenue generated from those additional sites that are

booked along with me. This results in a loss of upwards of \$240 to \$336 for a 2-night trip with all of my siblings (which is common). I am just one example of this. Multiply this by 1,000 other veterans who do the same and this becomes a costly mistake that will only make your budgetary plan worse.

Additionally, I am not convinced that alternative plans have been considered. For example, Veterans that are Oregon residents continue to get unlimited stays and Non-resident veterans pay 50 percent of the regular price.

Lastly, if this is truly about revenue, the agency should be seeking an internal reservation system. As a veteran, I already pay a reservation fee on my “free” reservation. If you used an internal reservation system, the agency would be able to collect that fee instead of using it to pay a corporation. This State has the resources to develop this internally. I understand that building it would be difficult and the agency is tied into a contract, but not wanting to do hard work is no excuse to punish veterans or really any other person that would qualify for these passes.

I vehemently encourage the board to reject this change.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Terri Betz

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

myboyblue11@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

Veterans from all states should be allowed unlimited access to our State Parks! Especially as there are some in houses Veterans in Oregon State!

We should do all we can for our Veterans!

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 14, 2026 11:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

srm2828@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

We have been camping at Oregon State Parks for over 30 years and while we understand that costs go up some of the increases seem a bit high.

For example, day use fees of \$10 or more for just parking and walking down to the beach for 20 or 30 minutes seems excessive.

Oregon State Parks are a real treasure and they should be affordable for every resident to enjoy.

I also would like to include comments about reservations. While we understand that many people like the security of making reservations, we have always enjoyed the first-come, first-served campgrounds and the flexibility that offers. Sometimes you just cannot plan ahead and if you do and then end up not being able to make it, perhaps due to illness, car trouble, or other emergencies through no fault of your own , you give up your reservation fee and possibly a nights camping fee. There is no wiggle room here and no exceptions.

I would like to see campgrounds include some first-come, first-served sites in the plan. Some State Park campgrounds we have stayed at in the past (such as Bullard's Beach) have offered one loop as first-come, first-served during certain times of the year (such as from October through April). Busy months of the year such as May, June, July, August and September could continue to allow reservations throughout the entire campground. This allows for some spontaneity for camping.

We would like to see Oregon State Parks bring back some plan to allow for first-come, first-served camping. It could be certain loops during certain times of the year. It could be a certain number of sites during certain times of the year. It could be reservations on weekends but open to first-come, first served camping during the week during certain times of the year. The plan does not have to be year-round and can ensure that campers can reserve spots during the

busiest, highest use times of the year such as holidays, summer months, etc. but allows for the spontaneity of first-come, first-served camping during slower times of the year.

Thank you for the chance to make comments.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Larry McClendon

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 12:00 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mklarry57@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

What's next? Unbelievable take away
take away take away! Just so you know the citizens of Oregon are getting their fill about the changes being made in our state. It's nothing like the state i grew up in. You people should be Damn ashamed of yourself.

You're hurting the next generation beyond your grasp. SHAME ON YOU.
The bad part about this is i just wasted 10 minutes of my time just to put a smile on your faces.
Because you don't care! If you did i wouldn't be writing this!!! You've turned Oregon into a disgrace, and again you don't care. One thing you can be proud of is you you passed up Wa state. WTG



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sara

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

2233abay@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm a senior citizen on a fixed income. I can't afford a hotel room anymore so camping became my escape. Now I can't afford to go camping. I went camping last year to camp sites y'all said you were closing to upgrade amenities, nothing was done, showers weren't fixed, campsites haven't changed, employees still do nothing. You do realize the vast majority of people camping are old people on FIXED INCOMES!!! Who can't afford to stay in hotels anymore. What are you going to do FOR US!!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristie Barnes

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kadown06@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

These proposed changes to the special access pass for veterans are absurd. It is already extremely difficult to navigate your ridiculous website for campsite reservations and most of the time we aren't even able to find availability.

Instead of punishing and restricting state parks benefits for resident veterans, how about you make it more difficult for the tourists out of state/country. Make them pay more to make up the difference. Don't take away from those who live in this state after fighting for this country. Don't penalize us and make it more difficult for us to spend time in the outdoors of our home state. Most of us are on a limited income and frankly we have given enough!

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you will take my words into consideration.

SGT Kristie A. Barnes, USA Retired



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sean Midgley

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:04 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

seromi82@me.com

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

Public comment:

I am commenting as a disabled veteran and public servant of this country that Oregon needs to rethink positions and not only not cut benefits for veterans but think of ways to spread more benefits to veterans in this state. The best benefits this state offers are the State Parks benefits and the ODFW benefits. If you succeed in down grading benefits, I will become very vocal and take action to make sure I do my part to vote Oregon red! Thank you for listening.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Hayden

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kevin.m.hayden@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Attached please find my letter in opposition to the proposed rule changes to the use of the Oregon Parks Special Access Pass. Specifically, the proposals to cap free camping at 10 nights per year and elimination or reduction of the free day-use parking. While I understand the Department's need to address budget shortfalls and campsite availability, drastically reducing these benefits is an excessive and harmful over correction.

I am formally submitting my opposition to the changes regarding the Special Access Pass for disabled veterans as they are currently proposed. Specifically, the proposals to cap free camping at 10 nights per year and elimination or reduction of the free day-use parking. While I understand the Department's need to address budget shortfalls and campsite availability, drastically reducing these benefits is an excessive and harmful over correction. This change disproportionately affects Oregon's disabled veteran community for several reasons:

- Removal of a Critical Wellness Resource: For many veterans with service-connected disabilities, camping and spending time in nature serves as a vital therapeutic resource. The proposed drastic reduction will discourage outdoor recreation that is essential for mental and physical rehabilitation.
- Financial Impact on Fixed Incomes: Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes. The SAP currently allows for affordable travel and recreation within our own state. Reducing this benefit effectively prices many veterans out of the public lands they fought to defend. For example:
 - o The average cost of a tent only site is roughly \$25. The proposed change could increase the cost to disabled veterans by over \$2,700! For some lower-income veterans, state parks provide their only affordable vacation option.
 - o Oregon Parks and Recreation statistics state that 80% of pass holders don't use more than 10 nights a year. The 20% who do use the program more are more likely to be those veterans with the highest needs for these

"therapeutic resources."

o Eliminating the free day-use parking or even significantly restricting it would be just another move to a "pay-to-play" model pushing local veterans out of their own state parks.

Broken Promise: The SAP has been available as a token of gratitude from the people of the State of Oregon our disabled veterans' service and sacrifice. Slashing the benefit by over 90% sends a message that this gratitude is expendable when budgets are tight.

Page 2

I urge the Commission to reconsider this specific change as it applies to Oregon's service-connected disabled veterans. If a reduction is still required, please consider a less draconian reduction, for example, 7 days per month, 60 days per year in no more than 10-day blocks, suspension of the benefit for a specified period, if an unused reservation wasn't cancelled, etc.

Looking at how those passes are provided to non-residents may be a solution. I'm not an advocate for complete stoppage, since veterans who visit Oregon from other states, specifically those that we border, spend money in the local economies as they travel to and stay at parks. However, there should be a way to brainstorm some additional options. A few options to consider might be:

Consider reducing the benefit for non-residents to five days per month, or 30 days per year, in no more than 10-day blocks.

Consider creating a separate non-resident pass available that would allow them to park a vehicle or camp at Oregon State Parks for a reduced fee.

In closing, OPRD estimates that their proposed changes will save \$2.2 million per biennium. Essentially, they are placing the burden of their budget shortfall directly on 41,000+ disabled veterans and foster families who currently utilize these services. For all of the reasons stated above, I implore you to consider these and other options that will assist in management of the growing demand at our state park and may provide additional revenue as needed.

Above all, make sure that any change continues to provide the access and affordability our service-connected disabled veterans have come to rely on. Do not penalize our disabled veteran community in the name of revenue growth.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. Thank you for your attention and support in this urgent matter

Sincerely,

Kevin. M. Hayden

Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy(Retired)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Scot Lawrence

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

scotl76@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Having witnessed way too many instances of reserved sites being left vacant (many times, prime sites), I believe that no-shows forfeit all of their money, not just one day. I also believe that if a person cancels within one week of their stay that they should forfeit at least their first night's reservation.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff Handley

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 03:00 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

handleyj01234@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't support the limit to just 10 days a year for disabled vets. It seems a bit excessive. I do support limiting the benefit to Oregon residents only. That should give u some relief.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Christy

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 03:24 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

drk31@aol.com

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

Public comment:

You better stop trying to rape people of money in this state. You will end up losing way more money by doing this and make all your constituents incredibly pissed off. It will also cause a lot more people to say fuck it and find an illegal way to access things. You guys are a joke at this point. You want more money for parks, yet let drug use and crime run rampant. Make it make sense as to where all our money goes? You guys are actually charging \$10 a day just to park at vista house!!! Not even a place to hike or hangout. Just a 5 minute stop on the road.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Allen Palmer

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 03:28 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

palmerallen@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Disabled Veterans receive few benefits in this state. Camping privileges are an important way for us as a state to give back to these veterans for the sacrifice they have made. I agree that camping privileges should ONLY BE FOR STATE RESIDENT VETERANS, not for out of state. Perhaps a more moderate reduction from unlimited to 30 days per year would be more appropriate. Considering that Governor Kotek wants to squander OVER TEN MILLION DOLLARS of taxpayer money to "Fight Trump", how about carve out some of this wasteful spending to support our Oregon Disabled Vets.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ronald Raines

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 03:57 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

clubfit@canby.com

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

Public comment:

I'm a disabled veteran. Camping in the state parks is a way for me to get into the outdoors and enjoy and do my part in our state. I've appreciated the flexibility of booking my camping and not having the large expense that private camping resorts offer. My wife and I use on average about 20 days per year and while using the beautiful parks we are contributing to the economy of the area we visit which comes back to the state in the way of tax revenue from the businesses in the area. We also always buy firewood and ice from the park rather than from elsewhere. We try to stay away from weekends and utilize the parks mid-week when it's not as busy. So maybe instead of taking our benefits away you limit the "unlimited" portion to weekdays and set the restriction only on weekends. That would retain the benefit and help the over crowding. As an avid user of the state park campgrounds i can tell you the cancellation policies could for sure stand to be tighter, I've been to so many parks that online show "full" but many sites are open and unused, that is really the problem...the people who No Show. Charge a fee to cancel and set the timeline longer. for example: All cancellations lose the first night fee, cancellations less than 7 days prior lose 2 nights fee. If you don't show up within 24 hours of check-in you lose your reservation and then let the park rent the space. You must make it less attractive to book and ditch- that is the problem. You'll make more money and open up more sites if you stop allowing 2 week bookings with no consequence for cancelling without notice or no showing. That's another thing that is actually very hard on the booking side is the allowance of 2 week bookings? Limit the booking to 1 week and that alone will help. Please don't take away this benefit, it is much appreciated and I really don't think we veterans are the problem.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Meghan Lyons

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 04:03 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

megmarie486@gmail.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Barb Raines

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 04:07 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rainesbarb@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

This is a small way to show veterans how much we appreciate their service. Most of us don't abuse the system and we try to use the camping mid-week when the sites are easier to get. We camp in Idaho a lot and I can tell you they charge double the rate as an out of state resident so how about having an Oregon resident rate and out of state rate, that is how most states do it. Also, who really needs 2 weeks at a time? That seem excessive and only allows abuse of the booking system. Limit to 1 week and you automatically double your bookings. The cancellation policy is too weak, make it harder and a little pricey to cancel and you will open up more sites and for goodness sake if someone doesn't show up, cancel their booking at their expense. Seems like you are suggesting punishing veterans for the poor booking policies. Go after the problem instead of taking from veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sean Sullivan

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 04:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

brickf15@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

There are plenty of places to save money and make cuts, but cutting benefits to veterans is a poor choice. Veterans give the state and the nation so much, pay and benefits during service don't begin to equal their sacrifice, nor do their veteran benefits. Many states do the right thing, and don't tax their military pension (Oregon does), to further reduce their benefits is another slap in the face for all veterans. Make cuts other places, but keep veteran benefits intact!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marco Oswald

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 01:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

viaboea17@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Regarding the proposed revisions to SAP-Veterans:

- a). Limiting SAP privileges to Oregon residents makes sense.
- b). The proposed limitation of SAP-Veterans access privileges (limited to 10 visits per year) is unduly restrictive and difficult to justify. Veterans who suffer a disability as a result of their military service have paid, and will continue to pay, a debt of service to the citizens of Oregon. If enacted, the resulting revenue saved would be negligible. Almost every county road sign in Oregon pays tribute and respect to Veterans. Maintain the current access privileges, or change to not more than ten (10) days of access per month.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeanne Wright

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 03:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

elkpeoplestanding50@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please don't cut this program!

This program provides opportunity for disabled to experience nature, it is great for their well being and mental health but most important many Veterans served our country, they deserve this wonderful program! Please do not cut this valuable well worth program!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Armstrong Heather

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 04:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dublingirl_96857@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I think that there definitely needs to be some changes, especially when it comes to people reserving campsites and then never showing up. That really limits the amount of camping for people that genuinely want to be there. It's not that difficult to cancel a reservation, maybe you should have an additional fee for people who have no showed that is in addition to whatever camping reservations they make again.

I don't quite understand why you would limit veterans to just 10 free camping days a year. I'm a Purple Heart combat veteran and nature is my therapy. Being outdoors helps me heal from my PTSD, trauma and anxiety. It cures my depression better than any medication ever has. I know lots of veterans who feel the same way. Please don't take away the peace of mind that my fellow veterans and I feel out in nature by limiting the amount of days we can camp. I always pay the \$8 reservation fee and I always leave the campsite looking neat and clean. Please don't take away my nature therapy.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

patti curran

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

seascapes.bandon@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Living in Bandon on the Oregon coast for over 40 years tax payer community service relations I feel as a local resident this is not fair we are a tourist destination and have many visitors in our community which could support the needs of park upkeep
I have no problem paying fees to visit other state park but should be able to access my local beaches



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nathan Etzel

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Nathanetzel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission,

I submit this comment in strong opposition to the proposed rule changes authorizing dynamic pricing, expanding fee ranges, and reducing long-standing access protections — particularly for veterans. While presented as administrative flexibility, these changes represent a fundamental shift in how Oregon treats access to public lands and who is expected to bear the cost of agency shortfalls.

Dynamic pricing is predatory and incompatible with public lands

Dynamic pricing is a profit-extraction strategy developed for private markets. It relies on scarcity, constrained choice, and demand pressure to charge people more precisely because access is limited or highly desired. That model is **inherently predatory** and has no legitimate role in the stewardship of public lands.

Oregon State Parks are not a private service. They are held in trust for the public. Authorizing demand-based pricing for campsites and access normalizes the idea that public land should be priced like a commodity rather than managed as a shared resource.

Dangerous precedent for coastal and beach access

This proposal sets a precedent that should deeply concern Oregonians. Oregon's beaches are protected under the public trust doctrine — not just legally, but culturally. Access to the coast has long been treated as a right of shared ownership, not a privilege contingent on market demand.

Once the state endorses scarcity-based pricing for public lands, the logic inevitably extends to high-demand areas: coastal parks, beach access points, trailheads, and other irreplaceable resources. Even if the current proposal does not explicitly target beaches, it **weakens the conceptual and policy barrier that protects them**.

Public lands governed by demand pricing cease to be public in any meaningful sense.

Budget recovery should not be built on shifting blame to the public

The agency cites rising costs, increased visitation, and reduced lottery funding as justification. These are not failures of the public. They are the result of structural funding decisions and planning choices.

Yet this proposal places the burden almost entirely on families, residents, and veterans — through higher, less predictable fees and reduced access — rather than addressing the underlying funding model or pursuing equitable alternatives.

This is not sustainability. It is cost-shifting.

Veteran benefit reductions are unacceptable

The reduction or elimination of the Service-Connected Disabled Veteran camping benefit is especially disturbing. This program did not represent abuse or excess. It was a modest recognition of service and sacrifice.

Eliminating veteran access while expanding pricing authority sends a clear message: when budgets tighten, commitments to veterans are expendable. That message is inconsistent with Oregon's stated values and deeply erodes public trust.

Equitable alternatives were ignored

If revenue stability were the true objective, the agency could have pursued:

- Higher fees for **out-of-state visitors**, who benefit from Oregon's parks without contributing to state
- Sliding-scale or income-based pricing to protect low-income families
- Increased fees for premium amenities rather than blanket demand pricing
- Legislative solutions for stable, predictable funding

Instead, the agency chose the least equitable option: broad authority to charge more when demand is high.

Public response will be withdrawal, not compliance

If these changes move forward, **my family will not purchase parking permits, annual passes, or make campsite reservations**. We will not participate in a system that treats access to public lands as a revenue-optimization problem rather than a public trust.

This is not an idle threat. When public trust is broken, participation declines. I expect many Oregon families will respond similarly.

Conclusion

I urge the Commission to reject:

- Dynamic or demand-based pricing for public lands
- Expanded fee-range authority without clear, enforceable limits
- Reductions to veteran access programs
- Policies that shift agency funding failures onto the public

Oregon's parks and beaches are public goods. Once access is governed by scarcity pricing, that principle is lost — and it will be extraordinarily difficult to restore.

Respectfully,

Nathan J Etzel



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Zachary Etzel

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

zippyetzel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a 5th generation Oregonian who grew up near and often using Silver Falls State Park, I've carried my love of nature and specifically Oregon State Parks into adulthood.

“Dynamic pricing” is a fancy way of saying price gouging. It’s sketchy, it’s gross, it’s not transparent and it’s the sorta of thing that does not fall in line ethically or morally with what I believe our Parks to represent or facilitate for the public. Additionally OSP are meant to be shared & usable by EVERYONE, and price gouging does again not fit in with that ethos. Shame on whomever thought this was a good idea.

Thus, I cannot support this rule change and neither should you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chad Williams

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cjwtattoo@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

As a veteran of a foreign war it would be a gross injustice to take away the benefit this pass offers. We use it regularly and would appreciate the opportunity for continued use. It seems like we've had to fight for our basic rights and opportunities a lot these last few years in this state and I have trouble understanding the reasons for this. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE CUTS TO THE SPECIAL ACCESS PASS FOR VETERANS IN OREGON STATE.

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Thomas Majchrowski

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tfm@bendbroadband.com

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

Public comment:

I am not in favor of this draft resolution. Our veterans gave a lot to this country and state. Why do we need to reduce our thanks to these veterans by reducing their ability to use our parks. This seems like it means our legislature thinks less about our veterans but more about money. Not a good PR stand.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tim Gallagher

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 06:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

timmaryg74@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I attended the virtual hearing held on December 15. The speakers made so many good points that I almost decided not to add my comments. But, I think I should add my comments to theirs.

I am a disabled veteran. My Special Access Pass ID # is 45. A few Rangers have commented that mine is the lowest number they have seen!

I agree with all the proposed changes except; changing the number of free days for disabled veterans from 10 days per month to 10 days per year. That is a huge change that affects me directly. In previous years we have spent up to 30 nights per year in our state parks.

I personally felt that Oregon recognized the sacrifices I made for our country and state by offering me the ability to stay in our beautiful state parks, for only the cost of the reservation fee. I appreciated that offer tremendously. We always made a donation with every reservation we made.

A comment was made in the virtual hearing something like, "Nobody uses 10 days per month, so we want to reduce that." If nobody was using that many, there is no money saved by not offering a benefit that nobody uses. Offering 10 nights per month really shows how much Oregon cares for disabled veterans. If no one is using anywhere close to 120 nights per year, then disabled veterans and the state of Oregon can feel good about the offer, but not loose anywhere near the cost of 120 nights rental.

I highly agree with the requirement that SAP should be for Oregon residents only. I have talked to a few non-resident disabled veterans staying in our parks. I was proud of our state for offering a SAP to them. But when I looked at their state requirements, I could not stay in their state parks at a reduced rate as a disabled veteran. I always thought

the lack of reciprocity was unfair.

Thank you for listening,

Tim Gallagher

US Navy, 90% disabled



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judy Hays-Eberts

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 07:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

marysrivergrange@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,

We are writing with regard to the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) benefit for disabled veterans and foster families in Oregon. The Oregon State Grange has a long history of supporting family and 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 foster families and limit their access to the outdoor experiences and accommodations they deserve.

The SAP benefit plays a crucial role in supporting the natural beauty of Oregon's parks while fostering a sense of community.

We are urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to the SAP benefit. we hope to see a strong commitment to upholding the rights of disabled veterans and supporting foster families in Oregon.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Hays-Eberts

President, Marys River Grange



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mary Beckman

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 07:05 PM

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

Public comment:

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,

I am writing with regard 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 are encouraging Grange members and community Grange units to express their opinion to you directly, and to urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to the SAP benefit. The deadline for email feedback on this proposal is January 15, 2026, and we hope to see a strong 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,

Mary Beckman
Goldson Grange 868 President



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Elen Mangum

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 07:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

emsdukie@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am providing comments in reference to the proposed Division 15 changes to the OPRD Special Access Pass (SAP).

I am not in support of any changes to the existing program without further explanation to the public and specifically the groups impacted.

As the wife of a disabled veteran, and the manager of our fixed income budget, money is tight and the pass has allowed my husband to spend time in the peaceful outdoors. We are originally from Portland, my husband spent most of his growing up there and entered the service of his country as an Oregon resident. He incurred injuries during his service and was discharged in Portland to the VA Medical Center. We married in Portland and had our children. But when times were hard, we had to leave the state in search of work, settling in a neighboring state. Many disabled veterans are like my husband, dealing with their service connected disabilities and trying to make ends meet. When Oregon opened their state parks to any disabled veteran 10 days a month, he was grateful to receive one of the earlier passes. It meant he could once again visit Oregon as is health permitted. Some years no trips, other years several trips. Please do not take away this disabled veteran benefit to provide a calming recreational opportunity regardless of current residency.

I do not know out of the 41,000 disabled veterans who have passes, how many completed their service to the nation as an Oregon resident, but now are currently residing outside the state. They have ties to the state, receive care from the Portland VA system and/or have friends and relatives in Oregon which continues to draw them back. Maybe the rules to qualify for the pass should be tightened up to include a "tie" to Oregon service, independent of your current residency.

I ask the commission to seriously consider delaying any changes to the Special Access Pass

rules until a more transparent analysis of the OPRD budget issues and impacts to ALL disabled veterans are reviewed with their respective communities.

Thank you
Wife of disabled veteran who served honorably as an Oregon resident



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

R. Allen

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 07:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

notnecessarilyso@aol.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to object to the proposed changes to the Oregon State Parks Special Access Pass that are proposed without further analysis. I read the almost 800 pages of comments and listened to the December 2025 hearing.

These two groups of campers appear to have been targeted to bear the brunt of funding shortfall impacts. Their stories are very moving concerning the dramatic impacts to this benefit. Nowhere did I see a breakdown of what other budget areas were considered to meet any perceived funding shortfalls before impacting SAP. The only amount I saw was that \$2.2M could be saved with the drastic changes to Special Access Passes. There was no analysis behind that number. How was it derived? What is the breakout for the following:

- percentage of cancellations by disabled veterans? Foster families? Is this being abused and in need of change?
- of the 20% you claim use more than 10 days a year, how many do they actually use? By year? Disabled veterans? Foster families? (There are homeless disabled veterans that reside in Washington and use both the Washington and Oregon benefits to stabilize their monthly safe housing). Any analysis of how many those may be?
- how many of the disabled veterans are not Oregon residents? How many days do they use a year?
- how many disabled veterans are 0%-30% VA rated? How many 30%-50% VA rated? How many 50%-70%? How many are 70%-100%? Should the rating to qualify for SAP be changed similar to neighboring states?

Until you break out the numbers and assign a monetary amount, how can the commission make any changes to SAP? The data is incomplete that the public has access to. Also, you do not know what monetary impacts may have if you adopt any of the other proposed changes to pricing and cancellations. Give time to analyze their monetary impact BEFORE making changes to SAP.

I would ask the commission to consider asking Division 15 to provide further data analysis and monetary impacts before ANY changes take place to the SAP program. Send them back to review their budget further. I assume at one time, Oregon considered these affected groups were worthy of this 'waived fee days' benefit for respite and need to get out into nature given past traumas they may have incurred.

Please show them respect and do not implement any changes and cause them further trauma. If you eventually find changes are needed, include them in the SAP program solution.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Celeste Rodgers

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 07:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rodgersc381@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am the daughter of a disabled Marine Corps veteran. Taking away the special access pass camping for veteran as well as foster families is absolutely ludicrous. Veterans who use the parks have fought for our country and Oregon is trying to take as much away as possible. 120 days a year veterans are able to use the pass and they are trying to cut it down to 10 a year. My family has heavily utilized the parks in my growing up especially during the off season.

Veterans are used to dealing with the elements and don't have a problem camping in not ideal climate. A lot of the people we have met at the parks when we are camping are veterans. The parks are a way for veterans to heal in nature. I know that veterans have been through a lot by personal experience and yet this isn't a higher priority? If cutting veterans and foster families needs out of the budget by that much is the only solution than we have failed. Find another way because this most definitely not it.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Amber S.

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 08:31 PM

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nelson K

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 09:38 PM

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

Public comment:

I agree that changes need to be made to address no-shows and cancellations. Sites should not sit vacant while campers are looking for spots.

I do have concerns about fee increases in regards to equity and access. Everyone should be able to visit state parks and not be priced out (or park in unsafe areas to avoid fees).

I am a volunteer in the parks and realize the need for stable funding to address daily functions and maintenance. We just need to be mindful about providing equitable access for all.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Margie Taylor

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 09:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

msmargaretia@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Foster parents and veterans are a group of individuals who dedicate significant time and energy to others – to the public. Resource (Foster) Parents - support Oregon's most vulnerable residents. The camping and day use passes allow for children experiencing foster care to benefit from new and life enhancing experiences in our state parks, camping and playing outdoors. Something many of them have not previously experienced. Resource parent time, commitment, and service to the children they care for play a crucial role in strengthening our communities and the state of Oregon by caring for children who are in foster care.

Veterans have

put their lives on the line and contribute to the safety of our country and our communities. It is unfortunate to take away the monthly benefit. For many of our veterans, there is a daily struggle with mental health, and sometimes houselessness. Being able to legally spend a bit of time in nature at a state park – to be able to be at peace is a benefit we should not be skimping on. They gave of themselves to us – in Oregon and the United States.

Significantly decreasing the benefits to these two groups sends a terrible message – they don't matter, nor do the sacrifices being made on the behalf of others. If there is an issue with the multiple days per month, why not consider something a little less drastic? Maybe 7 days per month. I do not believe that the use of State Park benefits by Resource (Foster) Parents and Veterans are significant contributors to the budget downfall.

These proposed changes appear to minimize or overlook the valuable contributions these individuals make, and risks diminishing the recognition they deserve from the community and the state. It is not right, and it is not equitable for our resource

(foster) parents and veterans.

Concerns Regarding Day Use Pass Price Increases

The decision to double the cost of the annual day use park pass, as well as eliminate the two-year pass option, raises questions about the rationale behind these changes. Such adjustments make it more difficult for individuals and families to afford regular access to Oregon State Parks. The removal of the two-year pass, which previously offered added value and convenience to frequent park users is questionable. I wonder how many of those pass holders used their passes TOO MANY TIMES so as to cause this elimination. It is doubtful that many have. It would be nice if people who are using parks without paying the fees are ticketed and somehow forced to pay up. It's not unusual for me to observe individuals entering some of our larger parks and not paying day use fees or showing a parking pass. The parks I frequent most often are Champoeg, Willamette Mission, Silver Falls. I have observed long-term camper's taking over Champoeg in the winter months, piles of belongings covered by tarps and broken-down vehicles. Stacks of tires. This does not lead me to believe this is a 2 week stay... I have witnessed this in several campsites near

the off-leash area on more than one occasion. I have also observed people pulling into vacant campsites late in the evening and taking off early in the morning. No -they were not registered and did not pay.

Silver Falls and Willamette Mission see many visitors who drive right on past the kiosk at the entry to both parks. Nobody is paying attention. Until the free for all is resolved, the burden of increasing state park usage fees should not be put onto those of us who are legally and willingly paying to use the parks.

Recommendation on Benefit Restrictions

While it may be reasonable to restrict out-of-state use by foster parents and veterans from other states, it is important not to reduce benefits for Oregon's own citizens. Maintaining robust perks for resource (foster) parents and veterans within Oregon ensures that they continue to feel valued and supported for their ongoing dedication and service.

Dynamic

Pricing

The use of dynamic pricing diminishes the ability of those who responsibly plan their trips to state parks – regardless of camping or day use. It is not equitable to allow only those who can afford spendy camp sites during busy time frames. I cannot even imagine the cost when dynamic pricing is utilized. This is not equitable and does not feel very transparent for Oregon's citizens.

I have worked for the State of Oregon for over 25 years, and I recently made my first reservations for spring/summer camping. I was dismayed at the cost of \$50/night and a \$10 reservation fee. This increase is already limiting my ability to use State Parks for camping this year. I always try to make my travel worthwhile as it takes time to drive and set up camp and tear down. I will now be rethinking what I can afford as these prices are not feasible for me as a citizen of Oregon. These rates are on par with some destination rv parks and resorts locally.

Large Issue and Recommendation:

Let's look at the larger problem, reserved camp sites that remain vacant all week with someone to show up on Friday or Saturday. This needs better consideration. If the reservation owner does not show for that first 24 hours the site is forfeited and can be rented out again to either FCFS or someone on a wait list.

How? With all the technology available, there should be a way to create a stand-by/wait list that autofill's when a site becomes available. Likewise, technology can track frequent offenders who either do not pay to use the park and/or are reserving for a week or two at a time and not showing up until the weekend. Penalties can and should apply in these instances and be enforced.

Bottom line

: Crack down on those who overstay at some of the parks, focus on ticketing and collecting from those who are not paying and penalize those who book entire weeks or several days and don't show up within 24 hours of initial reservation date.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Margie Taylor

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 09:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

msmargaretia@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I neglected to comment on the License Plate reader - why are you investing money for this when it is likely to require more funding to keep updated...personally, I have 3 vehicles I may use if I visit a state park. My day use pass moves between those vehicles based on what I am doing - am I hiking, camping, or on an outing with my dog or friends? I have been camping at the coast with friends, and we want to visit another state park, I may carpool and use MY day use pass when we go. I find the license plate reader may impact my ability to use that pass as I should be able to. But of course - I suspect that this is the goal of your 'License Plate Reader'. I absolutely do not support this. Park people need to do the job of engaging park goers physically. Not pointing a license plate reader at vehicles entering and exiting a park. This seems like it will cost more money. This lacks transparency, accountability and equity.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lorelei Cameron

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 10:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

thesilentsiren@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

To make all of our state parks cost a fee is ludicrous! Now locals are avoiding the beaches we love because of a bill we didn't vote for! Not every piece of natural beauty needs to come at a price. Allow locals to visit the ocean and charge the tourists!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christopher Colligan

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 10:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ccolligan@usa.net

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

Public comment:

When evaluating changes to camping policies affecting veterans, it may be important to consider the potential impacts on housing stability, access to services, and overall well-being. Many veterans who rely on extended camping options do so due to limited availability of affordable housing, long wait times for transitional programs, or gaps in accessible support services.

Limiting camping duration could unintentionally increase displacement, disrupt continuity of care, or place additional strain on local shelters and assistance programs. Consistent, stable accommodations—formal or informal—can play an important role in allowing individuals to maintain employment, attend medical appointments, and engage with veteran support resources.

Consideration may also be given to whether sufficient alternative options exist before implementing time limits, and whether exemptions or extensions could support those actively working toward permanent housing solutions.

Thoughtful evaluation of these factors may help ensure policies balance community concerns with the unique circumstances and service-related challenges veterans often face.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michele Hammer

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 10:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

CAMPRED@BENDBROADBAND.COM

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

Public comment:

I understand the need to revised certain fees and rules but the idea of dynamice pricing will effect a certain group of Oregonians more than others. Many citizens will not be able t o afford the increase in the cost of staying at Oregon Parks. As an example, I went to make a reservation (not during peak summer times) and the cost had jumped from \$32.00 night to \$50.00, that's an insane increase of more than 30%. With the cost of EVERYTHING to live increasing faster than income, state parks should be accessible to all, not just increasingly limited number of Oregonians.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Carl Wiley

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 10:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cwiley@ccaservices.org

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

Public comment:

Regarding the draft rule to alter the Oregon State Parks Special Pass for Disabled Veterans, I wish to submit the following statement as an Oregon native, Disabled Veteran, and retired Airman with 24 years of service in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, and across the United States. I include my organizational background as it informs my perspective not only through personal experience, but also through anecdotal experiences of the thousands of Clatsop County veterans I have interacted with and advocated for during my three years as the sole County Veteran Service Officer in Clatsop County. I thank you in advance for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

My 24 years of service provided many opportunities to experience the world, serve my country, and earn pay and benefits to support my family. Some of those opportunities were wonderful; others were terrible. The latter exposed me to the horrors of natural disasters, war, and humanity in some of its most broken and depraved moments. These were experiences I was called upon to endure. I did so honorably and faithfully, but not without lasting repercussions.

I rarely refer to myself as a Disabled Veteran, yet my integration into civilian adult life has brought the reality of my service-connected disabilities to the forefront. From difficulty assimilating due to panic, depression, and heightened trauma responses from war; to pain, numbness, tingling, temporary blindness, vertigo, and numerous other symptoms caused by the physical strain of service; to the uncertainty of whether a biopsy will confirm the presence of lymphoma from exposure to fine airborne particulate matter and other toxins in the Middle East —I not only experience my own pain, but deeply empathize with that experienced by Oregon veterans.

Continuing to serve and advocate for veterans is a blessing and one that I believe gives me particular insight into the matter at hand. One benefit I use regularly is special access to Oregon State Parks. Being outdoors brings me peace and offers an opportunity to reset both mentally and physically. I have heard this same sentiment echoed by many other veterans. Another common concern shared with me is the growing difficulty of affording the cost of living in Oregon. I share that concern and believe that a reduction in special access would result in my getting outdoors less. I will not speculate or catastrophize about what that might look like, but I do believe it would hinder my ability to manage the symptoms described above in ways I have found to be deeply beneficial.

While I understand the realities of budgetary constraints, infrastructure maintenance, and the continually rising costs associated with them, I believe that removing or reducing veterans' benefits in any capacity is wrong. We are rapidly approaching a time when the entire veteran population will consist of individuals from an all-volunteer force. We volunteered. We served. Many of us did so in war, or during a time of war. Whether a particular conflict was right or wrong is a matter of opinion that I will leave to the reader, as it has no bearing here. What does bear relevance is that we upheld our oath. If the war we were called to was wrong in the eyes of the reader, please know that had we been called upon to fight in a war deemed right in the opinion of the same, we would have upheld that oath just as readily.

Please, I humbly ask that you reassess. If cuts have been made everywhere else and veterans' benefits are the final option for preserving the parks, then make the necessary adjustments—but please consider using hand pruners rather than a chainsaw.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christine Drazan

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 10:53 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule changes to Oregon's state parks system, particularly those that would reduce access for veterans and foster families.

While I understand the Department faces budgetary pressures, I cannot support changes that significantly curtail the Special Access Pass program. Veterans have sacrificed in service to our nation and foster families offer vital support to Oregon's most vulnerable children. The proposed cap of 10 free camping nights per year represents a drastic reduction to these groups.

While the proposed changes would reduce waived fees, this savings comes at too high a cost to those who deserve our continual support. Instead, we should continue to identify operational efficiencies or return to augmenting the parks budget with General Fund dollars, as we have done in the past.

We should be expanding access to our state parks, not limiting it through higher fees and reduced programs. I respectfully urge you reject the proposed limitations on the Special Access Pass program for veterans and foster families.

Sen. Christine Drazan



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bonny Wagoner

Date comment received:

January 15, 2026 11:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bonnywagoner@msn.com

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

Public comment:

While I understand the need to make up for the shortfall in the budget, I don't understand the radical change to disabled veterans benefits. Changing from allowing ten days per month to ten days per year is jaw dropping. If it's a problem of no-shows, change the policy to if you reserve it and don't use it, you pay for it. That should change the attendance for those who don't cancel their reservations, as they should have. May I request meeting somewhere in the middle so the change isn't so extreme? Perhaps cutting the benefit in half versus the whopping 90% cut that is currently on the table.

I also wanted to comment, I hate the idea of floating rates based on demand. Set your fees so everyone knows exactly how much they will be paying. I'm sure you can add up what you need to make, divide it by 365 days per year and set that for the year.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Deanna Dotson

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 12:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

demachmo@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Reduction of Disabled Veteran Camping Benefits

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Leadership,

I am writing as an Oregon resident and a service-connected disabled veteran to strongly oppose the proposed reduction of Oregon State Parks camping benefits for disabled veterans.

Under the current policy, disabled veterans are allowed to camp in Oregon State Parks RV or tent sites for 10 days within a 30-day period, which is a reasonable and meaningful benefit. The proposed change would reduce this to only 10 free nights per year, which is an extreme cut and would

significantly diminish access to Oregon's public lands for the very people who have already paid a lifelong price in service to this country.

For many disabled veterans, camping is not just recreation. It is one of the few accessible and affordable ways to decompress, manage chronic pain, reduce stress, improve mental health, and reconnect with family. Oregon State Parks provide a safe, structured environment that many veterans rely on precisely because it is stable and predictable.

While I understand the Department's desire to manage growing demand and control costs, balancing the budget should not come at the expense of disabled veterans. A reduction of this magnitude sends the wrong message: that Oregon is willing to roll back earned benefits once they become inconvenient or expensive. Once we begin taking benefits away from veterans, it becomes a slippery slope that erodes trust and undermines Oregon's stated commitment to honoring those who served.

If the Department believes a limit is needed, I urge you to consider a reasonable alternative such as 60 nights per year, rather than just 10. A higher annual cap would still help manage costs and demand while preserving this benefit as something truly meaningful instead of largely symbolic.

Disabled veterans do not stop being disabled after 10 nights. This proposal shifts the "support" into name-only while stripping away the real-world value of the program.

I respectfully ask Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to reject this proposed reduction and maintain the current policy, or implement a more reasonable annual limit that reflects Oregon's commitment to those who served and sacrificed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Deanna Dotson

Oregon Resident

Service-Connected Disabled Veteran

Winston, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Les Brundidge

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 12:23 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

the_handier_man@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon State parks

No one wants prices to continue to climb up, but that's what is happening everywhere. I'm sure that the parks are low on funds like the rest of us.

My biggest concern is the changes to the SAP for disabled veterans.

I have heard that 80% of disabled vets use less than 10 days a year. And if the 20% that do use more includes out of state disabled vets, then make the SAP for Oregonian's. There can't be a big difference to the budget.

Sorry if this is my second post since I never saw my first post show up.

And I felt really kicked out, when I happened to see what changes that the parks were planning. Let disabled veterans that use the SAP know about changes that are planned.

Camping is good for my mental health. This is a big reason I use the campgrounds.

Good luck with your choices.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Mayfield

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 12:23 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

avdlmayfield@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

My wife made a booking yesterday for a site in July. Last season \$36 - now \$52, more than 40% - That's nuts to have an increase like this.

OPRD wants another "top cost" of \$80, at their leisure.

No reduced labor costs, expenses, travel, expensive conferences vehicle fleet - NOTHING has been managed to NOT place the OPRD shortfalls/shortage on the public. Making these proposals prior to doing the work to raise revenues as suggested in many previous comments is lazy.

Really, OPRD proposes to raise the fees and reduce benefits of the disabled veterans and foster children.

Where are Oregon values?

Many, many people have spoken. Many emails written & phone calls made in opposition.

If you are wanting to help get the parks back on track you can volunteer for an advisory position. You should email OPRD. I missed the director comments at the December 15. I wish I were able to attend that live virtual event.

We cannot let this continue. We have had OPRD for nearly a century. We are the parks. The OPRD needs common sense, RVers, campers and people that understand the needs. I couldn't believe when they put out the reimagine stuff. Reimagine not having to ask what is necessary.

Nearly every business and all government agencies face budget problems and use hard work and ingenuity to make it work. OPRD has nearly 6000 personnel to help get answers - I believe these great people know what is necessary and would reject charging a 40% plus increase and then for low that with a dynamic sliding scale.

OPRD definitely requires oversight. OPRD boasts a perfect audit. How can that be? No mention of reservation problems, lost revenues from the no shows, contractor over runs or even over use of vehicles - no suggestions or concerns. Probably should take a good look.

Let's all help and get faith restored in OPRD.

Lack of time, typed on phone - not easy in this one inch box. I would recommend a future fix.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Dotson

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 12:54 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

demachmo11@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm an Oregon resident. I'm writing as the husband of a service-connected disabled veteran with PTSD.

Please don't cut the disabled veteran camping benefit down to 10 nights per year. That's basically taking it away.

This isn't about getting something for free. Veterans already earned it. They signed up knowing they might not come home. The least Oregon can do is let disabled veterans camp in a state park.

Camping helps my wife more than most people understand. It helps her calm down, sleep better, and feel normal again. It helps our whole family.

If you need a limit, fine. But make it a real limit. 40+ nights per year makes more sense. Or just leave it the way it is now.

Disabled veterans aren't asking for much. They're asking to sleep on the dirt.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lisa Linnell-Olsen

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 12:55 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

elytrablue@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

No changes should be made to the Special Access Pass for disabled Veterans.

Our Active Duty service members and Veterans have provided an extraordinary level of service, sacrifice, and protection to our society. For many, that service continues to shape their lives long after their military careers end—particularly for those living with service-connected disabilities.

As a healthcare provider who works closely with Veterans, I see firsthand how access to outdoor spaces supports both physical and mental health. Time spent in nature can reduce pain, improve mobility, ease symptoms of stress and trauma, and support long-term well-being. Providing **all Veterans with disabilities**, regardless of state residency, access to Oregon's parks allows them the opportunity to rest, heal, and re-create themselves in the beauty and wonder of our state.

Oregon's current policy reflects leadership and compassion. Rather than reducing access or limiting the time allotted to disabled Veterans, Oregon should continue to model a higher standard—one that honors Veterans fully and without unnecessary barriers. The cost of maintaining this access is minimal when weighed against the public health benefits and the value of supporting those who have already given so much.

Additionally, extending this benefit regardless of state residency likely bolsters Oregon's economy by encouraging Veterans and their families to travel here, experience our parks, and engage with local communities.

I strongly urge the department to preserve the Special Access Pass in its current form and to continue Oregon's commitment to honoring disabled Veterans through meaningful access to our natural spaces.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Olsen



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

ted willams

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 01:47 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

ted4ted@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Absolutely no excuse for this. The state has more than doubled the price. Why is your budgeting shortfall our problem? There's always some excuse for something. It's Bad enough that paddle boards need permits starting this year without you guys hitting the public with this disgusting increase. It's time, we definitely need an internal investigation to see why you guys can't figure out your finances. I can't remember the last time I saw a state Park employee working besides when they're taking money. It's not like this is a temporary increase. And what's the comment period really gonna do? Is it gonna change your mind and turn this increase back around? I think it's time for a change. No one is Smiling about this beside you guys.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maggie Kinman-Cook

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 01:51 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

wastes-ace.4k@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

Raising the prices will just drive people onto boon docking illegally. It's our parks, our State. Raise prices for non Oregon residences.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lauri Malone

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 02:05 AM

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

Public comment:

My husband gave up a significant portion of his health and well-being to this country in the Vietnam war. He was seriously injured, endangered and deprived of being in his home and with his family in that war. The ramifications endure to this day.

One thing he still really enjoys is staying in Oregon's terrific state parks. Recreation in the natural beauty of Oregon contributes greatly to his quality of life, which is so greatly impacted by his sacrificial military service.

We normally spend approximately 30 days a year camping and riding our horses in state parks, as well as accessing day use areas. On these trips we spend money in tourist establishment as well.

We are both on fixed incomes, and losing the access we currently enjoy in state parks would be quite an impact to our lifestyle. We wouldn't pay more. We wouldn't be able to go. You wouldn't get any more money from us.

It's a disgrace and a slap in the face to our national heroes to reduce their access to state parks.

Laura Malone

laurimalone56@gmail.com

Oregon resident and veteran's spouse



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard Randleman

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 02:09 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

randlemanr@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Often times camping is one of the few activities that disabled veterans, foster and adoptive parents can afford because of Oregon Parks' SAP program policy that has been a tremendous benefit. In my experience, the issue is not keeping the 10 days per month limit, it's the vast number of out of state campers that occupy many weeks and months through multiple reservations. If we want to put a camping limit on people, it should be on out of state campers who do not pay Oregon taxes. Limit them to 10 days of camping per year as you are proposing for SAP, and open the camping up to Oregon residents who will be happy to get those spots and leave SAP as is at 10 days per month.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Barb Gordon

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 02:55 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

gordonbarb@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please keep your camping prices affordable for seniors and families to experience the beautiful campgrounds in Oregon.

Thanks



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tricia Marchand

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 05:42 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

tricmarchand@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

The more we increase these fees the less accessible the outdoors are to people who are living on a fixed income. Parks should be for everyone to enjoy and not just those who can afford it. These price increases are dramatic and unfair. Dynamic pricing also hurts a lot of people who work 9-5 and have off the same days as a lot of other people. This is really frustrating to see.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dana Dufka

Date comment received:

January 16, 2026 04:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ddufka@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

*Reflections and Comments about Proposed Fee Changes:

10 free nights of camping per YEAR is a reasonable offer- at any campsite - not restricted to one campsite- and would be much appreciated if I were in that category.

A small reduction of price in day use passes for foster families but not necessary for veterans.

'in-state' Oregonians should have reduced price on services. Out of state visitors should be paying a higher /double fee than that of residents..

CANCELLATION POLICY:

As with air bnb/ hotels/ airlines - full refund granted within 24 hours of cancellation, - half refund within 2 weeks of making reservations, NO refund if cancellations after that, or some system comparable to what is expected in the private travel sector. .

\$45 for a tent site is expensive. 10-30 is within range for a site/picnic table/firepit

\$35-80 for an RV site is more than reasonable

As park sites across the state vary greatly as far as amenities offered, the day use fee should mirror those amenities. In state visitors should have a 50% reduced rate from out of state visitors.

Thank you,
Dana Dufka



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dan Keeley

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 07:25 PM

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

Public comment:

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission,

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) benefit for disabled veterans in Oregon. Maplewood Grange has a long history of supporting veterans, particularly the homeless and disabled, and we are concerned about the proposed reduction in their SAP benefit.

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 10 nights. While 120 nights does seem more than anyone would use we should remember this is a low cost way to show some appreciation to those who have served and are now in need.

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

Sincerely,
Dan Keeley
Maplewood Grange