



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Beth Nesser

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 04:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bethnsr@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I travel in my RV to Oregon State Parks year round. It is very frustrating when people don't show up. Other states do not refund for late cancellations & no shows so I totally agree with these new rules.
Thank you!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mary Davidson

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 04:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

marehr.rv@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Although no one wants to see rules change and fees go up I understand it will be a necessity to keep the state parks running smoothly and open.

My husband is a veteran and although we used to use the veteran pass often we're not using it as much anymore. Personally I think 10 days a year is still generous since many people just take one or two vacations Per year.

I primarily use the state park system for horse camping and deeply appreciate the availability, especially on the coast of Oregon. I know many many people from different states that drool over what we have here for horses.

I noticed on the rate change that some horse campgrounds it could go up to \$80 and I'm assuming those are the ones with full hook up which are very few and far between. This would be on the high end of what I would be able to afford to do. The changes made a few years ago we're only allowed one RV could be in each site made camping more expensive for most of us because we used to share sites. Nehalem for example now has four horse corrals in some of their sites but still only allow for one RV. If the site is big enough I feel like accommodating for two is justified and will help keep the cost down for campers but still generate money for the state park.

I agree with the rule changes on Reservations because often in horse camp it will show that everything is full but there will be half the sites available. This is frustrating for those of us that want to come over but it shows no openings when there are. if I have made a reservation and I end up having to cancel I don't mind paying a bit for the cancellation.

Thank you for the opportunity for input and look forward to another summer of Horse camping.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gary Stiles

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 04:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

minuteman1120@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled veteran living in Washington State, I would like to provide comment about the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass. I currently enjoy having a Oregon Parks Special Access Pass. I visit many of Oregon's beautiful parks often. As a low income individual the free access partially makes up for the high fuel costs we all are experiencing. If the proposed changes are made it would be financially impossible to travel to your state. I ask you to consider that disabled veterans served not because of a particular state, but for our entire country. I understand the financial dilemma Oregon is currently facing but please consider the sacrifices all disabled veterans have made. If, after careful consideration the decision is made to remove disabled veterans living in other states from the special access pass program, I respectfully ask that you grandfather those who currently have the pass to be able to use it until their expiration date.

Thank You,
Gary Stiles



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kelly Eakins

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 04:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kellyeakins@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support all the proposed changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Angela Nicholas

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 05:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

angela.nich@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with most of the proposed changes, especially the no-show cancellation policy, as it has been frustrating to try to find a camping spot at a state park, only to see that multiple spots are empty as they are no-shows.

However, please reconsider the reduction of days for disabled veterans' passes to only 10 days. My spouse is a disabled veteran and the veteran's pass is one of the main motivators for us to choose OR state parks when camping.

Thank you,
Angela



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristen A

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 05:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

teacherkristen101@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the cancellation fees and the "no-show" fees, especially since people pay online for their reservation and it would be easy to charge the card.

Increasing the daily fee does not seem to make sense since a lot of parks have a drop box for the fee and no one to monitor whether someone actually pays or not. It seems a bit redundant to increase the fee if people don't already pay. If you all decide to increase the rate, it will only make sense if you have someone staffed to make sure that people are paying and/or are showing the right pass.

Speaking of passes, unless there is a true bleed in funding, capping the free nights to 10/night/year is a bit tight. My husband (disabled vet) and I, use that pass frequently, and we are grateful for it. Each year, I would approximate we spend 12-16 nights in the parks a year. Doing 3-4 nights in a park for a quick vacation. One thing that the parks my want to consider is a monthly cap, or how long people can stay per park. Understanding that some people may be taking advantage of it and may actually be vagrants. I believe it is 10 consistent nights is the maximum people can do now, per park, so cut that down to 7?

But I believe this also circles back to staffing. If these new rules are going to be placed, who is actually going to enforce them?

I appreciate the parks greatly and have a goal of visiting all of them! I hope whatever you all decide works out for the best.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jerry carlson

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Seadragon194@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

Just a 3rd generation Oregonian, with an opinion.

1. State parks have premium real estate. But charge park users as if it is not....a symptom of depending on state finances or US government grants.
2. Resorts or hotels costs 100 to \$500 per night, for beach or mountain access, plus fees/ costs food ,drink, lift tickets, etc.
3. RV owners can afford 500,000 to a million , Airstream trailer cost 30,000 to 100000 used or new....this people can pay even higher entrance/use fees.
4. Suggest look at pricing to self support the park system as any business would, but as a non profit...
5. Talk with county park leadership , to also increase their rates...
6. People will pay the higher pricing, may complain at first, new and future visitors will just see the higher fee as SOP.. People are paying thousands to go to Disneyland or on a Carnival Cruise...they will pay , even if they have to save.
7. Don't dwell on past fees, protect the park system, and don't try to serve everyone.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

cynthia chilcote

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cyndi.chilcote@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

the fees will now make it very difficult to use state parks for family vacations - it will be the same price to rent a hotel/motel room with nice beds and free breakfast - we can visit the park - but the camping will be a thing of the past for my family



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brianna Isaac

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

briannamisaac@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hi, long time state park goer here. Been staying in yurts nearly 30 years and various other camping opportunities throughout the year.

I completely agree with the need to limit refunds. This past summer we were at sunset bay over the weekend. Prime time, not a single site available for months, yet walking the campground it was nearly 1/3 empty. No shows are disappointing for everyone else as they remove the opportunity for others to get out and explore nature. I also acknowledge that it's hard to plan a camping trip on a one days notice. So a 24 hour cancellation doesn't feel like enough time for someone else to plan.

I would like to see a 14 days notice no charge cancellation, yes you will lose your booking fees. And then something like 50 percent refund with less than 14 days. And no refunds within 72 hours.

Something else I've thought about is the possibility of an increased surcharge for out of state campers and/or early booking for Oregonians. There's probably mixed opinions on this but it seems like so many license plates aren't from Oregon. If state funds are supporting state parks it would be nice to residents have some form of benefit.

Also not sure how I feel about the term 'dynamic pricing' rather seasonal pricing and the concept of off season discount. The rates example is a steeper increase than I would hope for. Would rather focus on getting full campgrounds with actual campers vs reservations.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Eric Windham

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

eric.windham@multco.us

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

Public comment:

Good morning,

I am federally accredited as a veteran service officer through the ODVA. I work with veterans every day and am myself a veteran who served 8 years in the US Navy. Many of our service connected / disabled vets use our state parks to recreate. I believe that there are better ways to balance the budget that does not involve reducing this benefit for those who served. I would like to see what percentage of campers are disabled veterans that are using the park pass. I can agree that if there is a reservation and the camper does not show up, that should be considered as counting towards the 10 days per month. If you are able to respond with the metrics on the utilization percentage of the disabled veteran pass in regards to the total number of campers, it would be greatly appreciated.

R,

Eric N. Windham



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ted Vorwerk

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

snowzone600@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran and am truly grateful for the generous benefits the state of Oregon has offered me. I am particularly grateful for the free camping in the beautiful Oregon state parks. I always thought that 10 nights a month was way more than necessary. I think that reducing it to 10 nights a year is still generous but is too big of a cut. In my opinion 15 free nights a year would be great as a family could comfortably plan a 2 week vacation. Thank you
Ted Vorwerk



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeffrey Albanese

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 06:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ALBANESEJSB@GMAIL.COM

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

Public comment:

I want to express opposition to OPRD introducing “dynamic pricing” to reservations at our public parks. State parks are an incredibly important public good that should remain accessible to the public in a fair and transparent manner.

So-called “dynamic pricing” has fueled inflation and record corporate profits in recent years in the private sector. Pricing access to our public lands should not follow these same private sector practices that have been so damaging to the well being of our society.

I acknowledge the Department’s need to raise revenue, and support the other proposed changes to do so. However, “dynamic pricing” based on demand violates the basic principles which the pricing of public goods and resources ought to follow. It is non-transparent, and will further entrench the economic inequities that are so stark in our society today. Access to public lands should be priced in a way that treats us as citizens, not as customers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rob Romo

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 07:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rrromo3@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't agree with limiting military disable people to 10 days a year. I think it would be fair of 7 days a month.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pam Ferguson

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

usfergs@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

We can't afford to go to the parks now on our income. The prices are why you see so many parked in wide spots along roads and in forests. There are too many employees (paid) that are not necessary in these times you need to cut back on your costs also just as we have to to adjust our budget to make it on the higher prices of essentials. We won't be able to stay in Oregon state parks even once or twice if prices go up. What about the regular disabled not just the veterans?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kim Messier

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

goldenhands_kim@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

My husband and I recently went to Harris Beach State Park only to find that it now requires payment to park for day use. The problem is there were only signs with QR codes and no other way to pay, such as payment drop boxes like in campgrounds. Not everyone, especially older people, use QR codes, and some people may not even have the ability to use them on their devices. So, therefore, a whole segment of the population is being denied access to using our parks. Please provide drop boxes or kiosks that accept credit cards or cash, such as there are for parking on streets of Portland or in parking lots in Bend in order to make the parking accessible to all.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Moriarty

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pmm@igtc.com

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

Public comment:

What about charging out-of-state park visitors a higher fee?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janelle Boehrer

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

janelle.boehrer@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon has plenty of revenue. Start uncovering the spending on illegal aliens. They received money, healthcare, education and SNAP benefits, as reward for entering the country illegally. Americans do not receive these rewards. Veterans and seniors receive much less. Start cleaning out the corruption and stop sticking more taxes to working American citizens.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Travis Saxton

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Travis.saxton@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't support this change. If we someone was serious about saving funds there are plenty of other government overspending programs to cut out

The parks have already been paid for, the taxes stolen every year surely cover it. If you need help cutting extra cost, let me know. Glad to help reign the government back anytime.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christopher Reed

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

chrisreedsf@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

How about you stop charging fees for oregon citizens to use their, already paid for, public land?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff Jenson

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 08:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

firejenson939@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Where does this shit stop? Our state just rammed a huge tax increase down our throats and now all the state ran programs are wanting to add more fees?? Sooner or later your constituents are all going to rebel and not give you people another cent!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Barb Lutz

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 09:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

barb.lutz80@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support the new rules around cancelations and no shows. I agree rates for foster and veterans should be for OR residents only — it is a state park after all. Have a senior rate for OR residents. I support day fee increases.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Liam Burke

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 09:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

elbeats@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Variable pricing is a bad idea, instead ORPD should improve the user interface to help Oregonians get use from the park system, and thereby increasing revenue.

1. Reservations/Cancellations:

No refunds for cancellations until another party pays for the site. Special access pass days will be used/refunded the same way. That way, no-show and last-minute cancellations still gain revenue. Instead the focus should be to improve the notification system for interested parties to get available sites. (See #2 below)

Open for booking half the state 6 months in advance. Open the rest 1 month in advance. These two tiers will benefit both early planners, and working people making plans right before employer scheduling (ORS 653.412-490) kicks in. This will reduce the status quo problem of wishful reservations and then cancelling/ no-shows. Improvements to the website and notification system will help chances to cover for people who have to cancel last-minute due to unforeseen circumstances.

2. Improve the website for reservations:

Add a form/field to website to notify user of cancelled reservations for either A. Specified campsite any dates, or B. Specified date but variable location.

Improve search function for available sites. User inputs date(s) requested, website returns entire state system availabilities. User can reduce scope from whole state down to region, park, campground, or campsite. Filter functions should include: specific campground, park, or area within variable distance. Trailer size limit, hookups, sewer. Vehicle parking spots, approximate tent count, additional parking. Amenities like water, showers, vendors, visitor centers.

We would love pictures tied to the map system so we don't have to rely on 3rd parties if we

aren't familiar with a particular area.

Let's not price out working families because our system is sloppy. Let's put the people first.
Thank you, Liam Burke



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Malcolm Ash

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 09:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mash@dreamstreetre.com

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

Public comment:

I am a regular visitor to many Oregon's state parks. Both for day use and camping with an RV. I support the need to increase revenue and keep our parks in good condition. However these rules as presented are not acceptable. You are leaving out the detail. What is the change/cancelation policy that will actually be applied? Is it x% within 7 days, 40 days,????

You state a range for an annual parking pass. I have been buying these for years. But are you raiding the price for \$36 to &100? Not acceptable. Im guessing the range has specifics behind it. The public deserves to know those specifics in order to provide comment.

And what about out of state residents? Are you going to change them more? I believe this was started, but see no reference in your proposal differentiating in-state/out-of-state pricing.

In summary this proposal gets a D-. Finish your work and resend CV to the people for comment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephen Ankrum

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 09:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

steviewankrum@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The fees charged for state parks in Parking, Camping and licensing are excessive and any raise in cost are a true disappointment to the hard-working Oregon residents. You are taking our Oregon natural resources from the people that live and pay taxes in this state.

Its a shame that you see these resources and dollar signs.

We demand accountability for existing money spent and to reduce the costs.

Thanks

Steve Ankrum



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joshua Caudle

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 10:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

caudle.joshua@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon keeps raising prices to enjoy the outdoors. We can't afford it!! The fee increases will only guarantee only the wealthy can afford to use state parks. Please find ways to trim the budget and keep our resources affordable for families. We all have to deal with tighter budgets. Its time the government trims the fat like the rest of us. Instead of raising prices.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sean Scott

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 10:58 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

williebwalking@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Our family is camping about 75% less at state park because of all the rate increases. I should be able to bring my RV and one car. But no, I'm charged for that car. If I tow it in, there is no fee. This makes no sense. I shouldn't have to pay over \$80 for a two night stay. The \$8 reservation fee is absurd. And \$30 per day is equally absurd. We go to BLM land now and have a way better experience.

You are losing money because people don't feel it's worth it. It's around \$100 for a weekend with a car now...when it should be closer to \$50. We would camp all winter long at \$50 a weekend.

Run it like a business. Winter time rates of \$20. Summertime rates of \$40. Quit charging out of state people more. We want them to come and spend their money on gas and groceries. Quit charging for an extra car if it fits in your spot. Quit charging \$8 for a reservation fee. This can be paid by debit card for around 50 cents.

The camp hosts can handle 90% of the park. We don't need 5 people there to run it. So many things just don't make sense.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kirk Barnes

Date comment received:

December 1, 2025 11:50 PM

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

Public comment:

Adamantly opposed to rate increases. Oregon State Parks have been raising prices for years now with the excuse of maintenance and upkeep. Prices were raised and "no" maintenance or upkeep was accomplished anywhere. Now you all are raising prices again due to budgetary incompetence and unnecessary overhead. If Oregon State Parks actually concentrated on parks and got rid of programs no one uses (very few) maybe there would be money to run the parks. Do we really need guided trips around a state park to look at signs identifying trees? Park users pay for the signs (unneeded) and then have to pay for park employees to give guided trips to one or two people.....

A year from now you will all try and raise prices again due to lack of income because no one is going to spend \$25 for day parking.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Melodee Worley

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 12:00 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mldworley@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Per looking over these new rules, I feel the cancellation policy is reasonable, the Special Access Pass is unreasonable, Why on earth are you going to punish residents. Or even visitors to the Oregon Coast, you seem to be trying to eliminate tourism. I thought it was one-sided that if I drive a car I must pay, but if I'm riding a bicycle or walk into a fee park, I'm exempt. Most people from the valley have to drive, again seems like you're trying to stop tourism. Folks depend on tourism to survive as a business. The license plate integration seems a little invasive, is this a way to track people? It seems to me this short-fall of \$14 million, whoever is in charge of these monies, maybe needs to look deeper into how it's managed. Perhaps there are some things that could be eliminated. Maybe look into counties getting more involved. Or local townspeople. I know some parks have camp hosts, perhaps in exchange for their services offer them free camping versus pay. Maybe just plain and simple manage monies that are available versus living above your means. Parks that get more winter weather, close them. These are my opinions. Thanks for allowing me to share.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Charlene Wells

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 12:20 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

charlenew111@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

I am a senior citizen on a limited fixed income. If you raise annual use passes from \$30 to \$100, you are pricing me and a lot of people right out of purchasing that. Instead of raising more money, you are going to raise less in the long run as well as cutting off access to many of us who worked hard all of our lives and do not deserve to have this becoming so extremely expensive. I think that enough money is wasted on other things that you need to rethink your budget and where you are spending money.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Leslie Gecy

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 12:35 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

lesliegecy@aol.com

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

Public comment:

I am a senior citizen on a fixed income. I like to visit local state parks to relax. I have purchased an annual pass for a number of years. raising it from \$30 to \$100 (more than 150%) is out of line. I am sorry, but I get a 2-3% increase in my income a year. Please keep your annual raises in line with that. And please look for ways to trim your budget before you increase fees that dramatically. For example, how about eliminating that awful looking and unnecessary new visitor center at Smith Rocks. The existing center is sufficient and more in-line with the natural landscape. How about eliminating daily lawn mowing at the Parks. Once a week or 10 days would work just fine. And grass is much healthier when kept a little longer. There is insufficient visitation at Clyde Holladay park for 3-4 Rangers running around with lawn mowers every single day.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William combs

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 01:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

vontue2018@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

The proposed change to camping passes for Veterans with service connected disabilities from 120 days per year to 10 days per year is an absolute slap in the face to veterans. Budget issues are understandable, but basically all but eliminating Disabled Veterans benefits is an unacceptable method to close funding gaps. A phase in process gradually reducing free camping for veterans to a lesser amount of 7- 8 days a month would be a more reasonable solution. Oregon has always supported its veterans who compose a very small percentage of the population. Don't make Vets carry the weight of a budget issue. Thanks you. William Combs. United States Air Force 1978-1982



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cathy Larsen

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 01:24 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cathylarsen.go@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Parks are part of our identity, not a business. Access to our outdoor space is necessary, healthy and what makes Oregon unique. We take pride in the fact our state supports this through affordable access for all. As such, access for residents should be a public service funded under the general fund tax revenue. Non-residents should pay an increased fee. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judi Irving

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 02:10 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

3334judi@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the proposed changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrew Bice

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 02:10 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

andrew.d.bice1@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the reasons for making these recommendations, however, reducing the ability of our Oregon resident veterans to only 10 nights per years is a drastic measure. Where you are proposing SAP for residents, you should be able to apply the same logic to the number of nights per month, versus reduction based on year.

I am curious where all the funds from the lotto and Marijuana sales is going, as it seems to not be going towards things it was intended for.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Royce Kallerud

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 02:19 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

roycekv@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support these changes. Anything that effectively disincentivizes leaving campsites empty is worth doing. Thanks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Timothy Benesh

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 02:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

11150tdb@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Being a lifelong Oregonian, I am especially proud of our State Parks and understand that they are struggling to survive in this fiscally constrained environment. While I understand the need to generate more revenue, I wonder if the cuts to the Special Access Pass benefits need to be so dramatic. Granted, I am one of the beneficiaries of those benefits and as such am concerned about the loss of these benefits not only for me but for others like me. While I totally agree with limiting this benefit to only those that reside in Oregon, going from a possible 120 days per year (for Service-Connected Disabled Veterans) of waived facility deposit and overnight rental fees to 10 days per year seems a bit extreme.

If we compare ourselves with those states around us, we will find that we are already more conservative than they are. Our neighbors to the North seem to offer unlimited camping for this group (<https://parks.wa.gov/passes-permits/get-park-pass/lifetime-disabled-veteran-pass>). Our neighbors to the East offer what seems to be unlimited camping with a 14 day max stay in a 30 day period at one park (<https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/disabled-veterans-application/>). While our neighbors to the South offer what seems to be unlimited camping with a 30 day max stay in a calendar year at one park (

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30958).

If the type of proposal that is on the books is adopted, we will be once again treating our Service-Connected Disabled Veterans nearly like the general public. However, maybe considering something like a limit of 10 day maximum per month for a maximum of 6 months would help cover some of the budget shortfall but not as extreme as proposed.

If we are really looking to raise revenue, I would suggest taking a very close look at the self-pay parks and note that on my visits to these areas, I often see cars parked with no displayed proof of usage payment. Additionally, there are numerous parks that do not charge non guests for trailer black/gray water dump services. This is very much a place of loss revenue that certainly is a major expense.

It is possible that the two aforementioned areas have been closely reviewed for revenue generation but if not, before we take a significant benefit away from our Service-Connected Disabled Veterans please review these areas.

Thank you for asking for the public's opinion and for reading what I have written. Please reconsider these cuts as we (Disabled Veterans) have given so much and are often the forgotten people of our State.

Timothy Benesh

29 year retired Navy Veteran with Service-Connected Disabilities.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephen Silvis

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:03 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bridges97213@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran and very much appreciate the SAP program afforded Oregon veterans. I agree that this should only be afforded to Oregon resident veterans but think the change from 10 days a month to 10 days a year is too extreme. I would be in favor of a change to 10 days every 6 months. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

CORINNE SPOTTS

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:11 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cespotts@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Our Oregon state parks are beautiful and well maintained. My husband is a disabled vet and we enjoy our camping pass. However, to limit camping to 10 nights a year from 14 days a month is a drastic cut. In my opinion, maybe rreduce it he free nights to a week every month. Also discount the camping fee to Oregon residents and charge more for out of state campers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Rowell

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

matt@mattrowell.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the changes to refunds because people abuse the system by booking up sites at popular State Parks 6 months in advance for the maximum 14 day duration and many of them don't end up using them. There is no consequence for doing this considering the refund policy is lax. Same-day or no-show refunds should have NEVER been allowed. 100% refunds should only be possible 60+ days in advance, from that point make it a partial refund to discourage this abuse of the system.

I agree that Special Access Passes should only be available to people with an Oregon address. However, the cut-backs to the amount of nights you can book are very drastic. Going from 14 nights per month for foster families and 10 nights per month for veterans to just 10 nights per YEAR is a huge change. Why would you penalize foster families and veterans to make up for a budget shortfall? Why not something more reasonable like 5 nights per month?

The variable rate pricing with seasonality sounds like it would be unfair to low income families. It's already very difficult for a family to take a vacation during Spring Break because every travel expense is 3x or more than normal. Camping is one thing families can still do that costs the same. Everyone should have access to Oregon State Parks for the same price all year round.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Audrey Benson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

audreybenson14@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

1. Big support for stricter cancelation guidelines and fees associated.
2. Could there be middle ground for out of state Veterans and Foster kiddos? Maybe reduced amount of free nights, day passes, etc. Or at a discount so they are still incentives to spend \$\$ in Oregon as opposed to other states?
3. 25\$ for a day pass is simply too much
4. I would not be excited to see private businesses in state parks in the way of leading activities, building structures, etc. That becomes slippery, and takes away what makes the parks great- they are great because humans have little to do with them. But, what about partnering with private companies for brand deals. Like, a Subaru/Oregon state parks collaboration would be sick.
5. Dynamic pricing based on demand would stink. The popular parks may only become accessible for higher income people. Weekends, holidays- that makes sense.

Thanks for reading! I love our parks!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Patterson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:38 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jlpatrickson26@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

It sounds to hear that adopted and foster parents only have 10 days a year to go camping. Our family goes camping to several different state parks both in our local area as well across Oregon. It's sad to me now knowing that my kids may only get one week of camping for the whole year versus camping throughout the summer and spring time. That means we won't be spending all the extra things we do at state parks for them, allowing to see other parts of Oregon part of being an adoptive or a foster parents being able to have those passes so that our kids can experience things that they normally wouldn't get to experience and now that's being taken from them. I suggest that with there is no time limit on the special passes don't penalize us because we actually use the parks, maybe start paying those that are from out of state more for parking and our state parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sharon Johnson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:58 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

wrightj@canby.com

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

Public comment:

Get a grip on costs without raising prices. I've been in this state 40 years and have gone to the falls down the gorge without having to have an appointment, now that has changed which is bull.....now you want to charge vets unless they are from Oregon, well maybe they should charge Oregon for protecting this liberal, out of control state. You need to use the money you get more wisely - live within your budget like most of Oregon residents have too. And stop charging people for things that we already pay for with our income tax, our property tax, our inheritance tax, plus all the fees for registrations, licenses and gas. Oregon doesn't have a money problem it has a problem with how they spend the money they get.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Shannon Arnold

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

shafer0475@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to oppose the change from 10 nights a month for disabled veterans to 10 nights a year. There are many Veterans who use the outdoors as therapy. Some of us have a hard time in normal urban settings among populated areas, and we rely on getting away into nature as a way to decompress. Many Veterans can't afford the fees for State parks, so having access throughout the year without the financial burden is important to them. I personally know Veterans that live full time in their vans and/or campers, relying solely on retirement or VA disability pay. Mostly they travel around and disperse camp, but it is also good to have access to State Park amenities. As a disabled female Veteran, I feel safer in some parts of the state being in a park. Please reconsider making this drastic change that affects many who served and sacrificed for our country.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Scott Brown

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:32 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

scottb572@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm okay with most of the rules changes except for the increased fees, or ANY fees for that matter on Day Use State Park Passes. State citizens already pay way too many fees and charges, and taxing them on using THEIR parks that they already have paid, and continue to pay for on an ongoing basis is outrageous. Many folks can barely make ends meet, and a day trip to a state park was one thing they could still do, but the extra fees are putting that out of reach for many state citizens.

I also hate the VENDOR FEES. This should be done at a state level, and paying a 3rd party to handle this sucks. We need to get profit making entities OUT of public recreation. We pay the state to handle this, not pawn it off onto a 3rd party to do THEIR job.

While I'm at it, the Dynamic Pricing sucks a bit too. Figure out a price and stick with it so folks can budget, not everybody has disposable income to cover increased costs.

DONT MAKE PUBLIC STATE PARKS UNAFFORDABLE TO WORKING CLASS CITIZENS!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Cast

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:34 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

williamcast73@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am for active duty and resident Oregon veterans getting this discount, the changes being suggested are a dramatic shift from what is currently offered to veterans and active duty. It appears more like a money grab from a state government that can't figure out how to budget.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Scott Rattay

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:37 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rattays@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am in opposition of the proposal that reduces disabled veterans access to free camping to only 10 nights per year. This is an extreme change, and I believe it is a benefit that veterans have earned and should keep.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Zmolek

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bszmolek@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am pleased ORPD is making adjustments to address the budget shortfalls, raising rates for non-residents, demand pricing, cancellation policies to address chronic overbooking and no-show behaviors that have made it exceptionally difficult to obtain campsites at Oregon State Park campgrounds. However, please be careful not to price out low income families and make it more difficult for them to benefit from and enjoy the excellent Oregon State Park campgrounds. I didn't realize that non-resident DV's are eligible for the SAP and am in favor of the the Disabled Vet SAP changes except for the 10night/yr limit and propose a 20night/yr limit. I doubt DV SAP holders are causing the campground shortages. Many DV's are retired or unable to work and so enjoy time outdoors camping so 10nights doesn't seem reasonable. Sincerely, Brian Zmolek



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:42 AM

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

Public comment:

I think having Park fees at all limits people and low income families, making the parks something only for people with extra money. You have to pay a fee to park, to paddle, to boat, to fish. I mean, what is left?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Frank L Lengele Jr

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 06:37 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

freebird6856@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Once again the state raises prices because of a budget deficit is it due to prices, corruption or just plain stupidity, service men and women gave up their lives and youth for this country as did disabled veterans, There is no balanced budgets no oversight just frivolous spending by this administration, it is un American to forget why the 1% who to this day protect and defend the country from all enemies foreign domestic and liberal asshats



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Amber Olson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:20 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

amberolson156@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think that what you are proposing is a wonderful idea. I hope that it will make a difference and we can continue to enjoy our parks at a cheap cost. Thank you!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lou Crist

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:22 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

Loucristmusic@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled vet, senior on social security I barely have enough money to go to the coast. Being able to camp provides the only vacation I can afford. A more reasonable reduction might be 7 days a month with a max of 35 days per year.

Also depriving foster families the ability to access affordable natural recreation will effect the quality of their care and education.

If there are 41,000 vets and 4,759 foster children in order to save \$2.2 million you're saying each vet and foster family are costing the state \$ 48.

I doubt any vet or foster family are using the full amount of fee waivers unless they are homeless.

So obviously you are just depriving low income people acessability.

An larger increase in out of state fees would be reasonable.

Oregon state parks are much nicer than federal parks and as such should command much higher fees for out of state visitors.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anthony Asbach

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:08 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

anthony.asbach23@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose the proposed Division 15 rule changes because they rely too heavily on increased fees, penalty-based revenue, reduced benefits, and dynamic pricing mechanisms rather than demonstrating fiscal responsibility and disciplined budgeting within OPRD. Instead of addressing structural inefficiencies, the proposal shifts the agency's budget shortfall directly onto Oregon residents, particularly those who depend on our public parks for affordable recreation. Eliminating same-day refunds, removing no-show refunds, restricting access-pass benefits, and expanding price ranges for campsites and parking is not a sustainable financial strategy—it is a short-term revenue patch that avoids the more difficult but necessary work of evaluating internal spending, operational redundancies, and long-term cost management.

Agencies that face budget pressure should first look inward: assess staffing models, administrative overhead, vendor contracts, technology expenditures, asset lifecycle planning, and cost-per-service delivery before defaulting to user-fee increases. OPRD's proposal provides little evidence that these internal analyses have been meaningfully performed or communicated. Without transparent benchmarking against comparable agencies, it is difficult for the public to trust that fee increases are justified rather than simply convenient.

Furthermore, relying on penalties (no-show charges, forfeited benefits, restricted discounted access) distorts the purpose of state parks. These measures effectively monetize uncertainty—punishing families whose schedules are more variable due to economic or caregiving responsibilities—while simultaneously allowing OPRD to avoid the budget discipline expected of every public-facing department in Oregon. A well-managed agency should not depend on last-minute cancellations or price escalations to stabilize its finances.

If Oregon State Parks is truly experiencing a structural budget shortfall, then a transparent, comprehensive budget review should precede any rulemaking aimed at shifting costs to users. This includes clear documentation of cost drivers, efficiency efforts, capital planning, and

potential areas of internal savings. Raising fees before demonstrating that existing funds are being used efficiently is the opposite of fiscal stewardship.

For these reasons, I urge OPRD to withdraw the proposed Division 15 amendments and instead focus on responsible budgeting practices, internal cost controls, and transparent financial planning. Oregon's parks should remain accessible, predictable, and affordable—not a place where fiscal gaps are filled by penalizing visitors rather than improving agency efficiency.

Learn to balance a budget, quit taking away benefits for veterans, and quit hurting Oregonians.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Laura Duncan

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 02:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lduncan23@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a camper, I am completely in favor of this long-overdue change. It is harder to get a reservation in a park than a ticket to a Taylor Swift concert, and frustrating after all that effort to see numerous reserved but vacant spots once you finally get to your spot. People are taking advantage of this overly generous policy. I don't think high season pricing would be necessary if the refund policy was tighter.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alec Rice

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

alec.rice@eclecticproducts.com

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

Public comment:

Pay to play is not a welcoming approach. Dynamic pricing hurts those that only have vacation times during holidays. A \$5 fee to park at Smith Rock for a 3 hour hike is not what Oregonians deserve and increasing this will only limit access to those with more means. This should be free and paid for by an excess tax like gambling, cannabis/alcohol/tobacco, or even a small % from the fuel tax.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

DAVID Blessman

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 03:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dblessman@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Please don't limit the SAP allowable days. All the rest of the changes are fine. Thank you.
David USMC



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephanie Crowell

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

stephnpat1234@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I strongly agree with restricting foster family, and veteran Discounts to only Oregon residence and agree with Even even More restrictive refund Policies. Additionally, rates could be further increased for non-Oregon residents .



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

KEITH WINDISH

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

windishkeith@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think an investigation needs to be done to figure out where all the money is going. Now its parks-it was DOT. When does it end? Service-connected VETs live on tight budgets and camping is one recreation that is inexpensive.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike Kutansky

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mkkutansky@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I'm hoping that there is no change to the 10 nites a month free State Park camping for us Disabled Veterans. I understand that costs go up and by living on a fixed income believe me I am well aware of the issue. However the 10 free nites a month are such a relief for us both financially and mental health wise!! Please consider no change to our Disabled Veterans camping at State Parks benefits for us Oregonians!

Thank You

Mike Kutansky



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

AMELIA PERRIN

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ameliaperrin@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good Morning!

I completely support these changes! I really agree with the implementation of dynamic pricing. Thank you for all that you do.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ben Van Meter

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

benvanmeter@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

If citizens of Oregon are supposed to be the primary benefactors of Oregon's state parks, then all other options must be pursued before reducing Special Access Program benefits. The non-resident fees should be significantly increased, management should improve efficiency and eliminate non-essential services or projects, seek partnerships with non-profit organizations, lobby the legislature, etc. For example, Idaho charges non-residents at Farragut State Park \$68-\$84 a night for during peak season as both a way to generate revenue and also preserve opportunities for Idaho residents. Rangers and park hosts need to be more vigilant about campers fraudulently claiming to be Oregon residents for the reduced rate and be more willing to issue citations as a way to ensure discipline and generate revenue. Also, a ballot measure to direct a percentage of any state revenue surpluses ("kickers") to state parks would be helpful too and it's hard to imagine most people being unwilling to support our state parks. For non-profit partnerships, Scouting America requires youth to complete a project that benefits the public/community to earn their Eagle Scout badge. This would be one potential resource among many for cost avoidance in park improvement projects. With some creativity and innovation, there are a litany of appropriate methods to address state park needs.

Bottom line: Reducing benefits for Oregonians that volunteer to serve our country (and have a disability result from that service), Oregonians with disabilities in general, or Oregonians that volunteer to foster children is a reprehensible and unacceptable method to reduce a budget shortfall when Oregon State Parks leadership has not exhausted all of the aforementioned possibilities.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kara Long

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 04:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

karajlong@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

All seems reasonable. I would like the 2 year park pass to remain available but it will not cause me to not support the parks.

I am glad to see something more done about "no shows" .

Can you offer those sites after a certain time with no contact from the person who reserved it a First Come First Served to generate more income?

It would be nice to find a program to partner with that could offer reduced fees on the day use and/or yearly pass to those on a fixed income. Maybe partner with OHA to find a grant to help people get outside? Not reduce the price you receive but offer a way to help offset the price increases to those that need the help?

We love our Oregon/County and Federal Parks and will always support what you all do. Keep up the great work and feel free to reach out if there is anything I can do.

Kara



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jack Lindsey

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:03 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jng121799@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I truly believe that OSP should not give a refund for those that do not show up. The parks need the funds for up keep and staffing. My wife and I struggle every time we try to get into a park to camp with our RV and the few times we have been able to get a site the park is supposed to be booked up but it's at best 50% full.

We have only canceled twice that I can remember and I would gladly let the parks have the money rather than a refund. So they can keep the parks maintained.

I also think people that reserve sites with no intention of occupying them should be stopped. Hope the rules change, maybe Washington will change also.

Thank you

Jack



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steve Derrickson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

steved1@bendcable.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not reduce the number of days for free camping on Disabled Veterans. This is my main source of recreation during the year. **Ten days a year is not enough.**

Although I have a service connected disability I have paid taxes in Oregon for over 50 years. I have a large family and when I go camping I am always accompanied by family that pays for 2 or more additional spaces.

Please do not reduce the camping days for Oregon's Disabled Veterans!!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Justin McQuiddy

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jmcquiddy1@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I believe the changes to SAP that target specifically Veterans and Foster families will do more harm than good. You propose it'll gain 2 million in revenue but already the usage of SAP for those that have it is not high now. I believe if you change it veterans specifically will most likely just stop using the parks. It's a big middle finger to those who served this nation and a betrayal of trust.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Weston Patterson

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 05:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wespatterson2@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

It's an absolute travesty that the state would reduce the number of nights per year for foster families and disabled veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

joshua grabner

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 06:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

joshuagrabner@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm very glad to see this in the proposed changes. I have noticed people abuse this to get there dates in advance of the 6 month booking window by 1 week. This is a very positive change that looks to deal with people shortening there stay at the beginning of that window. Thank you for acknowledging this.

(dc) Reservations made for six or more consecutive nights that are later shortened will be charged the nightly rate for each night removed in addition to a transaction fee for the change. This rule applies to shortening nights at the beginning of a reservation, not at the end of a reservation. ¶



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ted Seay

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 06:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tseay11@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I would like to provide some feedback as a frequent visitor to the camping facilities at many of Oregon's parks. I recognize the need for the budget shortfall to be addressed, but I would like to offer some perspective from a lower-middle class family who is working hard to afford the facilities at these parks.

I agree that the cancellation fee structure should be changed for cancellations and no shows and I think that would open up more of the empty spaces that we always see at our favorite spots.

However, I would like to please ask that you keep the parks affordable for us. We do not make \$300,000 a year and cannot afford more spikes in the prices and I think many families like us would agree. I would like to suggest, instead, that you create a fee structure based on the length of the pad and not the popularity of the park. I think that the proposed change would favor the more wealthy travelers and turn away families that will not be able to afford the best parks.

As well, the electricity and water use of the longer trailers is magnitudes greater than the usage of smaller RV's, tents, and travel trailers.

Please consider this request and we hope that this change does not keep us out of our favorite parks in the years ahead.

Best,

Ted Seay & Family
Medford, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Holmberg

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

holmberg304@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Reducing the disabled veteran benefit by over 90% seems a bit much. Since most don't use their benefits fully, it would do little to reduce overcrowding. It could be at least 14 days so in state disabled veterans could have two weeks of use. Same for the foster/adoptive families. Most of the other changes seem reasonable.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Aldon Caron

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

aldonc@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with some of the proposed rule changes, disagree with other parts of it and notice some areas that aren't covered.

For cancellations - I generally agree there is a need to tighten up cancellation (and make it more expensive) as it's difficult to get reservations now.

For this item:

Refunds vary based on how long the reservation was held and how close to arrival it is canceled.

It seems how long you have held a reservation is irrelevant - how close/distant to the reserved date is what will help determine how easy it is for someone to reserve a site. I know other states do this and it seems especially tough to administer.

For Dynamic pricing:

This just seems to be a tool to enable future variable pricing or raise prices without another review of the action by OPRD.

If you give a max amount, the fees will eventually get there without review.

SAP

I agree. If the people have this gift from the OPRD and are abusing it, there should be some level of enforcement.

Day Use

Wow! I was camp hosting when the latest day use fees went into effect and it was chaos. The

rangers spent a SIGNIFICANT amount of time administering this. Now, a potential increase of >200%?

Other

There is no mention of out-of-state fee adjustments. I know they were recently raised but Oregon is still lower than most other states. Oregon residents pay more for the parks in other ways (Lottery funds could go elsewhere if not for the parks) so the non-residents should get a bump up.

Likewise, international visitor fees. I have been to European parks and, as a US citizen, I pay an additional tourist fee.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Pitts

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

drpitts2@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

No more governmental controls on OUR parks and campgrounds. We RV often but seldom use the parks & campgrounds due to all your restrictions and unavailability. Reservations??.....we can't reserve in advance when we do not know the time in advance that we would be available to use it. \$\$\$\$....It is already approaching unaffordable to stay in campgrounds for us. If the fees and restrictions increase then it will for sure eliminate us and our families from enjoying OUR parks and campgrounds.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Rydquist

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rjrydquist@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Benifits like these military, veteran and specifically disabled veterans earned these benifits. By doing this you not helping Oregonians and specifically disabled veteran.
To be honest I'll take my camping trips out of state.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Taylor Boudreau

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

boudreau.taylor@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand opening up the options for increasing pricing, however dynamic pricing is not the way. This is not an equitable pricing model, and benefits those with more flexible schedules instead of allowing for demand to ebb and flow based on a set price, but with all folks paying the same.

Please keep equitable pricing, and set pricing to allow for sustainable management of parks. Parks are for the people, and pricing should reflect the bare minimum pricing to provide the bare minimum services requested by the people the parks are serving.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Artyom Sayenko

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 07:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

a123say@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The day use rate increases are not a good idea, especially since a lot of Oregonians are struggling to make ends meet. And now they won't be able to enjoy our beautiful state with their families. Especially on the parks that people drive by with their families for a picnic or to enjoy the sunset. Now with higher rates it discourages Oregonians who might not be really well off to enjoy the wonderful parks our state has to offer.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mu Tru

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mutant_truth@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

In your proposed rule:

736-015-0015 (5) (b) "Refunds will only be provided if changed or cancelled in accordance with department policy. Refunds may be restricted based on the period of time a reservation is held."

I find this open-ended, mysterious, arbitrary rule totally unacceptable, and I question whether it is legally sufficient to pass muster under the APA. Your policies can change at any time, for any reason, and be as generous or as punitive as you like, with no public notice or any other kind of accessible process. You could decide tomorrow that any cancellation done five months in advance results in no refund. The day after that, you could change the policy to provide a full refund up to the day of arrival.

You are, in effect, asking every visitor to assume 100% of the risk: the moment a reservation is made, you have the option to keep all the money even if the person doesn't or can't use your service.

If you have data that shows more than 1-2% of cancelled sites are actually going unrented when a campground is full -- one of the only situations where a cancellation would deprive you of revenue -- establish a rule describing cancellation penalties that address the problem, such as "no refunds seven or fewer calendar days before arrival" or whatever time period reflects the data you have showing when people make last-minute reservation. For a full campground in summer, even given your dynamic pricing scheme where I would expect you could price low-income campers out of the market, I would be surprised if cancellations a week before a stay would go unfilled assuming the reservation system supports waitlists or lotteries.

When you are under financial stress, this is exactly not the time to start eroding our trust in you by adopting impossibly vague rules that could be abused by a future administration.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Regis Krug

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hikerinoregon@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand and support the need to increase fees to keep our beloved Oregon State Parks open.

I am in agreement on the Cancellation policy, except that you should be very specific on what the refund percentage is based on the number of days prior to the reservation date that it is cancelled.

Dynamic pricing rates should be clearly spelled out for every state park on their individual website and EASILY found.

Special access passes (SAP) should include a mechanism for low income residents to obtain passes at a reduced rate. Without this, our parks become an exclusive playground for the more affluent.

Keep the 2 year passes at a discounted rate, similar to the current discount rate.

ALL state parks should be run and operated by OPRD, not outside vendors. All proceeds from Oregon state parks should go back into the parks.

DO NOT set fee RANGES. This opens the door to increasing fees WITHOUT input from the public.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kendra Rasmussen

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rasmussen.kendra@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a foster parent of seven years, who has cared for over 20 children in that time, I ask that you reconsider the reduction of the special access pass. Children who have experienced trauma, can benefit greatly from being outside and I have personally witnessed this. I have seen children who are struggling to the point of becoming destructive, have a complete reset by spending time outside. This benefit has been a great help to our family as well as many friends of ours (fellow foster parents). And it's one way we feel supported by the state of Oregon for the work we do.

In regards to the proposed changes to the cancellation policy, I am supportive of the change (for SAP users and general population). There is no where else that you can no show on a reservation and receive a full refund, including anything from hotels to hair appointments. I think implementing a cancelation policy will help to ensure camping spots are available for those who would like to use them and generate lost revenue on the available spots.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 08:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

skoehne@comcast.net

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephany Koehne

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 09:03 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

skoehne@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

As someone who operates a limited, public service budget, I totally understand the financial constraints agencies find themselves in right now, and as a avid user of the state park system, I can support most of these proposed rule changes. The one that I disagree with is the reduction of the number of days disabled Vets and Foster Families receive. Going from 10 a month to 10 a year seems drastic, as I know of an elderly, disabled Vet, who has chronic illnesses due to water he consumed while at Camp Lejune and truly, one thing he enjoys and brings joy to his life, is his ability to go camping through this program. If he were to have to pay the full rate, he would be limited in the amount of time he (and his wife of 60 years) can go camping, and honestly, after all the disabled Vets and Foster Parents have /are giving to society and a societal good, don't they deserve this small piece of joy? Perhaps middle ground could be achieved on this one change, either by limiting the amount of days to 15 per quarter or go with a more reasonable reduction of 25 stays per year and any remaining stays outside of the 25 be paid at a discounted rate.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

CR Lindsay

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 09:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

crlindsay2020@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon State Parks already increased fees for day-use parking (from \$5 to \$10 in January 2025) and reservations (from \$8 to \$10 in January 2025) **to address a budget shortfall**. Camping fees are also increasing, with additional hikes planned for the future. In addition to the price increases, an expanded 25% out-of-state surcharge for all campsite types will be implemented on July 1, 2025. And, 21 additional park locations will now add Day-use fees. Why can't Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept. manage their budget with the large amount of Lottery Funds they receive? Perhaps the \$8 million shortfall is due to people NOT using the resources due to the amount currently charged, the cumbersome reservation system and their lack of solid customer service and backlog of maintenance to parks, trails and other historic places. This agency is one of the most well funded of all state agencies, yet they can't manage their budget and have come up with 'creative' ways to increase revenue. No more refunds, dynamic pricing for campgrounds (you'll never see your favorite again), Special Access Passes (foster kids & veterans) and day-use fees- all being changed to benefit Oregon Parks & Rec and not the end user. Now, they want us to dump more money into their Reservation System that doesn't work correctly. Where does it end? It ends with people not camping, not visiting day-use areas and not visiting historical places.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt C.

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

unclempc10@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I generally support the proposals. And I appreciate the Oregon State Parks system. For the special access passes (foster families and veterans) I would like to see a way to allow more stays but shorter, and not in the same park. For example, five nights in three parks. This would encourage visiting the parks. I don't know how this would be tracked though. I And this would be for families/vets residing in Oregon. I support eliminating all special access for nonresidents.

I'm concerned about the increasing cost of parking fees. I don't mind fee increases but I hope there is a way to continue to allow the annual passes at a reasonable cost. While I generally don't like dynamic pricing I hope it is done based on the season, not on real-time activity. I would oppose any system that changes the price to park the same day - for example, when I'm driving to the park the rates go up because it's busy. I hope annual passes would be a protection against daily price fluctuations. I don't think any of us like surprise pricing!

Thank you again.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Hibberd

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bvhibberd@msn.com

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

Public comment:

The stricter the better! I know numerous people that reserve several spots in different campgrounds on the same dates, until they decide where they are going. They then cancel the ones they don't want, at the last minute. If a person cancels within 10 days of a registration, they should lose 50% of the cost, no matter what the reason is!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard Caldwell

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rjcaldwell1988@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled Vet that takes advantage of the free camping, I would be terribly disappointed that the rule changed to 10 days a year instead of 10 days a month. There are not that many housing options for disabled vets, and this would greatly reduce those said options. I do not currently camp for much more than 10 days a year at State Parks, but in the future I had hoped to take advantage of the 10 free days a month on a monthly basis. There are much better things that could be considered to make up the shortfall other than taking another privilege away from a disabled Vet.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Tatum

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bobtatum@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

As a retired disabled veteran, I have enjoyed the benefit of using the Special Access Pass to stay for free in Oregon State Parks. I am troubled that the SAP benefit is being reduced to only 10 days per year. Oregon has very few benefits for disabled veterans or veterans in general. I find it hard to believe that so many disabled veterans are using the SAP that it is affecting the parks annual budget. It would be helpful if the parks department budget was transparent enough to see the "lost revenue" from disabled veterans using the SAP.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Courtney Walters

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 10:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Crw541@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hi my name is Courtney walters and I'm am opposed to the new fees for parking at cline falls state park and increased fees for parking across the state. I understand the rising costs of everything and park matenience ect but clime falls state park is redmond one of 2 public access points to the deschutes river and everything else around us is desert. Cline falls is an oasis in the summer for a town that doesn't have many points of access to the water and I worry about people being able to cool off during our extreme heat in the summers. I know it's unlikely that anything will be done in regards to this message but I actually think this is a cruel choice for this area given our geographic location and limited ability to access the river already.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Racheal Davis Davis

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 11:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rmorley_419@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the rule changes but I would add that those who don't cancel their reservation in time and/or "no-show" should face a penalty beyond the lack of a refund, especially if it is a repeated offense. It is so frustrating to not be able to book sites and then when you're at the campground you see multiple empty, yet reserved, sites.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patrick Acree

Date comment received:

December 2, 2025 11:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pacree@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

Dynamic pricing is bullshit.

Set one damn price and stick to it.

I don't want to show up at a state park and be told it's 20 bucks today because it's some idiot's birthday.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Wanda Schreier

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 12:12 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

faerae@poisonidea.net

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

Public comment:

I work for a rural County Veteran Service Office. Many Service-Connected Disabled Veterans that I encounter enjoy the outdoors. To have waived fees & deposits for them to enjoy all of Oregon's scenic beauty and 10/nights a month is great. However, I disagree with changing this to only 10/nights a year. This proposal is too restrictive. I would prefer that it stay the way it is now - 10/nights a month. I realize that the parks department is having funding issues but trying to make up the short-fall on the backs of service-connected disabled Veterans is just wrong in my humble opinion. Please reconsider the rule and support our Veterans who have done so much for us. Keep the 10/nights a month. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joseph Toepfer

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 12:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

anotherday700@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Yeah how about we stop trying to tax our citizens to death? Why do I need to pay fees and tax to the king to enjoy the outdoors my family and ancestors flourished and lived in?
No more additional fees and the current pricing scam system needs to be dismantled. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Laura Kazlas

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 12:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

llkazlas@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with reducing the Special Access, Foster Families free camping nights, but it should be reduced to 14 days, not 10 days.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

karen kennedy

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 12:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

winkenagain@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

It looks like a fair plan for future flexibility.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ben Ritter

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 01:36 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rit3299@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon state residents have been shouldering a number of cost increases over the past decade:

- Home prices in many Oregon cities (Portland, Bend, Hood River, Eugene, Medford) have increased 30–80% in the last few years. Meanwhile, average wages have not kept pace.
- A surge of higher-income remote workers migrating from California and Washington has pushed prices far beyond what long-time residents can afford.
- Even renting has become difficult, with year-over-year rent spikes and limited supply.

Even without a statewide sales tax, Oregon residents face growing property taxes; increasing DMV, registration, and licensing fees, steep SDC (System Development Charges) fees for any home construction; vehicle fees that have doubled or more in the last decade.

Since 2020 especially, thousands of remote tech and professional workers relocated to Oregon. Many arrived with significantly higher incomes or equity from selling homes in the Bay Area or Seattle. They bid up home prices, bought investment properties, and reshaped local market norms. The result is a two-tier state: long-time residents with local wages and new wealthy residents with out-of-state salaries and housing equity.

This has created structural inequity that's extremely hard to reverse.

Given the high number of out of state visitors using Oregon's State Parks, and given the untenable economic reality facing Oregon residents, I would like to see any fee increases to

Oregon State Parks be primarily placed on out of state visitors. This could include ONLY increasing parking fees and day-use or annual passes for non-residents (common in WA, MT, CO). We could also add a tourism lodging fee earmarked *specifically* for state parks. Even a \$1 per-night “outdoor stewardship fee” could raise millions with zero impact on locals. We do this here in Bend and it funds a significant part of our local projects.

Oregon has seen an influx of wealth from California and Washington, yet the state doesn’t fully capitalize on it. A few policy levers that do not raise taxes on middle-class families could include a luxury real-estate transfer fee (applying only to home sales over a certain threshold (e.g., \$2M+)), a second-home surcharge which has been used successfully in CO mountain communities.

Oregon also spends millions on tourism promotion (Travel Oregon). Meanwhile, infrastructure that supports that tourism is underfunded. A policy shift could reallocate 5–10% of the promotional budget to State Parks and Recreation, create a “maintenance-first” mandate before destination advertising. This would avoid burdening residents while applying tourism dollars to tourism impacts.

Oregon residents (especially middle class residents) have been financially punished enough over the past decade. Please consider looking for alternative sources of income to avoid putting this burden on so many of us who live here, pay taxes here, work in the local economy, love and care for the beautiful places in our state, and just want to enjoy them with our families.

Thank you,

Ben Ritter



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

T Mykland

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 01:41 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

tekitte@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm writing to comment on the proposed reservation and cancellation policy changes. I work in a job where it is genuinely difficult to know whether I can leave for a camping reservation until fairly close to the arrival date. Under the current system, I've always cancelled responsibly within the allowed window and paid the \$8-10 reservation/cancellation fee.

I'm concerned that the new rules may eliminate the ability to cancel up to 3 days before arrival without losing the full cost of the reservation. For people in unpredictable, service-oriented jobs, this flexibility is what makes it possible to camp legally and responsibly instead of holding reservations we aren't sure we can use.

I encourage OPRD to preserve the option to cancel at least 3 days before arrival with only the standard \$10 fee. This maintains fairness for working Oregonians, discourages last-day cancellations and no-shows, and still supports the agency's need to manage revenue and availability.

Thank you for considering the needs of visitors whose schedules are not entirely within their control.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gabriel Karr

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 01:55 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

karr.gabriel98@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I believe that cutting access to Oregon State Parks for disabled veterans by restricting their pass days from a potential 120 nights a year to only 10 nights a year is quite frankly despicable. What are you state park managers trying to be a mini little D.O.G.E. now? You say this is to save money and yet give no indication of how much money this will save. How utterly undignified and disgraceful a policy change this would be.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Housdorf5425

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 02:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mhonthehill@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dan Sproul

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 02:19 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

dswwsproul@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

The proposed dynamic pricing system is long overdue. If campgrounds and day use areas are filling up at certain times you must charge more for those times

Also, camping fees need to rise across the board. Except perhaps tent camping. Anyone who has extra money to spend on a RV has the money to pay a little extra for the privilege of using our great parks. I, as a taxpayer and park user don't want to subsidise RVers paying under market rates at my expense



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Josh Hopkins

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 02:42 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

josh-21@live.com

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

Public comment:

No nrw day use fees. It harms too many small communities. Tell Travel Oregon to shift tourism dollars to cover the need and cost in future repairs since their promotion is what's increasing the usage beyond what sustainable. It's easy for them to do if they stop wasting so much money on tourism promotion and creating all these small ass grants for dumbass tourism promotion things the tourists are already coming they're not going away I've never seen a metric that shows that these grants are providing the funding they expect. These days make its way of local families are no longer going to go to the parks that they have been supporting their entire lives. It's just wrong this is freaking Oregon the beaches may be free but you have to pay to park next to him makes no sense. You have plenty of money in the tourism funding if your state would get out of your way.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sarah Gibney

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 03:23 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

smgibney@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

As an Oregonian and frequent state park utilizer, I oppose the proposed Dynamic Pricing change. Dynamic pricing creates barriers to accessibility by adding stress and confusion to the purchasing process. It disproportionately impacts marginalized communities by raising prices during peak times—weekends and holidays—when they are most likely to participate. This approach also erodes trust, as consumers perceive pricing differences as unfair and exploitative.

I support the other proposed changes.

Thank you for the work you do supporting our parks systems.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gibney



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard Smitj

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 04:01 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

smithrr66@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a non resident Disabled veteran I appreciate the free camping provided by Oregon state parks, I am a resident of Wa state and also use the disabled veterans camping pass in my home state. Allowing the free camping allows us to expand our experiences into oregon, we spend money at gas station, restaurants gift stores and many other oregon retailers that we might not have the opportunity to if not for the free camping for disabled veterans oregon provides, I hope the decision that is made does not remove non residents from this program even a 50% reduction in camp fees like the federal campgrounds gives disabled veterans would maybe be an idea to help out disabled Veterans or raise the disability percentage to 50% disabled. Thank you for your time.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Illimani Ferreira

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 09:38 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

illimani.ferreira@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a resident of Depoe Bay, Lincoln County. Unlike the major cities in the state, we don't have an abundance of city parks. The only one in Depoe Bay has a trail that is too muddy and short for walks. I understand that someone living in Salem may think that our beaches are strictly a touristic attraction for their weekend enjoyment, but for those of us living close to them, they are our parks, and those are not as common as outsiders would think they are as our coast has several cliffs or inaccessible beaches. Beverly Beach State Park was always my only choice of park to walk my dog, as is fairly accessible, its fine sand allows a mobility that other beaches in the area will not and, except in very high tide, allows an unencumbered experience for walks.

Due to a back issue, I hadn't been able to walk my dog at the beach for many months. That changed a couple of days ago as my health issue was finally addressed through surgery, and I was baffled to find out that the parking lot of Beverly Beach now cost \$10. I believe it'd be fair to charge me that much if I was visiting a state park in any other county as a tourist, but as a local that has, for the reasons I explained above, in Beverly Beach the only space in an acceptable distance where I can have some cardio exercise without being challenged in my mobility.

My case may sound anecdotal, but I believe one can perceive a general problem created by someone unfamiliar to social realities they don't know well through a specific experience. The fact is that it is punishing for residents of Lincoln County to be financially barred from enjoying our own beaches. I support the fees in the context of economic hardship imposed by the federal government to our state, however it lacks the nuance I'm attempting to convey in this comment as the policy was clearly designed by someone living in Salem where there is an abundance of city outdoor facilities and may struggle to picture life outside the Willamette valley. How would you feel if the city parks of Salem charged a \$10 entry fee?

Please, be mindful of the needs of residents of smaller counties and don't turn state parks in spaces only for tourists and not for the enjoyment of locals. These fees should be paid by

tourists, not by residents of low-population counties where we shouldn't be priced out from accessible outdoor recreational spaces. Please, waive them to county residents or at least create a third lower tier for residents of the county instead of just two tiers (Oregon residents and non-Oregon residents).



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mona Derby

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 11:00 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

monamonkey77@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I like changing the SAP eligibility to Oregon citizens only. The dynamic pricing scheme should also include an aspect of Oregon residency. During the high season, as prices approach the top of their range, a percentage of campsites should be available, or set aside, to just Oregonians. Say 30%, allowing the Oregon booking parties to pay the middle or lower range prices. I think this because of my decade in visitor services on public lands. One year, we had visitors from every continent because a scientist from McMurdo Bay, Antarctica came to the forest. Aside from international visitors, Oregon attracts visitors from across our country, bringing wealth from more prosperous states than Oregon. Our highest range prices for state park use will be a bargain to Southern Californians, Chicagoan's, Floridian's, Texans, Seattle-ites, etc. The highest prices will be too much for the Oregonians who are attracted to their state parks because they can't afford domestic travel, let alone international travel. Leaving campsites set aside for them on the busiest days, in the most popular parks, will allow Oregon residents to not be priced out of participating, too.

I disagree with integrating day use parking permits with one's license plate. If I want to use my parking permit in my spouse's vehicle, in my friend's or family member's car when I am a passenger or a driver, or I belong to a car sharing coop, then it seems like I need to purchase another permit or single day permits. The backlash from this setup will endure, impacting the parks' department budget more negatively than any projected gains from going paperless with the permits. I don't have any idea how to go paperless, only that this hyper efficiency is too efficient, unless I am really missing something in the plan. I hope so.

Thanks for the effort. You are all appreciated!

Mona Derby



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Serena Lousignont

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 01:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

serena162002@aol.com

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

Public comment:

Camping is turning in to the price of a hotel in Oregon. These changes will not help you need a large audit. The volunteers for the park work twice as hard as those who are state employees. I see 5 state employees watching the volunteers do the task. Been camping in Oregon my whole life, yes the off season is empty but prime is full at most every campground. Change the cancellation policy but others changes are ridiculous. Camping with a trailer is not cheap to begin with and now would like to put more fees on the residence of Oregon. These options listed here push us to a hotel or a federal campground. never do I say I want to go to that campground and not the area that campground is in. It's where ever is cheapest to park our trailer to visit the surrounding area, and keep the homeless out of the state parks they abuse the system, take up valuable space, and use resources without paying I see them pull up to take their showers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paula Tucker

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 02:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pltucker49@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

It would be a travesty to take away one of the few perks disabled vets and foster families have. We use the free 10 days per month every year our health permits. Camping is such a great way for vets to leave their homes when they suffer from PTSD and are unable to be in motels etc with other people. We have a group of at least 4 vets and their families who gather in a healthy way several times a year. Please reconsider this horrible decision.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Susan Bliss

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 04:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

2bis2do@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support new policies that favor Oregon residents over out of state residents, keep rates lower for those who plan ahead and refunding less to those who cancel plans last minute. Everyone would like unlimited, low rates but it's not realistic. Our parks are such jewels and need maintenance and a fair chance for residents to get a campsite or cabin if they plan ahead. Discouraging last minute cancellations will also make it easier for staff to maintain and monitor camping, instead of diverting so much time to shuffling reservations, especially on busy holidays and weekends.

Increased parking pass rates also seem reasonable, since those who have time off to go to parks and gas to get there, bring along or buy food etc., should be able to pay for parking.

Demand pricing will not be popular but again, there are only so many big holiday weekends. These policies may encourage people to try more remote parks where they've never been, or the off seasons, which are also beautiful.

I hate to see noisy drones ruin the peace of our beautiful parks. Perhaps restricting use to certain parks, certain times could enable the rest of us to avoid the noise. As the state gets more crowded with more residents, it is harder to find quiet places.

We've lived here for decades and past policies were frankly quite unfair, with unlimited reservations, folks with lots of time booking up many nights of camping, etc. Often we could not get reservations since our work schedules left few choices. Over time, the parks have been managed more fairly, and these policies seem reasonable. I hope every family in Oregon who wants a camping trip to an Oregon state park can more easily find a reservation with new policies.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathy Willcox

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 04:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Kathywi57@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Cancellation policy should be changed. If there is a no show at a campsite, there should be no refund at all. If there is less than 48 hours notice, there should be less than 50% refund given. People book campsites so far in advance, blocking others from finding a place, then don't show up. At least then the Dept would recoup the funds. I do appreciate the 24 hour change window, I've made mistakes reserving online that need to be changed and am glad I don't have to pay for that mistake.

I also think that Foster family program needs to be changed. Maybe 1 reservation per year could be free, but not every reservation.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

KRISTI CHIPOWSKY

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 04:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kristichipowsky@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I know that the parks need more money to take good care of these beautiful places. I agree with all of the proposals. However, I dont feel that the updated reservation policy goes far enough. There are too many campsites empty due to people not showing up and its very frustrating. I propose that a system is put in place where people have to confirm that they are showing up a week prior, or if thats too soon, then a month prior. Too many people dont care that they loose money over a reservation they dont show up for. Often these are people from out of state and us Oregonians miss out on being able to enjoy our state. There has got to be a way for them to confirm closer to their reservation. Thats my two cents. Otherwise, thank you for all you do to keep these beautiful wild spaces clean and accessible to us. You are appreciated more than you know.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard Brown

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 04:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

richardacebrown@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Recommendations
Cancellation Policy.

-

>> Adopt Industry/Government best standards. I am flabbergasted that issues associated with OREGON State Park reservation and cancellation policy still exist. I performed a quick web scan and found a plethora of state and private cancellation regulations. Hire a contractor for a few hours and benchmark it.

Recommendations Service-Connected
Disabled Veterans

(Proposal reduces disabled vet free nights from 10 per month to 10 per year). 80% reduction!!

>>Must
be an Oregon resident to participate.

General Recommendations:

>>Lease

out/transfer ownership of Oregon Stated Parks (not making a profit) to the counties. Like Lost Creek Reservoir.

>>Outsource

Oregon State Park Rangers. Lease out Park Management.

>>Automate

Check in Process. Customers are still required to stop at the closed kiosk and check in. Why? Park has no automated visibility of who checks in or who checks out – contributes to the management woes (Vacant spots – loss of revenue).

>>Reduce

or eliminate park camp host volunteers. Get the State Police to take more of an active management approach. I had a man pull a knife on me and witnessed a teen try and rape a women bicyclist in the showers.

>>Fine/Ban

customers who leave campsite in shambles. Results in staff reduction. Customers get a few black marks and they are banned.

>>Curtail

squatters from using Oregon State Parks for free. Post 5pm, when the rangers go home and the camp hosts settle in for the evening, squatters come to use the facilities and spend the night.

Bottom

Line, implementing recommendations such as above will go a long way in eliminating the 8-million-dollar budget deficit.

IMO,

Disable Vets privileges should not be targeted. If it wasn't for disabled vets/vets, we would not have any state parks!! As an Oregon, I embarrassed reducing disabled veterans' free nights was even suggested.

QUESTION:

Reference:

Projected decrease in Oregon Lottery funds, which are constitutionally dedicated to parks, is a major factor. Projected Decrease?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Daniel Edwards

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 05:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

DKE1959@aol.com

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

Public comment:

Considering the current economy, I believe these changes are necessary to allow Oregon Parks and Recreation to continue their mission to have public parks and recreation areas for ALL.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Kunzman

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 05:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kunzmanmaj@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please don't take away from any veteran or foster family benefits to make up for poor state management of funds. Why go straight to taking away from people who are doing a service to their country or state or have served. Start at the top with reductions within your organization or reallocate funds from other state departments that have brand new vehicles sitting unused. When I returned from Iraq I was so proud that my state offered the camping and day use benefits to all disabled veterans. Camping and enjoying Oregon's outdoors in day use areas has been an aid to my mental and physical health. I have met foster families and veterans in the parks who are equally as appreciative of the passes and would be affected negatively. I have no issue with changing refund rules. In my opinion there shouldn't be refunds.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robin Hayakawa

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 05:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

robin.hopkins24@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly opposed to dynamic pricing and other policy changes that will result in increased prices for Oregonians seeking to enjoy State Parks. Dynamic Pricing, especially, exacerbates inequity. Oregonians from all income backgrounds deserve to have an equal opportunity to camp and recreate at our state parks, whether it is a Tuesday in February or a Saturday in July. Poor Oregonians should not be priced out of opportunities to enjoy state parks in summer weekend months.

State Parks are for all Oregonians, not just those who are wealthy. Reject dynamic pricing and other price increases.

Thank you.

Robin HH
Bend, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dena Brazil

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 05:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wetrat@charter.net

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

Public comment:

I would like to say that the special access pass for Veterans should not be limited to 10 days a year. That is not even long enough for someone who has served this country and is now disabled. It is such a big change. How about reducing it to 5 days a month, that is still a large reduction or maybe 30 days a year. You are stripping the benefit to almost nothing. It feels like a slap in the face to those that served to protect this country. Obviously, Veterans are not a priority.

Sincerely,
Dena Brazil



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dena Brazil

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 06:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wetrat@charter.net

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

Hello, to start yes, I am a disabled Vet I served 21 years in the Army. I do use the parks and like other Vets I am so happy to get a benefit that allows me to get out and meet other Veterans like me that need a special place to unwind. If you never served you will not understand. I remember my brother who served in Vietnam how when he came back to the states that people that never served spit on him and called him everything but a hero. People that put the life on the line should be thanked. I fell that I should not have to beg for something that makes the disabled Vets smile... SFC Robert Brazil



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Allen Harper

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 07:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

harper7761@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

I believe these proposed increases and changes are necessary should move forward. My wife and I use the Oregon State Parks and really enjoy them. I see a lot of empty camp sites when the sign on the highway states that the "Campground is full". The proposed changes to the reservation system will help correct these issues. Due to the heavy use of the campgrounds, I think it is really needed to increase the fees. Out of state people using the campground is great, but they should also pay higher fees than Oregon residents.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Terry Parker

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 08:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

parkert2012@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

1. Any parking fee at Crown Point-Vista House should be eliminated. Most people only stay there about 20 minutes, sometimes just to use the restrooms, so there is parking space turnover. 2. Where there is a parking fee, there must be a way to pay for people who do not have cell phones. 3. There needs to be an access fee for bicyclists riding on and carving up trails all to help pay for maintenance.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Larry Ellison

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 08:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mapaellison@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I am 100% VA disabled and appreciate the ability to receive up to 10 days per month for camping. Though I have never used all the days available, not even close. But to have to start paying will really impact me negatively financially. At 75 years of age it is my one thing I can fully enjoy. I do understand that you are trying to work out the shortfalls with your budget. I would hope that your committee would reconsider not taking away one of the benefits that we disabled vets have received.

Thank You
Larry Ellison



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Larry Ellison

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 08:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mapaellison@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not go to dynamic pricing. If you do anything raise the rates but not fall in that dynamic pricing trap. It is hard on us during this time of economics.

Thank You
Larry Ellison



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kimberly Rodda

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 09:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

krodda@easystreet.net

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

Public comment:

I strongly believe you should not change the benefits the veteran's receive. They and their families have given enough that the deserve to recreate in the state parks for free during the day and for 10 nights a year.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matthew Pace

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 09:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Matthewtpace743@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The current veterans service connected disability pass should not be reduced especially by such a large margin. You are asking for a 91.67% decrease in annual benefit for disabled veterans. I would even understand 10 days to 5 days per month but you are showing that you do not care about services provided to the people who served this country. How can you say you support the veteran community, when you need money we are the first people you cut benefits from and ask us to sacrifice even more.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynn Nebus

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 09:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hiknfun@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My comments concern the use of electronic tag technologies vs a physical tag that one attaches to one's rearview mirror. I am a single individual with two vehicles. I have been paying for one state park pass for some years now, which I use with both of my vehicles (only one of which I am driving at any one time). If the electronic tag technology requires me to purchase two annual day use passes to cover both vehicles, I can guarantee you that I will not be doing that.

Also, this being Oregon and how miserly people generally are when it comes to paying for services...it might be better from a revenue standpoint to raise prices less which may result in more Oregonians taking advantage of annual passes. Higher prices may mean fewer passes sold.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Scott Hoelscher

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 09:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

scotthoelscher@writeme.com

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

Public comment:

Hello - I am in favor of some of the Division 15 proposed changes. Because OPRD relies so heavily on fees, those who reserve facilities and fail to fulfill their reservation should forfeit all expenses paid. Refunding such parties causes OPRD to lose critical revenue. I am also in favor of the flexibility included in the changes. Each park is unique, so fee structures should evolve based on a number of factors listed.

As someone who has a very modest income, state parks have been an essential resource for me. I can't afford to pay for most lodging options around the state, and the cabins and yurts at Cottonwood SP and other parks provide winter comfort and inspiration for my family that we absolutely treasure. I do urge you to keep fee changes modest so middle and low income people won't be priced out.

Thank You,
Scott



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christina Vien

Date comment received:

December 3, 2025 10:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cvien414@gmail.com

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

Public comment:**Cancellation Policy**

-cancellation refund rates should start on the day the reservation was booked. If someone cancels a week after booking the reservation they will forfeit their refund. And if they cancel three days after booking the reservation, then they will receive a portion of their refund.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

PATRICIA SMITH

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 12:13 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

pattie@bctonline.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 12:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

pattie@bctonline.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicole Nemiroff

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 12:20 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

nicole.nemiroff@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hi, it just seems like the fee increase is rather extreme. I live on a modest income and I enjoy supporting our environment and maintenance of these spaces. I certainly appreciate the work that goes into it. I hope these spaces can remain accessible. Whether these fees feel reasonable completely depend on individual circumstances and, to me, a woman who enjoys nature, there are so many barriers. On my middle class income, this increase isn't consistent with my annual pay increases. It is an increase that would ice me out of visiting places I love, rendering them inaccessible to me. Please consider lowering the 100% increase.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeffrey Raszler

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 12:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jraszler@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Understanding inflation and operating cost increase with time.

Oregon state Parks needs to maintain the 10 day a month visit for Foster Families and Veterans!

This is one of the programs that makes Oregon State Parks great! Removing these benefits will deprive the families and vets that use these programs.

Thanks



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

PATRICIA SMITH

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 01:07 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

pattie@bctonline.com

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

Public comment:

I feel all proposed rules are reasonable. I know people reserve multiple dates knowing they will cancel some, making it difficult for others to get reservations. I also feel limiting it to 10 days free per year for those special programs is generous.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 01:47 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

robertpkwhoa@icloud.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Parker McCarthy

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 04:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mccarthy503@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I agree
with limiting the Special Access Pass (SAP) to Oregon Residents only.

I'm also willing to agree to
reducing the amount of days of camping per a year, but suddenly reducing it
from 120 days to 10 days a year is harsh. I believe a cap of 30 days would be
reasonable and still very generous at the same time.

I'm 100% against removing the waiver
of day-use parking permit fees from the Special Access Pass because Foster
Parents & Disabled Veterans will now be required to pay \$30 for a year-round

access pass for the same access previously given. This is not the way to help out foster kids or Oregon disabled veterans.

Thank
you for your time and I truly hope that clear heads prevail in this situation.

Best regards,

Parker McCarthy

Chief Petty Officer

U.S. Coast Guard, Retired



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bridgette Cuffe

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 04:33 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bridgettecuffe@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose demand based pricing. As a person who works a standard schedule I am not able to visit parks midweek or in the off season and don't want to be forced to pay more just because I am only able to visit during holidays and other high demand times.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joshua Roberts

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 06:40 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

Joshua.roberts775@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

To the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Oregon Parks & Recreation Commission:

I am submitting this comment as a disabled veteran who depends on the Special Access Pass (SAP) for my physical and mental well-being. I strongly oppose the proposed rule change reducing SAP camping benefits from 120 nights per year to only 10, removing free day-use access, and restricting eligibility to Oregon veterans only.

Personal Statement:

As a veteran living with service-connected disabilities, time in Oregon's parks isn't just recreation for me—it's part of how I manage chronic pain, stress, and the invisible challenges that follow many of us long after our service ends. The ability to camp or visit a park without financial worry has given me space to decompress, reconnect with nature, and maintain my mental health. Losing over 90% of this benefit would genuinely affect my quality of life. These parks are one of the few accessible and healing environments available to me, and this program has made that possible.

The current SAP structure recognizes that disabled veterans often live on fixed incomes, face ongoing health challenges, and benefit immensely from accessible outdoor spaces. Reducing the benefit so dramatically would effectively remove a vital support system for many who rely

on regular time outdoors as part of their long-term recovery and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to:

- **Keep the 120-night benefit**, or at minimum maintain a significantly higher allowance than 10 nights.

- **Preserve free day-use access**, which has a major positive impact on veteran wellness with minimal cost to the state.

- **Continue welcoming disabled veterans from all states**, as Oregon has long done.

Please consider the real-world impact these changes would have on disabled veterans whose lives and health are directly supported by this program. I ask that you reject the proposed reductions and protect the SAP in its current form.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joshua Roberts Army Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Del Witters

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 02:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ditters@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Good Morning,

As a Veteran with disabilities I appreciate the recognition and benefits provided by Oregon State Parks. I'm saddened by the proposed changes by Oregon Parks that I may not be able to visit your facilities without a fee. Living in a bordering community of Lyle WA, my wife and I spend thousands of dollars annually in Oregon and enjoy an occasional stop for lunch or a quick view of the various Falls in the Gorge and Willamette Valley. We will most likely make our stops elsewhere should I, and other non-Oregon veterans with disabilities, lose this benefit; how many of us have a pass or use fee camping? I personally believe there will be little to no revenue gain by this change and more importantly no recommendations by us, or the few others like us, to visit Oregon Parks by fee based patrons because we will likely stop experiencing Oregon Parks. I served in 8 of my 26 years in North Bend, Oregon and currently live in a bordering community. Please continue the Access Pass for out-of-state Veterans with Disabilities it is beneficial for our mental well being. Thank you for your time, Del Witters, US Army and US Coast Guard, retired.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Gomez

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 03:22 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

brian.gomez.bend@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Where is the beef?

Tell me what the cancelation policy is. You have an opportunity here to solve some of the scheduling problems experienced by consumers! One suggestion is "permit a full refund if cancelled 4 weeks in advance, 3/4 refund 3 weeks in advance, 1/2 refund 2 weeks in advance, 1/4 refund 1 week in advance, 0 less than one week in advance".

This allows people to continue to plan far ahead, yet creates opportunities for those who can't plan that far ahead to find cancellations weeks ahead.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

S D

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 03:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

crowd.rarity-5c@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

1. I believe there is a gross mis-management of funds, specifically Oregon Lottery money that needs to be independently reviewed and shared with the public on multiple platforms.
2. I agree with some of the increased costs IF: it means better maintained parks (clearing Ivy off trees, clearing overgrown trails...)
3. Increased security
4. Better programs.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lawrence Baughman

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 03:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

baughman2larry@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Enough is Enough! The state has already raised taxes on gas and and other car, boat etc. fees! This fee increase will just keep lower income folks from using what THEY OWN. their parks!

Why not just look at all other state government agencies? I'm sure that they can find a few dollars, that need not be spent on stuff, not needed! Do not raise park fees!!!

Larry Baughman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Coulter

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 04:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

coulter.john77@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am saddened to once again read that the state of Oregon is not fully using the tax dollars to cover state parks rather once again, taking our state tax dollars and not spreading them over all the various department needs in Oregon. I am a proud veteran. I am a Vietnam vet who fought to preserve our beautiful country and state. With each year our government in Oregon sees another way to diminish our service to the country by looking at ending any benefit. Instead, we should be using some of the high tax dollars we all have taken away from our paychecks and use this to pay for parks. They should not be told to self fee themselves to run their organizations. I know my view will fall on deaf ears in the government. Another sad day to be an Oregonian.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Doug Zilm

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 04:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cooperativedoug@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think that all these changes are reasonable. The dynamic pricing is an excellent idea since most hotels, motels, hostels, inns, campgrounds, and theme parks all do the same thing. I think the cancellation policy could be stricter than what is proposed - no refunds if canceled within seven days of first reserved day. Late cancellations hurt everyone and keep the parks from being fully utilized.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Leonard

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 05:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

fred_fl1nst0ne@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

Special passes going from 10 days per month to 10 days per year is a drastic change. I do understand the problem; but doesn't it make more sense to scale back to something like 30 days and then see if it's necessary to further scale back. Or raising cancelation fees or no shows to represent one night of camping regardless of status for the special passes allowing for free camping. I know as a disabled veteran who is retired facing the everyday cost of living increases, that camping is an affordable escape from everyday life.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lance & Wendy Whiteman

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 06:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

thunderckin@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

First of all, I am on the DO NOT CALL LIST, I DO NOT want my phone number provided to be sold, used for solicitation or surveys.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Our Opinions Regarding the OPRD is proposed changes.

CANCELLATION POLICY.

1. I agree with the proposed changes to the Cancellation Policy.

2.

The

DYNAMIC Pricing should be OREGON RESIDENT VS. NON RESIDENT PRICING, and RESERVATIONS SHOULD GIVE OREGONIONS PRIORITY OVER NON RESIDENTS.

I DO NOT AGREE WITH "DYNAMIC CHARGING." PRICE SHOULD BE STEADY EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. Oregon is NOT in the Hotel Business, it is OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

3. Special Access Passes.

- **Foster & Adoptive Foster Families, SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THIS BENEFIT.**
- **Service-Connected Disabled Veterans**, SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE BENEFITS THAT ARE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED THEM, WITH NO REDUCTION IN BENEFITS. THEY Signed up to give UP TO INCLUDING Their LIVES, Least we can do is CONTINUE Their current benefits.
- **SAP Cancellations:** I AGREE THAT.
 - Must cancel reservations to avoid losing benefit nights. Refunded nights will be based on length of time reservation is held.

4. Day Use Parking Permits

1. NO FEE Day use park permits for OREGON RESIDENTS.
2. ONLY NON RESIDENTS SHOULD Be Charged PARKING FEES.
3. I DO NOT Agree that MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT Changing the machines to be license plate entry instead of paper, how many millions would be wasted to upgrade these machines?! MAKE DUE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our position on this matter,
Lance & Wendy Whiteman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathy Kutansky

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 06:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kathykutansky@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the state is having problems making ends meet, well so am I ...on a fixed income. My form of recreation is camping....my husband is a disabled veteran and we use the state's special pass monthly.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tim Allen

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 07:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tim@timallenequipment.com

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

Public comment:

“If you don’t know what you’re doing, baffle them with BS.” You acknowledge in paragraph 4 that this is confusing. To be honest, when I see this kind of proposal it means either “we don’t know what we’re doing” or “we don’t want to have to come back and ask for more money because it comes with scrutiny”

Additionally you contradict yourselves with “keep prices low” yet “charge more when the campgrounds are busy.

This State seems confused on its real role. We pay taxes to you to provide services we all take advantage of, this keeps it out of the capitalist structure and provides an opportunity for all to use and enjoy the resource. As long as the Park fee’s are priced such that they are accessible to all across the entire calendar year it is at least a fair deviation from the primary funding mechanism of the Sate, our taxes. By moving to this structure you’re deviating to a capitalist structure which is not fair to those who can’t afford it.

I am 100% against this proposal. If the Park system needs more money it needs to go to the legislature to ask to divert money from elsewhere in the budget, or like the rest of us figure out how to live within their means.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Dean

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 07:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kdeanrdean@gorge.net

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

Public comment:

I am commenting on the proposed changes to the free camping program for Disabled Veterans and Adoptee families. I understand updates to policies and fees are necessary, but the SLASHING of this program is excessive. PERHAPS A REDUCTION WOULD BE A BETTER BALANCE? I am fortunate my disability is minor compared to the mental and physical issues many suffer. I have met many disabled vets in State Parks who are extremely appreciative of the program as it provides an outdoor activity that provides them a safe and comforting environment. My wife and I have used the program a lot in some years, and not at all in others. I have never utilized the full 10 days EVERY month, as is the case with most recipients I believe. As costs of leisure activities goes up camping has always been considered an affordable alternative. Many Vets live below the median income level making it even more desirable. SLASHING the program for Disabled Veterans and Adoptee families will have a very negative impact on our community.

The withdrawal of this benefit for non-residents seems reasonable. I have explored all other western States and none of them extend this benefit to Oregon Residents. If a reciprocal program is established in

other states, I think Oregon should participate.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Feiler

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

motobob236@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled veteran I really appreciate the support Oregon State Parks has given me and my fellow veterans over the past years. The proposed change to cut the number of free nights seems a bit extreme. I would propose cutting the nights in half so it would be 5 nights per 30 day period and see how that works out. You could also do the 10 nights a year and have a disabled veterans discount for the rest of the year. I do agree this program should only apply to Oregon disabled veterans like Washington state does. Good luck in figuring this out. Our state parks are very important to all of us. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

STEVE DERRICKSON

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:30 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

steved1@bendcable.com

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

Public comment:

The proposed camping limits changes are completely unacceptable. As a disabled veteran I enjoy getting out into nature and free camping has been a god-send. Please, please, please do not block me from our state parks. The proposed changes would price me out of the parks.

-Steve Derrickson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Annette Broddie

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

annette@kidsense4therapy.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

As a working home owner:

1. Make fees easy to pay / obvious (including snow park passes)
2. I can afford 10 nights camping so I feel that 10 nights free camping is generous to those who can't pay. We should be generous.
3. Lack of sites available and internet games to try to get one should be stopped. It wastes everyone's time.
4. Agree on no cancelation = no refund.
5. Clarity on what is considered a no show....sometimes don't arrive until late. Don't want site given away.
6. Thanks for all you do! Love our Oregon parks!

Annette



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steve Hash

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Steve.Hash@oregonzoo.org

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

Public comment:

I am strongly in favor of a change in the cancellation policy, the limit of free camping to Oregon foster families and a lower limit of camping days for veterans and foster families, though I think 10 days a year is too little.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike McMillen

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rockwood.stem@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not eliminate access to parks requiring day use fees! These beautiful open spaces are critical for both our physical and mental well being! A reduction that could be considered is reducing the number of visits similar to the propose reduction in number of camping nights allied? As a disabled veteran I use both of these services, and think that Oregon is pretty special that these benefits are offered! Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Eden Luz

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

edenlight@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I 100% support a change to the cancellation policy.

I am not in favor of dynamic pricing based on season. It is very important to me that people of all income levels have access to the parks into having good vacations. State parks are one place that we can keep access more level.

No one would propose this, but if we could, I'd rather have Dynamic pricing based on people's income. We have an optional fee for those. Who To donate to the parks, so everyone can enjoy them.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jim Twamley

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jimtwamley@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The special veterans free 10 day per month camping program says, "Thank you for your service." When you were enjoying Thanksgiving and Christmas with your families I was deployed overseas protecting our freedoms. I did it gladly and would do it again. I genuinely feel your gratitude for my service when I use the free 10 days a month camping. I am using the benefit this month in fact. I don't use it every month. I use it three or four times a year and appreciate it very much. I do agree that the benefit should be restricted to Oregon veterans because no other states offer such a generous benefit to out of state veterans. Please do not take away the monthly camping pass for Oregon veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jaimee Beauvais

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jaimeejude@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please let my opinion be registered regarding the park fee changes to cover the budget shortfall.

1. I feel you are greatly decreasing the passes for veterans and foster families. From 10 a month to 10 a year is a huge decrease. I think one day per month or 12 free days a year is more reasonable. If the decrease could be expanded over a couple years that would probably be helpful as well.

2. Regarding the cancellation policy, I appreciate the idea of a tiered system as the camping date is closer. I feel like the baseline for cancellation should be at least a week. Within the week you should absolutely not get a full refund. That's crazy it's been a policy no wonder it's getting abused. If there's sufficient data that indicates when people are most likely canceling please go based on reasonable data.

While I understand dynamic pricing, I fear the abuse this could introduce and price out visitors of lower economic status especially in addition to the raises that occurred this year. Would it be possible / reasonable to offer lower rates for in state visitors and increase fees for out of state visitors by doing an ID check of sorts when booking for a preferred rate?

Just a couple opinions



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Angie Land

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

angieland@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

How will I ever go camping? Will McKenzie Scott help? I am at poverty level. I can't believe I won't be able to camp anymore. A single mom gunshot survivor in a tent with our too friendly golden retriever? That's hell not vacation. The yurts will cost too much. Oh well you still have your jobs

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds-Albert Einstein



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alejandra Dayton

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

songdreamer43@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I would like to voice my concerns about the changes to the camping rules for the state of Oregon, and give feedback.

Firstly, regarding the changes for the special access pass - that does a huge disservice to Veterans and resource families alike. Already, the state of Oregon is considered one of the worst for resource family supports and resources provided. Oregon is bottom of the barrel and already doesn't do enough to support foster and guardianship/adoptive families, being outdone by most states. It already has a huge foster crisis and not nearly enough homes. Scaling back the camping pass reduces incentive for current and prospective parents, and unfairly punishes children in the system.

Camping is a very healthy, physically/emotionally/mentally beneficial activity for children in general and is especially good for kids experiencing trauma and displacement, giving them an escape and time to commune with nature. If these new rules go into place, these kids will likely only get one camping trip per year, as families already don't receive enough support to cover expenses and wouldn't be able to foot the bill for additional trips.

Our household would be a good example of this. Our kids look forward to summer camping trips, and we had even discussed potentially increasing that to fall camping as well. While on site we are respectful and diligent, and carefully clean up our site, and contribute to the parks with purchasing wood and such from the park station. We would be forced to scale back to one trip per year, as we are already struggling with the rapidly increasing cost of living and zero increase to our guardianship assistance. This change would be detrimental to our kids, and to all other families that make use of this special access pass. Oregon needs to work on increasing supports for the foster and adoptive program, not cutting them back.

This would also be unfair to veterans, who gave the country a huge gift with their service. They too already don't receive enough support and thanks, and should not be cut back like this. It's dishonorable.

As for the other ideas, those are reasonable. It makes perfect sense to scale back the refund policy in a manner closer to what would be given at hotels and other such rentals. Yes, the current system is quite generous. Reducing the cancellation policy is reasonable, and should be done with only giving short notice allowances for legitimate unexpected circumstances like injury or crisis, and reducing the refund amount for short notice cancellations is permissible. Even same day no show cancellations could be non refundable. That would definitely help the budget issue.

It is also reasonable to make camping sites different pricing scales depending on size and amenities of each site, and I think folks could agree to that. Better rooms at hotels cost more too. However, I would refrain from price gouging and sharp upticks in pricing, as that could have a negative impact and drive down reservations, alienating people from camping. People are already struggling to make ends meet as it is, and camping is a primary recreation for low income families that cannot afford extravagant vacations. Jacking up prices can be seen as an attack on the low income and working poor, and turning camping into an elitist past time for the wealthy. A campsite should most definitely not cost more than a comparable hotel room, even for yurts.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you take these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,
Alejandra Dayton



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ted Vorwerk

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

snowzone600@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran and am truly grateful for the generous benefits the state of Oregon has offered me. I am particularly grateful for the free camping in the beautiful Oregon state parks. I always thought that 10 nights a month was way more than necessary. I think that reducing it to 10 nights a year is still generous but is too big of a cut. In my opinion 15 free nights a year would be great as a family could comfortably plan a 2 week vacation. Thank you

Ted Vorwerk



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dell Anderson

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dell.anderson@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Camping outdoors in nature is something that has a beneficial effect on society.

It connects us with our pioneer roots.

Few of us have a lot of time to camp, and most wealthy folks prefer to travel by air to exotic locations, so those who camp in RV parks and state campgrounds are usually retirees or young families having a weekend (or if lucky) a week vacation.

We cannot afford to be billed again for park facilities that we have ALREADY paid for with our taxes. Why would you punish fixed income retirees with high RV prices.

A respite from city life is essential to the peace and stability of this nation.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Angie Land

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

angieland@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Also the thing about cancellations is not true. Most of the cancellations get filled back up. Forcing people to keep reservatins in less poplular ares is not cool. What is wrond with making a camping reservation one place then dropping it last minute to grab a newly opened yurt? Lookout cabins and Fort Stevens for example. Make it 7 days to cancel and no other changes Really you should not change it at all. More sick people will show up under a 7 day cancel and it shows no consideration for parents of small children and seniors.

So IDK 7 days it is. After that pay for first day. Pay for first day plus half between 3-0 days. Full charge if no show. Make an option to connect directly with the park if you are running late that you can have until 4 pm not 1pm to arrive before they can rent it out to someone else at 4.

Why can you not use the pot tax? We should be rich with all the taxes we get from Idaho buyers



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristen Gulick

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kristen.gulick@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

Likely echoing others' comments, but my couple suggestions for reservations of the state parks are as follows:

- restrict reservations to not allow booking days past the allowed date. This would prevent folks from booking out weekends ahead of when those days would be allowed for booking and likely would help with preventing having empty camping spots on the days leading up to the weekends
- consider incentivizing/prioritizing in-state residents, whether it's offering priority booking, discounts, or perhaps increasing reservation costs for out of state residents.

Thanks for your consideration!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Heidi Gerke

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hhiaasen@gmail.com

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

Hello,

I just finished reading the Oregonian article about proposed changes for camping in the state. I am a multigenerational Oregonian and have camped at Oregon State Parks my entire life.

I appreciate the proposed changes and would suggest they go even further to allow more people to enjoy the beauty of our state, while raising enough to maintain the facilities.

One area that has not been fully addressed are the people who game the system to get reservations during summer weekends. Because you can reserve sites for 14 days, people will reserve all the way through their desired weekend and then cancel the other days. This makes it impossible for those who get on to reserve 6 months in advance and then find all the desirable spots booked.

It seems there should be more cancellation penalties for those who do this. Or perhaps a lottery system for summer weekends.

Sadly, I rarely get to take my own family to my favorite state parks anymore. We now camp at a county park where we can get a long weekend for us and several other friend groups.

Thank you for all your work to make our parks more sustainable, modern and fun for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Heidi Gerke



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jordan Hamann

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jthamann4@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I was directed to this email by an article in The Oregonian published this morning about potential rule changes by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission.

I am a frequent visitor of Oregon and have been a state resident at different times. My comment is primarily concerned with the reservation situation at campgrounds. I think it is ridiculous that campsites can be reserved 6 months in advance; or, rather, that one essentially needs to reserve their campsite 6 months in advance if they want to have a real shot at a summer campout. What if the weather is bad that weekend? Or you get sick? Or plans change? Or there's a wildfire? Or, especially, if you don't have the money for a summer reservation right after Christmas? No one can possibly know those factors 6 months in advance, but if you don't make the reservation then the odds of you getting a spot are practically zero.

I support the elimination of refunds for all "No-Shows" at reserved campsites. You know that people make their reservations in January, "just in case", and prevent regular folks from having the option? I betcha someone out there has found a way to sell their reservations 2nd-hand in surreptitious ways. -- Reservations shouldn't be an option more than 3 months in advance in the first place and even THAT is pushing it to me. Another casualty of the digital age: spontaneity. -- I don't expect reservations to ever go away, of course, but I do hope refunds for casual reservation cancellations do go away.

In a spirit of equity, full reservation refunds should only be available up to a month prior to the reserved date. A partial refund should be offered between one month and up to 1 week prior to the reservation. -- "1 week prior" here means prior to 12:01AM of the seventh day before the first reserved date; e.g., prior to 12:01AM on the Friday before a Friday reservation, etc. -- No refund should be allowed for cancellations made less than 1 week prior to the reservation and

there should be a penalty fee attached to "No Shows". This would be robust enough to discourage flippant use of the State's reservation system and free up outdoor spaces for those who actually want the opportunity.

It may be easy for a wealthy retiree or DINK-situation to pay for a reservation in January "just in case" they feel up for it in July but a poorer household won't have that luxury. Speaking from experience, poorer households don't usually know what money they have left for recreation until much closer to the moment. Currently, checking a campsite reservation page a week in advance is an exercise in both shame and futility knowing that most summer campsites "sold out" by the end of January. If you can afford the luxury of weeknight trips, I suppose the issue isn't so bad. Many people can't.

Perhaps the commission could implement some sort of dynamic reservation schedule rather than their dynamic pricing idea. Scheduling weeknights 6 months in advance may very well be harmless. Weekend nights (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights) are much more precious and should not be treated the same as their counterparts. Simply making weekend nights more expensive won't go very far in allowing poor people to go outside, either; it'll just solidify the reservation system as a tool for the wealthy.

I have been poor in Oregon and have visited Oregon as a poor household. Camping used to be an opportunity for families like mine to get to go out and experience what Oregon has to offer, but in recent years they've been increasingly out-priced and out-scheduled. The hoops and programs and rigamarole that the state has tried to enact to prop up poor families just makes it more confusing and overall expensive. Before reservations became so easy and pervasive, most poorer families could simply afford to go camping as a rule. It was the poor child's "Disney Trip".

Of course, the number of campgrounds and campsites within two hours of Portland has been incredibly stagnant over the last two decades while the population has ballooned. Too bad nothing can be done to simply give people more places to go camping.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Danielle River

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

drelyea09@apu.edu

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

Public comment:

My family and I love Oregon State Parks and visit them frequently. We are Oregon residents and we absolutely have a vested interest in the parks having the funding they need. We think that prohibiting full refunds for reservations cancelled very close to the date is a reasonable change which we would support.

That being said, we are also a veteran family with many children- and we rely on the benefits that Oregonian veterans receive to be able to take a trip together as a family each year. Without these benefits we really are priced out of being able to take trips. We have made full use of these benefits and we know many others who have done the same. We think the reductions in veterans benefits proposed in these changes is too extreme and will really hurt the veteran community. It will especially be devastating to those families and retired couples who full-time RV. It would cause great harm to the people who value and use state parks the most.

Camping has long been an accessible and valuable resource for less wealthy Americans to have access to the benefits of time away and time in nature. If it becomes too expensive for the average person, families and communities will suffer.

Cutting camping days from 10 days a month (120 a year) to 10 days a year is a very extreme cut. I hope you receive opposition for this change and come up with something less drastic.

We understand the complexity of balancing the need for increased revenue and the need to serve the public. We hope you will find another way to save money than cutting benefits from veterans.

Thank you,

Danielle River



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Terry Pickering

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

terryapickering@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

As a lifelong Oregon resident and a service connected disabled veteran, I speak out not only for myself, but for the 50,000+ Oregon veterans that would be impacted by the proposed change.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's proposed changes to the Special Access Program for disabled veterans—specifically, the reduction from 10 free camping days per month to only 10 days per year, and the elimination of free parking/day-use passes.

1. The Proposal Is a Dramatic Reduction That Disproportionately Impacts Disabled Veterans

The current program provides 10 free days each month, allowing veterans with service-connected disabilities to enjoy the outdoors in a manner consistent with their individual health needs. Some veterans can only camp or recreate during specific windows when their conditions allow. Reducing access to just 10 days per year represents a 90% reduction, effectively stripping many disabled veterans of the ability to use the parks they rely on for mental health, routine, and community connection.

This is not a “modification”—it is a wholesale elimination of meaningful access.

2. Oregon's Parks Are a Primary Therapeutic Outlet for Many Disabled Veterans

For veterans living with PTSD, chronic pain, traumatic brain injuries, or mobility challenges, time in nature is not a luxury—it is a proven therapeutic tool. Numerous clinical studies show the benefits of outdoor recreation on mental health, anxiety reduction, blood pressure, and reintegration for veterans.

Oregon's parks often provide the closest and most accessible place for these activities. Reducing access will harm those who depend on these benefits the most.

3. The Financial Impact to the State Is Minimal—But the Impact on Veterans Is Significant

The disabled veteran pass program represents a small fraction of OPRD's budget, yet provides an outsized return by supporting a population who has already sacrificed greatly.

The administrative justification appears aimed at cost savings and workload simplification—but shifting financial burdens onto disabled veterans contradicts Oregon's stated values of supporting former service members.

Rather than balancing budgets on the backs of disabled veterans, OPRD should seek alternative solutions such as:

- better digital permitting,
- partnerships with veteran organizations,
- incremental fee adjustments for the general public,
- or increased legislative support.

The Removal of Free Parking/Day-Use Access Severely Restricts Low-Income Disabled Veterans
Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes. Free parking/day-use access is often the only way they can regularly visit parks without financial strain. Removing this benefit will shut out many veterans entirely, especially those who can no longer camp overnight due to physical limitations.

This directly conflicts with OPRD's mission to make Oregon's natural spaces open and accessible to all.

5. Oregon Should Not Break Trust With Those Who Served

For decades, Oregon has promised disabled veterans and their families that the state honors their service through meaningful outdoor access. This proposal breaks that trust and signals that the contributions of disabled veterans are less valued today than in the past.

Public policy should move forward, expanding inclusivity—not backward.

6. A More Reasonable Path Exists

If the department believes the current program needs reform, the answer is modernization, better administration, and targeted alternatives—not a 90% benefit cut and the elimination of parking access.

Possible alternatives include:

- A statewide digital pass with simpler verification

- A modest reduction (e.g., from 10 days per month to 5–7) instead of 10 per year

- Keeping parking/day-use access fully free

- Creating separate limits for peak vs. off-peak periods

- Allowing rollover of unused monthly days

- These options preserve access without burdening disabled veterans or overwhelming staff.

Conclusion

Oregon's disabled veterans deserve better than having core benefits cut under the guise of "program updates." I respectfully urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and state lawmakers to reject the proposed changes and work collaboratively with the veteran community to craft improvements that honor—rather than diminish—our commitments.

These proposed cuts send the wrong message, create unnecessary hardship, and undermine long-standing commitments that Oregon has made to its disabled veteran community.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and strongly encourage the state to maintain meaningful, therapeutic, and equitable access for the disabled veterans who have earned it.

Respectfully,

Terry A. Pickering
Springfield, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dale Potter

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

depott.2@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Parks Commission,

We are 45 year campers in Oregon and these last 10 years have been beyond frustrating. To compensate campers who make numerous day registrations and then don't show up is a total disregard for those of us who would never dream of reserving and bailing, with a money back guarantee.

We love that more folks have wanted to visit our great Oregon Parks, but we should all respect the "old values" of taking only what you need, and the backing out or no-show is not rewarded with a full refund and others not getting to make a reservation in real time.

Dale and Debbie Potter



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jen Usinger

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 10:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jen.usinger@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think you should consider a higher fee for those outside the state of Oregon. This is common practice for many other states, and as one who travels through the Western United States quite a bit, we don't mind the extra fee when we are an out of state resident. This would increase your revenue while not giving the extra punch to Oregon residents. I just recently talked to an out of state visitor who said they purchased the Oregon parks pass (not sure of its official name), and she was amazed that it was the same price for residents as it was for non-residents. On a similar note, we just spent some time in Hawaii and their state parks system also had different fees for residents vs. non-residents.

Thanks for taking comments and ideas.
Jen Usinger



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Keith Knight

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sgt.k.knight@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am responding to a recent article I read regarding proposed changes to the OPRD fees to help with a budget shortfall. Though I am not a fan of increased fees, etc., I also see a need to properly fund and care for our state parks as they are valuable public parks and recreation here in Oregon.

What I cannot stand behind is the proposed cuts to the disabled veterans park pass as proposed in the article, to only grant to holders of the permit up to 10 days a YEAR of camping.

Our veterans deserve much more than that. As stated in the article our veterans are not even using what is granted to them now to full capacity, why the change, are you really going to save the money you claim you will? I think not.

Most of our disabled veterans who qualify for the permit cannot hold regular jobs because of their disabilities. Most are struggling to make ends meet as they are now, or are on fixed income and cannot afford these changes.

These changes would be disrespectful to those men and women of our state that have served our communities by their service in the armed forces. Oregon is better than this and our veterans deserve better than this.

Let's look at some common sense ideas instead;

- 1) Reduce the monthly days of camping from 10 to 8 per month.
- 2) Further reduce camping days to 4 nights during June, July, August when the demand is much higher.
- 3) Do not include veterans who are not residents of this state (Yes, this is already proposed)
- 4) Reduce the pay of top administrators of OPRD

I urge you to not do these drastic changes to our disabled veterans park pass. Our disabled veterans deserve more than this.

Keith Knight
USMC/Desert Storm Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike Sims

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

fortllatikcuf@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I read an article outlining your proposed changes. I fully support changes for no-shows and cancellations. I DO NOT support so-called "dynamic pricing." This type of pricing is infecting everything, and seeing it show up here is massively disappointing. This pricing structure might make the parks more money because people with money can and will pay the inflated prices, but it will shut out those who need and deserve a parks experience as well, such as lower income individuals. Please don't do this - if you do, then you'll be in the good company of outfits like Ticketmaster and the airlines - and we all know how much everyone loves them.

Mike Sims
Eugene, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dale Sue McDowell

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:03 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rodneydalesue@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

In regards to proposed Camping Rules:

I think instead of making a lot of complicated rules that would frustrate campers and possibly cause ill will, you should simplify the camping rate structure. When you are planning a trip, you want to know how much your spot is going to be well in advance. Dynamic pricing is frustrating for many and seems more complicated to administer.

Do like most hotels do, you have to pay more for the spot if you want to cancel, if not it's non refundable. You could possibly charge more for certain times, but make it straightforward, for example, May thru August is more expensive. I would try the above changes and leave day use passes alone. You don't want to price people out of even walking on the beach, and more people will probably park roadside to avoid the fee.

Thank you

Dale Sue McDowell



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Linda Mann

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lindasuemann@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Public Comment Opposing Proposed Rule Change – Reduction of Free Camping Nights for Adoptive Families

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed rule change that would reduce the number of free camping nights available to adoptive families from 14 nights per month to 10 nights per year.

As an adoptive parent, I strongly oppose this change.

Our family—including our child, who has ADHD—relies on access to Oregon State Parks not just for recreation, but for our child’s emotional well-being and stability. Camping is his favorite activity and one of the few environments where he is able to regulate, decompress, and thrive. These regular camping trips are a critical part of how we support his behavioral, emotional, and sensory needs.

The current 14 nights per month allowance gives adoptive families the flexibility they need to meet their children where they are, day by day. Reducing this access to only 10 nights per year would take away a resource that directly supports the health of some of Oregon’s most vulnerable children—those who have experienced trauma, instability, or special behavioral needs. This proposal would significantly limit our ability to provide the outdoor experiences that help our child succeed.

Adoptive families often face unique challenges, and the existing camping benefit is one of the few supports that has a real, practical impact. It strengthens families, encourages healthy bonding, and helps children heal. Restricting it so drastically would create unnecessary hardship without meaningful cost savings to the State Parks system.

I respectfully urge you to maintain the current 14 nights per month and continue supporting adoptive families in a way that reflects Oregon's commitment to the well-being of children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Mann



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike O'Brien

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

obrien@hevanet.com

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

Hello—

We are now in our 80s and living on our small pension and social security. For us, part of the appeal of tent camping is the affordability. We own all our equipment and have for many years, so it's the gas and the fees that set the cost of a holiday for us. The suggested \$45 per night would make those places out of the question. Please consider an annual seniors pass that would keep camping affordable for people like us.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Springer

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

john@digitalmx.com

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

Public comment:

Re: proposed changes to state park rates, labeled "Division 15".

As a user of our state parks, I support all of these proposals, with this caveat: It is important not to turn our state parks into gated communities inaccessible to Oregonians in the bottom 30% of income.

I would propose these additional terms:

1. Rate changes have to be approved by a committee that includes some actual campers, recruited from past reservations.
2. Provide for lower-cost reservations to keep it affordable for families with limited income. Maybe for Oregon adults camping with kids for a maximum of 3 nights. Difficult to enforce, though.

I would also suggest substantially increasing prices for sites with a sewer hookup. By definition, the parks are for short-term stays, there is always a dump site available, and there is always a public restroom, so, except for staff, no one really needs a sewer hookup. They are costly to install and difficult to maintain. Charge more for them and offer fewer of them.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kirsten Stallsworth

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kirsten.m.stallsworth@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I have been seeing all the posts and comments going around on Facebook about the proposed adjustments to the Oregon parks pass for vets. I personally don't camp but I use the day pass a lot. Without it, I would not be able to enjoy our beautiful parks as I can not afford to buy a daily pass or have the budget to get the annual one. Please don't take this from us. There are not many things that the state of Oregon does for us, but this, this is a good one.

Please consider leaving the Parks pass alone for Veterans. Thank you!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrea Sweet

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

waerdna@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

Please reconsider the idea of cutting back camping/day use benefits for disabled Oregon veterans.

I am the spouse of a disabled veteran here in Oregon, and can attest to the importance of access to the outdoors for combat veterans. Veteran suicide rates are a very real problem, and reducing their access to our campgrounds and day-use areas would be a travesty.

Please prioritize veterans' mental health over dollars.

Thank you for your consideration,
Andrea Sweet



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

James Boglivi

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jdboglivi@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I wanted to comment on the proposed rule changes.

I agree with the stricter Rules for reservations as I think that it is a system that is abused. I think many people make plans too far in advance as a safety net with no concrete intention of using the campsites.

I strongly disagree with the proposed limits on Disabled Veterans and foster parents passes. Reducing the amount that these passes are allowed to be used for BY 92% IS RIDICULOUS. Frankly it is a slap in the face to those that have sacrificed for our country and our local community. I foresee this causing a sharp increase in veteran homelessness as I am certain that many that live full-time in RVs would not be able to handle the price increase.

Please look to other ways to increase funds without punishing responsible users of the system.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Greg & Kelly McKelvey

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mckelveyg@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

We are retired grandparents who recently became guardians of our granddaughter and have been thrilled to be able to take her to Oregon State Parks at no cost. It is a wonderful program that makes a difficult job a bit easier. We just saw that there is a proposed change to go from 14 days per month to 10 days per year. We are not in favor of this as it would limit the recreational opportunities we have currently have during the summer for our granddaughter. Please reconsider this change , as being adoptive or foster parents is a rewarding yet challenging job and we want to provide the best opportunities we can for the kids that we care for.

Thank you!

Greg & Kelly McKelvey



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sara Hutchins

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

saraihutchins@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I want to say I'm absolutely opposed to this proposition. The only family vacation my family can ever afford is to go to the state parks and rent a yurt. My elderly mother can't camp in a tent and we can't afford an RV. If you're going to charge \$100 a night for yurts, we will just stop coming.

The parks are supposed to belong to the community but now they're going to become something only wealthy people can enjoy. You're thinking about how you can make more money at the expense of people who are already trying to keep their kids fed. Shame on you all.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rion Hiersche

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hiersche14@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hi,

The below is long, but if you want to understand the issue and address the budget shortfall, the below insight can help.

My extended family (40-60 people) annually camps at Honeyman state park, and has for 35 straight years. We used to be able to reserve a year ahead of time, and would reserve our spots for the next year while we were at the park.

Now we have to play a silly game of getting up at 5 in the am, reserve for a week earlier that we really want, and booking two week, then canceling the first half a while after (paying a small fee).

This is just 1 example of our 4-5 camping trips at Oregon parks over the summer. If the kids didnt love it so much, I would give up.

Trying to plan an Oregon summer is BRUTAL, I have to plan my kids summer camps 9 months ahead of time, sports, family get together, beach trips, etc etc etc. Trying to plan all that not knowing if I will be able to get a reservation is just plain dumb. God forbid we miss the camp sites we want and have to adjust our entire summer across all families that it affects.

This issue of too many cancellations is self induced, and easily remedied.

Booking 1 year out is a MUST if you want to fix this.

Ideas on how to solve and address budget shortfall.

- 1) Annual pass (100 bucks?) ability to reserve up to a year ahead of time.
- 2) Returning members: Able to book a year out for 20 percent convenience fee?
- 3) Offer a discount for non refundable like airlines. You can plan better knowing what dates are locked up, and if cancellations DO happen, then you get to double dip on those site when you book them last min. Maybe offer 20 percent refund to let you know, so you can then book them last min. This nets 180 percent if your able to last min book.
- 4) Amenities: Offer upgrades, cheap things like smore kits, or wood delivered once you arrive, and charge 400 percent the cost. When people are on vacation they will spend more than normal for convenience.
- 5) WiFi - installing wifi in a campgroud could be a MASSIVE fund raiser. Charge 10 bucks a day per device or whatever. I work often during week long camping and have to drive miles to town to get signal for a meeting, just to drive back later. I would pay a 100 dollars each camping trip for solid signal.
- 6) coffee carts: OMG what I would give for a good espresso while im camping. Allow a coffee cart to rent a site in the middle of the camp ground, charge them rent, or percent of the fees or both. Would make a killing.
- 7) same as coffee cart but beer and wine.
- 8) Same as above but snacks
- 9) Fines: Hear me out, campgrounds are becoming overrun by people who don't care about anything. Electric bikes everywhere, joint being blazed 24/7, loud music and outdoor televisions constantly blaring. Park rangers need the ability to fine people, and then do it often. Many camp trips have been ruined for us due to horribly behaved people, and the rangers always say they wish they could do something. You have all their info, just write a ticket, and if they dont pay fine them, again and again.

Im sure I can come up with a bunch more, but this was just a quick, off the top of my head list.

Good luck,

Rion Hiersche



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Shepherd

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

whitewaterid@live.com

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

Public comment:

1. I agree with experimenting to reduce vacancies, although I myself did a no show two months ago due to flat tire on my camper.
2. I joined the Navy and went to Viet Nam and returned to go to school and work in Oregon but I couldn't afford the state income tax and high housing cost so I live in Vancouver. I have used this program many times over the years and value it highly as it is the only way I could afford camping at all. Before you end it completely, I request you evaluate how many users are from each state and consider a lower nightly rate rather than eliminating it entirely. Many disabled veterans can't afford market rates for camping yet really need and appreciate the opportunity to get outside and camp for a few days. I also observe that I am coming to Oregon State Parks less as it is harder to find a spot in advance. It already seems like the parks system is valuing revenue over those who served our country and are now suffering.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Zena

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

drzenaalaska@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello!

Dynamic pricing - NO.

We are already making access to the parks for camping less accessible for MANY people by making the majority of reservations internet required. Dynamic pricing would then make it so that only the wealthy can afford to go.

Most of us are NOT wealthy. Remember, camping isn't supposed to be exclusive.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Larry Robison

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

larry.robison54@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

When the original ballot measure was passed by voters to allocate lottery dollars for state parks the selling point was that the new revenue was to be used for maintenance and construction of new parks. Instead oprd went on a hiring spree and added 40+ employees and only built one new park (stub stewart). The current situation is a result of poor management and



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rick Baumann

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rbaumann68@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

The Oregonian ran a story today with this; The proposed change would cut that back to 10 free nights of camping per year, with no free day-use passes...."

As a disabled Veteran, I often wondered why we recieved up to 120 free camping nights. So moving the number down is a welcome change. I would ask for a slightly higher number, 12 - 15 per year.

The part in this article that concerns me is it says " no free day use passes." That would be a big hit to many veterans, including myself. I use the day use pass fsr more than I use the camping nights.

If this is true, that you are considering removing day use access from our pass, please reconsider.

Rick Baumann



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Desirée Lukens

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kokkaku@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

While I can understand the need to change and update rules to help alleviate short falls in funding removing the free day use from the special access program will severely limit many people in their ability to enjoy our state parks. I can understand scaling back the number of free nights, perhaps not as extremely as going from 10 a month to 10 a year, but reducing the number of nights a month could help reduce short falls. The changes to refund policy are a great idea, providing a full refund that close to the date of reservation I'm sure is significantly impacting revenue to help support our parks. I know that I, as a disabled veteran, take advantage of the free day use to give my family an enjoyable day I might not otherwise be able to afford. Sometimes the cost of parking is prohibitive and I can image this is the case for foster families and other veterans. I would no longer be able to take a day trip to our parks after having to pay for gas and food then to pay additional parking on top of that it would become a much rarer if not impossible trip for me to justify making. I can understand limiting it to state residents, in fact that's a good idea, but reducing the benefits of the special access pass by completely removing 90% of the benefit of having it is going to cause undue hardship on many people wanting to enjoy our state.

Thank you,
Desirée Lukens



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kay Picton

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kpicton1@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think the changes are needed and very good ideas! But charging over \$100.00 per night for yurts is not a good option for most people. I've been an Oregon Park host for 16 years and have heard many times how excessive the current yurt fees are. It's time for these changes to keep our parks open for public enjoyment, but make sure folks know that there will or will not be any further changes in the future. Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maria Carmen Gonzalez

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

carmengo2012@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Here are some suggestions I have to improve the camping experience:

1. Charge per reservation session, not for every single reservation site. We have reserved 5 nights at 5 different campgrounds and paid \$10 extra dollars per day, this is absolutely insane. Sometimes if we have to do that it angers us so much that we don't go to state parks and choose to go to private RV campgrounds. Most of them don't even charge a reservation. To avoid paying so many in reservation fees people sometimes book 2 days in one place but then move on after one day and the second night the site is empty. A waste of money and space for campers and the state parks.
2. Allow small RV's, certainly camper vans, to take tent sites at the coast. We have been denied a tent site because we have a 19 foot van camper RV. Sometimes we have been allowed to camp in tent sites, after talking to camp staff. That happens all too often in Lincoln City and Newport. Unfortunately, tent sites don't fill up. Allow small RV's to book tent sites maybe 2 days before the date, or the day before. Better yet, do away with this discriminatory practice. We have a 19 foot camper van and not much money, why should we pay for an RV site if we see in tent sites big trucks that are just as long as our camper van?
3. Offer some money, even \$5, for same day cancellation if done before 8am. This will be enough incentive. That would create a site that someone can occupy.

And last. I have submitted comments before but have no information if anyone reads them. If you open this time for comments, you need to have someone who reads every single comment. Please make it public that you read all comments or we will become discouraged and won't try anymore. I'm almost there. I like state parks but my least favorite part by far is making reservations. Sometimes just the thought of having to make a reservation makes me wonder if I should even go anywhere. Too many bad experiences with campground reservations.

Maria Carmen Gonzalez



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

C Win

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cwin55@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

State Parks are already too expensive for the people that paid to build them.

We decided not to visit a campground this year because the cost was way too high. You raise prices, and we will never visit any of the parks we helped in paying to build.

Find a way to cut costs. Maybe more volunteers and less overpaid staff. Maybe a park pass like the Feds have. Free entrance, or parking, and a discount on camping fees?

Unless State Park fees are reduced, we will find better places to visit.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Tooze

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dmtooze@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Get rid of special access passes! Those recipients already get much public funding and support. They should pay like everyone else.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Heidi Rowell

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

heidilrowell@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As an adoptive foster family we have enjoyed the benefits of our special access pass. This pass allows us to take our two children to enjoy Oregon's parks without having to consider the additional cost.

We have visited many of the parks across our state using our pass, and while we don't ever use 14 nights per month, we do visit several different parks during the summer. The proposed new rule limiting camping to 10 days per year and only one site would be a hardship.

Foster and adoptive families are often already stretching their budgets to provide the best care for the kids in their care, and don't have the funds for extras like state park camping and day use admission. Changing this rule would unfairly punish disadvantaged children.

If you're looking for ways to save money on the parks, tightening up registration and cancelation policies would be the way to start. As a native Oregonian it's incredibly frustrating to not be able to get a reservation in our state parks unless we book 6 months in advance, only to arrive at those parks to find empty spaces.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jennifer Klansnic

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jennibean29@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

As a current adoptive parent in Oregon, my family would be deeply saddened by the reduction in available days to camp during the year. We use our access pass often. We are a family who adopted special needs children that were previously wards of the state of Oregon. We fostered many Oregon children before and after adopting. And even specially certified to foster a high needs, autistic child who was a student in the self contained, autism program I worked in.

We camp for multiple days in many Oregon state parks across the state. We have very seldomly had to cancel a reservation.

I do understand the need to change some ways that reservations are made, cancels and refunded. Many places do not allow full refunds to canceled reservations. Especially when they are canceled last minute. We've been camping many times when we had a hard time making a reservation and would check over many weeks to see if cancellations happened, only to see so many vacant spots while at the campground.

The fact is that the special access pass is one of the very few perks that a foster or adoptive foster parent has in this state!

Please rethink this plan to reduce our days allowed to camp!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bart Worwood

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bworwood@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon State Officials,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts that would eliminate or reduce free access to state parks and recreational activities for our nation's veterans. This vital service provides significant benefits to the physical and mental well-being of veterans, and its removal would be a profound disservice to those who have served our country.

Numerous studies have demonstrated the therapeutic effects of outdoor recreation on veterans' mental health. Veterans who participate in outdoor activities show marked improvements in their psychological well-being, including reduced symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, and depression. A study from the University of Michigan found that veterans who participated in group outdoor recreation experienced a more than 10% improvement in psychological well-being and a 9% increase in social functioning. These programs provide a non-clinical, supportive environment where veterans can heal and reconnect.

In addition to the mental health benefits, these programs promote

physical health and social reintegration. Group-based outdoor activities can recreate a sense of camaraderie and shared experience, which is often lost after military service. This fosters a supportive community and helps veterans' transition back into civilian life. The

Military and Veterans in

Parks (MVP) Act

, a bipartisan bill, aims to increase veterans' access to outdoor recreation on a national level, recognizing its importance for their health and well-being.

Cutting funding for these essential services would be a step backward for Oregon. Providing free access to state parks and recreational activities is a proactive and cost-effective way to support the health of our veterans. By investing in these preventative programs, we can reduce the long-term costs associated with clinical treatments and other more intensive interventions.

I urge you to reconsider these proposed budget cuts and to continue providing our veterans with free access to Oregon's state parks and recreational activities. This is a small price to pay for the immense sacrifices they have made for our country. Let us honor our commitment to our veterans and ensure they have access to the resources they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Bart Worwood

[Military veterans' motivation and barriers to outdoor recreation participation: Leisure Studies: Vol 42, No 4](#)

[Outdoor activities improve mental](#)

[health in Veterans, study finds](#)

[U-M study of veterans finds links
between outdoor activities, improved mental health | University of Michigan
News](#)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rich Ulbricht

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

richardulbricht@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I am reaching out regarding the price increases for camping at our state parks, effective 5/1. I actually contacted the parks department last week after I noticed a MAJOR jump in the cabin/yurt prices when trying to book a trip for late May. I thought there was a glitch or something wrong with the site seeing that prices nearly doubled across most parks. My jaw dropped when discovered this wasn't a mistake.

My daughter and I love camping and I have been taking her since she was about two and half years old and she's turning 9 this February. We have gone somewhere almost EVERY month during that time, with the exception of COVID when everything was shut down. We typically always stay in a cabin or yurt and we have stayed all over Oregon. We have favorite campgrounds that we visit the same time every year and some we visit multiple times a year. My daughter looks forward to going camping every month.

Due to the drastic price increases we will no longer be able to camp as frequently as we have. At this point I don't think we will be camping at the state parks in Oregon altogether. I don't think it's reasonable to pay the price of a hotel for one night in a cabin or yurt. Even parks like Nehalem Bay will be \$55/night for a tent/trailer site. It's sad that myself and many other families will no longer be able to afford to take their kids camping. I believe it's important for kids to get away from electronics and enjoy the outdoors. I will be looking into alternative, more affordable camping options around the state and even out of state. We typically only camp in Oregon but have camped in Washington and their prices will be lower than Oregon.

My daughter and I have been planning a trip this summer down to Cape Blanco and work our way up the coast to Newport. She is really into lighthouses and we have two left to visit on the southern coast to complete our journey to every lighthouse on the Oregon coast. She was

devastated when I told her we would no longer be able to take the 10 day trip we had planned due to the major price increases. I understand that prices on everything has increased but it seems absurd to me to pay \$1000+ for a 10 night camping trip.

I agree with changing the cancellation policies. I have been frustrated myself when campgrounds are supposedly booked and people no-show since they are only on the hook for the \$10 registration fee (if they cancel 3 days prior to their visit). Being someone that camps just about every month, I've always appreciated how Washington handles their cancellations and no-shows. I've been saying for years that Oregon needs to adopt similar policies. In my opinion you should increase the registration fees and change the cancellation policies versus increasing the camping fees. I'm very disappointed that something like camping in my own state will soon be unaffordable. I really hope that you reconsider the major price increases. I have turned many friends and coworkers on to camping who now enjoy going to some of our favorite campgrounds. I know many of them will no longer go camping in the future due to the increased prices.

I hope that you take my feedback into consideration along with everyone else who is upset with the decisions that were made.

Thanks,
Rich



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

antrrman@aol.com

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

Public comment:

The reason for Oregon's socalled shortfall is because of Kotek's unwilllignness to stop the DEI and All the WOKE crap that goes with it. That's why we lost Federal funding and you know that to be true! Most Oregonians want to get rid of this WOKE crap!. We are fed up with her Stupid antics!

Now she wants to charge Us for the first time in history, to go to a state park and enjoy the beauty!

Well she wanted to TAX us with her billion dollar Tax, but thanks to THE PEOPLE that won't happen. It goes to a Vote! Also the /RECALL on Kotek. Doeasn't that tell you The People of Oregon have had enough!

Stop this ridiculous crap and



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Haley Lehman

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hnproctor@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I'm writing to comment on proposed rule changes for Oregon's state parks.

I support changes to the number of free days veterans and foster families get.

I worry about eliminating refunds completely for no shows, and about the tiered refund system. It sounds unnecessarily complicated. I've had to cancel last minute before, and while I do really try not to, we had a few legitimate reasons: 1, my husband was injured while participating in a disc golf tournament at a state park, and we had to leave our campsite early due to the injury, and 2, my child developed a high fever the day we were due to leave for a different trip and we had to stay home instead. Both times, we were really disappointed, but we did really appreciate that we got at least a part of our money refunded back. Like a lot of families, we don't have a lot of spare cash, and having even a partial refund makes a big difference.

I hope you'll consider circumstances like these as you are reforming policies. We do try to make it to the sites we reserve, but life happens.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Laila Krowiak

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lailaheather@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

We love Oregon State Parks. They are rustic, spectacular, and have great showers. I really appreciate that Oregon SP only take reservations 6m in advance. Washington SPs 9m reservation policy is really tough. For peak season, peak campgrounds must be reserved as soon as they are available or they are gone - particularly for larger groups coordinating multiple sites. Of course the further out reservations must be made - the more life can get in the way. My suggestion is that if Oregon SP don't want campers to snatch up sites 6m in advance, don't allow reservations 6m in advance - open them 3m in advance. That would really be quite wonderful and I think more people would have an idea of what their life will look like then. The current cancellation policy is awesome. We utilize it off season if a storm rolls in along the coast. WA SP cancelation policy is really hard to work with (and the 9m reservations are equally horrible). But five for a full refund days instead of 3days would be totally reasonable. I do think that a fine for now shows is a great idea. Charging for day use parking and adding trailhead bike racks & multiuse paths would also be great. But do try to continue to keep parks inexpensive for low & middle income families. Camping is an important way to access nature.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Meloney Ready

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

66readymeloney@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm sorry raising camp site prices will only make people go to more interactive campgrounds that have movies stores laundries and camp host to help! I agree with charging for cancelation even hotels , amusemenparks do that .I don't believe raising prices will help your parks , and vets have earned there time in parks some times that's the only socialize thy get. Please find another way to raise money I would hate to think that so many couldn't afford 25.00 parking fee is so out of our price range .to park and play Frisbee I'm afraid many of us will have to stay home.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tamara Sedgwick

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sedgwicktamara@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whome it may concern,

I am writing to express my opinion in regard to reducing the amount of days of free camping for veterans in the new proposal.

My husband is a disabled Veteran. The only opportunity we have for recreation is camping in Oregon State Parks. We typically camp 30 days a year, spread throughout the year. We live on very little money and by using the benefit provided to us by the Oregon State Parks we are able to get out of our home and enjoy the beauty of our state.

The reduction of only 10 days per YEAR would be devastating to us. We would no longer be able to camp as much as we do now. 10 days a year is hardly anything to us retired folks. My husband served for 23 years and was disabled on active duty. He has earned the privilege of camping.

Please do not limit the days a Veteran may camp free to only 10 days a year. This would hurt thousands of retired veterans and their families. I do however agree with offering the free camping to OREGON RESIDENT VETERANS.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I really hope you think about how much Disabled Veterans have given to our country and continue to offer free camping 10 days a month.

Tamara Sedgwick

Lifelong Oregon resident and proud wife of a disabled Navy Veteran.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Betty

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bcapt888@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I fully support cracking down on late cancellations of campsites. I've been camping many times, settling for less than ideal sites and then seeing so many sites empty in spite of the campground being theoretically full.

My suggestion would be no refund if not cancelled within one month of reservation.

Cancellation before one month still results in a "processing fee" of a set amount so there is no full refund regardless. There needs to be some consequences for people hogging sites then not showing up or changing their minds at the last minute.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anne and Tim Correia

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sonrisa618@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

My husband is a newly disabled Veteran. 10 nights of free camping a month is a godsend for us, given our situation

I agree with the idea to eliminate the benefit for out of staters, but hope that Oregon will retain the current level of 10 nights a week. Please!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Danielle Hammer

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

daniellehammer19@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

They should bring the two dollar showers back. I know large groups of people all up and down the 101 highway that would utilize that. That could bring revenue..



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Craig C

Date comment received:

December 4, 2025 11:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

craigshred13@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a Disable veteran and a voting citizen we voted for this you can not take it away or limit it... I THINK YOU ALL SHOULD TAKE A PAY CUT CAUSE CLEARLY YOU CANT MANAGE IT PROPERLY... Im force to depend on my ability to use my camping pas to sustain myself as a homeless veteran and before you say well there's programs for that you're absolutely right BUT those programs only provide LOW CLASS DRUG AND CRIME INVESTED HOUSING. I refuse to be forced to live like that. If you even try and reduce those benefits expect and I mean EXPECT to be removed swiftly. No more extra you got a budget figure it the he'll out like the rest of us have to...



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike Davis

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:01 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

heymikedavis@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission,

I'm opposed to adopting a dynamic pricing structure.

While I understand this is being presented as a tool for possible future use, I cannot support it.

We

should not create a system that prices out families or individuals with low or middle incomes from enjoying State Parks during peak season. As a father of six, I used to plan months in advance, yes sometimes six months, to secure a spot for a week of camping each summer. Those trips were always the highlight of our year. They were affordable, meaningful, and educational for our kids, even though they still required a significant investment overall.

State

Park experiences are especially valuable for low- and middle-income families. Please don't introduce yet another barrier that makes it harder for them to access these opportunities.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Margarita Graves

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mgdream2@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I go camping during the summer and have just applied for a Veterans disabled pass. I feel this is a great way to thank Veterans for their service.

Foster family passes create an environment that exposes children to nature sometimes for the first time in their lives. I feel these benefits should be maintained. I have camped next to foster families that would not be able to afford campsite fee with out these passes.

I have been to campgrounds there are no shows for reserved camping and others are not able to camp. I would like to have first come spaces to be the prominent way to camp or half the spaces accessible this way.

Thank you for your consideration. I enjoy camping and pleasure to be around others in a natural setting.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michelle Nichols

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:03 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mlaughsagain@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

While

I completely appreciate the need to cover the expenses of running the public parks, I see this as one more way that lower income individuals are being priced out of life. State parks it seems, should be something that all Oregon residents can enjoy and camping is a way that lower income people can afford go on vacation, at least it used to be. It's very sad for lower income families, especially with children, to be priced out of such a thing. Many lower income families are that way due to no fault of their own. They have suffered deaths in the family, health crises, etc etc. Isn't there some other way to fund these campgrounds without charging more to those who can afford it the least?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Johnson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:04 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

chrisdale97123@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to express my strong concern regarding the proposal to reduce disabled veterans' camping benefits at Oregon State Parks from ten days per month to a total of ten days per year, as well as the proposal to begin charging disabled veterans for day-use access.

For many years, Oregon has demonstrated its gratitude to disabled veterans through these meaningful outdoor access privileges. The current benefit of ten camping days per month has been more than just a policy—it has served as a genuine acknowledgment of the service and sacrifice made by Oregon's disabled veterans. Reducing this benefit so drastically, and instituting day-use fees, would send an unfortunate message that these sacrifices are no longer valued in the same way.

Oregon's state parks play a vital role in the well-being of disabled veterans, offering restorative natural spaces that support physical and mental health. Limiting access to these spaces would have a disproportionate impact on those who rely on them most.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current level of access and support for disabled veterans. Doing so would reaffirm Oregon's long-standing commitment to honoring those who have served our state and nation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will uphold the policies that reflect Oregon's values and respect for its veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patrick

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

patrick_oswald@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please change the time limit on reservations, 6 months is way too far out to plan for a CAMPING trip. One month is plenty. Also, give some sort of preference to local Oregonians on making reservations-- you know, the people who pay our local and state taxes....

For instance, if you change reservations to open up 1 month prior, give OR residents 1 month and a day or something like that.

One month reservations also would alleviate people booking and canceling last minute. Way easier to forget about a camping trip you booked 6 months ago versus just the other week.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Berg

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:07 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cberg085@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

You are not saving money with this proposal. You are taking money from disabled vets and foster families. How about reducing costs instead



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:11 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

pearhalf@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Responding to an Oregonian article about potential charges on fees.

I understand the need for more \$\$\$\$. We visit parks often and see things that need fixed but know it costs more money than is available.

Our story...

Two seniors that recently have decided that we consider ourselves as possibly too old to safely pull a trailer around and transition to possibly yurts or cabin options. The mentioned price increases could make this costly on our basically fixed income. We already, as many seniors, tend to go weekday/off season. Possibly not apply the "on demand" price increases for seniors?

Thanks



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tom Sayre

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 12:18 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

tomdsayre@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I appreciate the forward thinking and the work being done to address the anticipated funding shortfalls for this and the next biennium.

The camping rule changes seem appropriate, but the parking fees seems a bit myopic. A potential 300% increase for an annual parking pass and a potential 156% increase for a daily parking fee, is daft and would prove to a barrier for many families wanting to use THEIR parks. Unless that's your strategy.

Reducing the park visitation would certainly reduce operating cost and maintenance needs, is this the outcomes you're really after? Is recreating in our State Parks becoming exclusive for only those who can afford it?

Our State Parks should be a place for everyone to decompress the stresses of everyday life. I urge my park commissioners to deny this

proposal and keep our parks
accessible to all!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kirk Barnes

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 01:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

thereverendkirk@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Opposed to latest rules for once again raising prices of everything to justify not cutting any overhead (unnecessary employees). The way these rules are being written it is obvious the State Park employees are planning on more price raises whenever it deems it necessary for even more unneeded amenities, services, vendors and even more State employees to pay to "not" upkeep anything.

But we all know public comments are simply a prerequisite that will be ignored so that the Oregon State Parks can continue to do business as usual, continue waste money on things, programs, vendors and employees that have nothing to do with "parks".



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judi Seger

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 03:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jlseger22@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am all for the necessary changes to keep up with costs and discourage folks from cancelling or no shows after tying up a campsite others could use. I wish we could develop more campgrounds and parks in Oregon, since the number of available places to stay has not kept up with population growth. Born in Oregon in 1964... no reason to ever leave!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rob Cain

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

robrcain@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Good day,

I am in support of these changes. I am happy with dynamic pricing, and particularly pleased the drafters looked at comparable private campground fees.

I would suggest there be further rules on individuals who reserve more than one spot with the plan to not occupy the space, but keep a buffer for their exclusive pleasure.

I am a frequent user of the Diamond Lake Campground and am deeply concerned about the maintenance of the facilities. Close to half the lavatories are non-functioning, with Porta Potties replacing the closed units. All bathrooms are in need of major repairs. Having seen the results of the two year closure of Beverly Beach. and the lack of improving the bathrooms, I would like to see more money toward capital improvements, and more specifically, toilets and showers. While moving the fees closer to private alternatives, Oregon Parks needs to have campgrounds that closer match private ones.

Diamond Lake isn one of the premier campgrounds in Southern Oregon. It should not be left to rot as it current is.

Thank you,
Rob Cain



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sandy Hart

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sandyhart1963@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Greetings!

Happy to see there are going to be changes to the reservation timeline and cancellation policy, it is extremely frustrating as a native Oregonian and taxpayer to see our Oregon Parks not being able to be available to Oregon families.

I would definitely like to see stricter cancellation policy's with no refund when cancelled less than 2 weeks at least.

I also wish there were a way that Oregon residents would have priority, say 9 month window for reservations and not open it to out of state reservations until that 6 month window. I also would hate to see the rates go up too much, as mentioned, you want to keep it affordable for the average family that wants to enjoy the camping experience.

No easy answer or solutions, however, I am happy to see there is discussion on the table!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jenny Baker

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jennysweeth@aol.com

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

Public comment:

This will be an outrageous overreach, of exorbitant fees!

I cannot even begin to see how anyone thinks this will be the way to gain more revenue? This would have the opposite effect, because most campers are those of lower income, that would eliminate their affordability for the annual summer camping season and even visiting the parks due to overpriced parking and camping!

Y'all have lost your minds!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jeneanharris@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'd like to express my concern regarding the dynamic pricing proposal. This will impact lower income families more significantly. Other proposed changes are not welcome but understandable. Pricing has significantly increased at Oregon State Parks. This change in pricing will drive someone like me to look more at private sites in lieu of public campsites. I want to support state parks if given the preference, but at what cost?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alex Kroenke

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

the2kronks@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

If Veterans dont use all the 10 days a month why drop it to 10 days a year? Guess thank you for your service is only if it doesn't cost to much. This is our outdoors and extra fees to use our land is gate keeping. THIS IS OUR PUBLIC LAND..... find a way to keep it that way or hire someone more competent.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cody Thompson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kodiacbearface@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

My name is Cody Thompson and I am an Oregon born, disabled USA Navy veteran. I reside in Happy Valley, Oregon with my wife Katie, my daughter Juniper, and our soon to be arriving son (yet to be named).

I just received my Special Use Access Pass last year after hearing about this wonderful opportunity the Oregon State Parks offers to its veterans and I was so honored to be part of that benefit and to be able to enjoy the parks and special times within them with my family. I had the opportunity to see my sister-in-law get proposed to in an Oregon State Park while using my Special Use Access Pass, just this last Fall!

I am reaching out today to mention that the notion of removing some of these benefits for the people who have so valiantly fought for this country reminds me much of what I had personally observed happen to our veterans during COVID. Companies, large companies, who originally had honorable veteran discounts and rewards had decided that they weren't making enough money during the tough times and had to find a way to recoup some of the losses. Well, it seems to me that the first things to go are always those who are helping those who need it the most and who have earned it.

We should be serving our veterans like they served for this country.

I want to mention that the mention of removing the day pass for veterans is absolutely abhorrent and is what my family uses the most. In my personal opinion, I believe this is the greatest benefit that we use as a family. We can go out and enjoy the parks at no cost for the day.

Please, I write to you today to urge you to reconsider finding funds in a different location rather than allowing the veterans who have already taken the hit for the country to take another one for some extra funding.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike Kutansky

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mkkutansky@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I know what it's like to struggle with expenses as I am a Disabled Veteran on a fixed income. I'm hoping that the State Parks Fees and Veterans benefits for us Oregonians is not affected by any increases. It would truly hurt!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mary Ceresina

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 06:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mceresina22@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good morning,

Yes, please! I have read your new proposed rules regarding camping reservations. Stop the reservation system manipulations. This would so helpful for us frustrated campers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ron

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 07:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ecargnor@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am adamantly against any changes to the veterans pass. The changes as proposed would be a detriment to disabled veterans using state park facilities. I use as many days a year when I can get availability and it's getting almost impossible to get into some parks. The parking pass is way to use a facility when there is no availability to stay there and is an IMPORTANT BENEFIT to Oregon veterans!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

George Endicott

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 07:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

endicottgw@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran and a Purple Heart recipient. I use the "green pass" (Special Access Pass) a few times each year, and have been since the program first started. I am one of the early participants in the program. As a disabled veteran, I have very few opportunities to take advantage of outdoor activities in Oregon. One bright spot is the use of my Special Access Pass. I hate to see a reduction in possible use. My belief is that no disabled veteran uses the pass to the maximum extent allowed (120 days currently - 10 days per month). Your web site claims 80% of veterans use the program less than 10 days per year. I say, "So what?" The benefit is OBVIOUSLY not being abused. What is being proposed is a 92% reduction in a disabled veteran benefit! Is that really a path you want to pursue? I certainly hope not. Why punish, by taking away benefits, from a group of citizens who make it possible for us to have this open society and related benefits?

The math, \$2,2M per biennium, is based on what? Is that based on actual experience or based on the maximum allowable benefit reduction vs current policy? If it's the latter, then it is false math. I certainly don't stay 120 days per year, and I don't know any disabled veteran who does. It seems this proposal is driven totally by "numbers crunchers" and not by a desire to benefit disabled veterans.

My second concern is the SAP cancellation policy. When circumstances change, and I have a reservation, I have always cancelled in a timely manner. I am well aware of the need to make as many sites available as possible. I have occasionally reserved a site and have not been able to stay the whole time, usually due to health issues. Would I lose "benefit nights" if I had to leave a camp site prematurely? I understand cancelling before I arrive, but what is "refunded nights"?

In closing, I fully appreciate the current parks system and the benefits afforded disabled veterans. There aren't that many of us, and as far as I can tell, don't take advantage of the

system. Please leave the current rules in place.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Monica Keehn

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 07:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mrkeehn@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I was just hoping you can consider a program for people on disability that are not veterans. We are very low income and constantly being priced out of things I want to be able to enjoy state parks also. Thank you for your consideration



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Crystal Mendez

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

C_Mendez18@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom it May concern,

After reading the article posted by The Oregonian, my heart sank a bit. You see, we are parents of seven children who came to us through the foster care system, and we also have four biological children. Traditional vacations are few and far between for us because the cost for a family our size is simply too high. Camping has become our life. We camp four to five nights a month, from March through sometimes as late as November.

We do not get “perks” for being foster or adoptive parents, but this is one we truly lean on. My children have ridden hundreds of miles on bike trails, joined 4th of July parades through campgrounds, experienced fishing for the first time, and spent countless hours at Junior Ranger presentations. These outdoor adventures are woven into their childhoods.

It is also important to mention that many children in foster care have unique struggles and sensory needs that make environments like amusement parks or flying nearly impossible. Camping and outdoor recreation are often the only accessible and enjoyable options for families like ours.

Even with all of that, the cost is still high for us, including gas, food, and equipment. The saving grace is the free camping. Without that, we would be staying home. Ten days a year is a significant cut, and families like mine are often above the standard occupancy and need to book two sites, which doubles the impact of this change.

Why is it so often our most vulnerable members of the community who have services taken away?

I urge people to reconsider. So many children entering foster care have never experienced

opportunities like these. Taking away access to them is a disservice to youth who have endured so much trauma. They deserve to make happy memories with families who love them.

Thank you for your consideration of my statements,

Crystal Mendez
Resource/Foster Provider and Adoptive parent



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janet Lynd Pyke

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynd.janet@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

While I fully understand the financial situation of our state parks I am not in favor of all the price increases. As a frequent user of state parks and campgrounds I am worried that these price increases will be unaffordable for myself and perhaps other senior citizens of Oregon. We are on a fixed income and can no longer work to increase that income. With the higher prices of groceries, medications, etc our budget is maxed.

I would ask that it be considered to allow price reductions for seniors. We often use the federal senior pass (Old Man card as we call it). It allows us a 50% discount on many camping locations; although not much on our beloved Oregon coast. And please keep in mind it is often us seniors that volunteer at state parks, we tread lightly on our parks, and often go that extra mile to clean up messes left behind.

Just my thoughts. Thanks for listening



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jennifer Falzerano

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jenniferfalzerano@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello! Please consider generating more revenue by increasing the number of yurts and deluxe yurts and cabins rather than making the pricing so high. Many people cannot afford and RV and aren't able to sleep in the ground. The yurt is a great affordable in between but the proposed pricing is insane. There would be less cancellations if you create more of these wonderful options.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dennis Petersen

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

legprod62@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a 100 percent disabled veteran 75 years old. Cutting ten days month to ten days a year is insulting and shows a lack of respect to those who risked thier lives for this country. I was not able to afford an rv till two years ago. Was never able to take advantage of the offer. I was not treated with even a thank you from the state. When I returned. Don't do this to us



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dawn O'Brien

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

obriendro@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I would be agreeable to eliminating all refunds to No-Show campers and having a tiered refund system in place for cancellations. As long as the park is specific when we are making reservations what this new tier system will be. I am actually shocked that a No-Show camper gets any refund at all.

I am also shocked that Veterans and Foster families receive 10 free nights of camping per month. That to me seems excessive. I agree that 10 free camping nights per year is sufficient and no free day use passes. Or a "reduced" day use pass for Veterans and Foster families.

I do not support the dynamic pricing system as I think that would definitely hurt the lower income folks the most. State Parks should be able to be enjoyed by all.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Deborah Steenson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dd.steenson@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hi,
I would like to voice my concerns about the proposed changes and make a suggestion. From what we have experienced the Oregon rates are in some cases getting pretty close to some private parks. So, instead of charging and penalizing Oregonians who already pay taxes and support the state parks, why not do what other states are doing and that is charge out of state campers more to camp at a Oregon Park. This would especially apply during peak seasons at the most popular parks. I have lived in Oregon my entire life and I want to keep our parks going and kept up. But let's not hurt Oregonians in the process.

I hope you take my thoughts into consideration.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ken Lehman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kjlkenkeri@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

OPRD and Lisa Sumption,

I can't believe you want to reduce the number of days a Disabled Veteran can stay free at state parks from 120 days to 10! That's ridiculous! Why do Disabled Veterans have to carry the burden of such a HUGE reduction in available days? That's over a 91% reduction! Are you going to raise prices for regular paying customers 91%????? You may think the number of Veteran's isn't big enough to cause you concern, but I can tell you if you plan to reduce the availability that much, I will unite as many as my fellow Veteran's as I can to fight against this. OPRD hasn't managed the finances to cover expenses and now you have a shortfall, but you want the Disabled Veteran's to pay the biggest price? Really????? Think about it, if you're a Disabled Veteran, you've ALREADY paid a huge price, but now Oregon and OPRD wants to stick it to us? How about you reconsider your options to fill your shortfall? How about non-residents pay 2x-3x the daily charge? There are a LOT of ways to make up for your shortfall, but I wouldn't suggest you do it by making Disabled Veterans take a 91% reduction. If you think about it, that's extremely unreasonable. Do this fairly, make it more of an equal price across the board. On top of this reduction, you want to completely, 100%, take away our free day-use passes? Come on, that's absurd!

Who on this board is a Veteran? Anyone? If so, are any of you Disabled Veterans? I'm trying to figure out why the proposal to reduce Disabled Veteran's days by such a large amount is even on the table?

Are you aware the link on the Oregon.gov/oprd/ao/pages website for Lisa Sumption actually goes to an email address for Denise Warburton? Seriously?????

Why don't you start with the idea of managing your reservations better? This seems to be a very big problem and could make up for a lot of the shortfall. Poor management of the parks shouldn't result in punishing the users, especially the Disabled Veterans. I beg you to PLEASE reconsider reducing Disabled Veterans free access by over 91%. This will have a significant negative impact and something you may not be able to recover from.

Ken Lehman

Southern Oregon, true Oregonian, born and raised, fellow Disabled Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christine Wepener

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cmwepener@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good day,

I am a foster parent of two special needs children in Oregon. We have learned that these children benefit immensely from being outdoors. Their nervous systems regulate, their emotional volatility vastly decreases, and the amount of self-harming behaviors that either engages in is almost zero while camping. My husband and I purchased a camp trailer specifically to take these young children camping so that they would be out of the weather and so that any temper tantrums or night terrors they have aren't disruptive to other campers. We simply cannot make a monthly trailer payment, pay the fuel and travel expenses, AND pay \$80 a night for a space.

The proposed cuts to the special access pass are incredibly harmful to youth in adoptive and foster families as well as the families themselves. These families sacrifice daily to better the lives of the children in their homes. All of the foster families I know are fighting to stay afloat financially and, like us, will not be able to take children camping without the current special access pass. Additionally, many children in foster care, including the two in my home, aren't able to manage their behaviors in non-routine settings so they MUST be able to experience camping more frequently in order to have any hope at functioning at all while camping. Above all else, these children have lost enough in their lives already without losing affordable access to our state parks.

On behalf of the children in my home and foster children everywhere, I urge you to reconsider the cuts to the special access program. Find the funds somewhere else and don't cut 95% of the affordable access for foster and adoptive families.

Sincerely,

Christine Wepener



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Windy Benson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

windybenson@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

As the wife of a disabled veteran, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes to Oregon's Access Pass. Under the current program, eligible veterans may use up to 10 days per month for camping. The proposed revision would drastically reduce this benefit to just 10 days per year.

These veterans—men and women who served our country and carry lifelong disabilities as a result—deserve more than a single short trip annually. For many, these camping opportunities are not simply recreational; they are an important form of nature-based therapy and one of the few accessible ways they can enjoy rest, recovery, and connection with the outdoors. Even if they do not use all 10 monthly days, the availability of this benefit offers them flexibility, dignity, and a meaningful quality-of-life resource.

I respectfully urge you not to take away a benefit that so many disabled veterans value and rely upon. Please consider the significant impact these changes would have on those who have already sacrificed so much.

Sincerely,
Windy Benson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lori Hunt

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lorihunt99@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I can understand why you may want to change your system and that canceling last min can leave vacancies that go unfilled. Maybe put a large cancelation fee. The proposed rate hikes make camping unaffordable. Most families go camping because they cant afford a hotel, to make campgrounds \$80 a night is nearly hotel prices, your going to end up with less campers. I also don't agree with changing Veterans use. I just dont think is right. They put their lives on the line, the least you can do is let them use the state parks. Maybe lower it to 5 nights a month but keep the day pass. State parks are tranquil spaces for people who have been through traumatic events to be able to get out and feel safe in the world again. Don't take that away.

Good luck on your budgeting.

Lori



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Daniel Coleman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

danandstacie2006@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a combat veteran I have got to tell you that I am very upset that anyone would think about taking away our abilities to get 10 days a month. That goes a long way for us veterans who are 100 percent disabled. Its hard to afford to get the family out and do activities together. Why would you guys look at taking something from us that our state gave us for putting our lives on the line for our country.

This really hits deep because I know so many of us veterans need these passes to get out of our bubbles and connect with nature. This has been such an amazing way to heal. I urge you to please not take this away from us. There are so many ways to generate the money needed without taking away from us veterans.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

USMC Sergeant Daniel Coleman
OIF 2003 Combat Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

K

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:22 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kerook2@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'd like parks to just consider getting rid of cancellation refunds all together. If the site isn't occupied the first night they lose the whole reservation (maybe give an extra day if they call in) and the site is open for first come first serve. Too many people have been gaming the reservation system. I also support restricting free nights to Oregon veterans. Outside of that I would urge parks to not increase fees. You will be pricing people out of camping and pushing them to Federal lands when they do which will only make those campgrounds worse. If that doesn't close the budget gap, then I'd also like you to consider doubling fees for out of state campers.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike & Kathy McCauley

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ryancreekfarm@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon State Parks

Please increase the fees. My family visits Oregon State Parks daily. Our family farm is actually right across the road from an Oregon State Park. For generations we have visited Oregon State Parks. We have watched the effects of delayed maintenance, aging infrastructure and the impact of more people using our parks. We wish you could get more money from the lottery or the legislature and we also wish there was a Santa Claus, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy, and a herd of wild unicorns...So please raise fees and do what needs to be done to make Oregon State Parks shine like the gems they are. Okay there is one catch! You need to enforce the fee increases! Everyday we observe car loads of recreational and non recreational visitors to our park drive past the pay station and not pay the parking fee. We can observe in the parking lots that most cars do not have a yearly hang tag displayed, nor a one day pass. The booth is not staffed by a ranger or a volunteer. When folks are caught by rangers not paying, they are given warnings and not tickets. So nobody pays, except in reality every Oregonian pays by having a diminished experience at our parks. Just to make it clear that without **enforcement**, your fee increase plan will **not work!**

Regards

Mike & Kathy McCauley



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Darwin Brice

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sndbrice69@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the stipulation of being an Oregon resident. Too many out of State residents were using the benefit. Other States issue only to residents of their State. Also, requiring users to cancel reservations if their plans change. I have always cancelled my reservations if my plans changed to allow other users to enjoy our parks. It is common courtesy.

Regarding the proposed rule change of reducing the number of nights from 10 per month to 10 per year, would you consider changing it to 5 per month and/or possibly giving a discount rate for days exceeding the 10 per year? For many disabled veterans, the fee wavier is the only way they get to enjoy the experience of getting outdoors and camping at our State Parks.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
Darwin Brice, Disabled Veteran
Pendleton, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christopher Gray

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:27 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

chrisgray117@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Good evening,

I am writing tonight to express my concern over the further gentrification of our state park system. The current reservation system already makes the parks almost exclusive during the summer months (as witnessed first hand as a park ranger in the summer of 2023), pushing locals and other marginalized folks out of the parks during prime camping time.

The proposed changes to the cancellation of sites are fair - a sliding scale based on time cancelled before the reservation. Much of your target audience (tourists) have more money than sense, and if they cancel then y'all shouldn't be on the hook.

That being said, the blatant disregard for locals, disabled veterans, and foster families is an appalling money grab. Firstly, introducing a "sliding scale" price model based on seasonality will price out the few locals able to snag a same day reservation or make advanced reservations. Few besides the wealthy will be able to pay the increased fees, leaving locals high and dry.

As for the disabled veteran and foster passes, by lowering the ability to stay by over 90%, you may very well remove the only vacation that many of our impoverished folks in need can take. Oregon state parks have long been inclusive and welcoming to all; these proposed changes will certainly draw in more people with money, but at what cost to the community and service you are providing?

To that end, if you limited it to Oregon families and veterans, but maintained the stay limit (or cut it down to 7 days a month, for instance), that would be fair and more inclusive to those in need.

Additionally, if you were to not guarantee refunds, you could offer those sites at a fraction of the charge for same day, local visitors (say, Oregonians with a valid ID, or folks with an address within 50 miles of the park, etc.). This would both accommodate a bit of the revenue shortfall as well as include those in need.

You could penalize those pass holders that cancel reservations habitually by forfeiting the rest of their monthly time, a certain month ban on pass use, or revocation of the pass entirely for severe or recurring infraction.

In the end, people are more than numbers. You must remember your target customers and your mission. After all, this isn't Disney land.

For the love of whatever God you believe in, don't further turn our State Parks into a playground for the wealthy.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions, would like clarification, or anything at all.

Very respectfully,

Chris



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lonna Hagen

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lonnahagen@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission,

As an adoptive family who holds a Special Access Pass I ask that you reconsider your new proposal. Our family originally fostered and later adopted our son. He is a very high energy 10 year old who does best when he is outside where there are fewer rules and more space. He fell in love with fishing two summers ago at Coffenbury Lake and got to spend time trying his luck again last summer at Wallowa Lake. Both of these opportunities, and others, were provided to our family of nine through the special access pass. They are not opportunities we would have afforded on our own. Perhaps you'd reconsider such an extreme cut to the current offerings? I have always thought the 14 days a month was very generous, but cutting the year to 10 days is a hefty cut back, and losing day pass parking all together is a blow to our family outings. Fostering and Adoption has been rewarding, yes, but also the hardest thing I've done. Small gestures like the Special Access Pass have made me feel cared for by our state as we continue to care for the most vulnerable daily. It is also the only program that I'm aware of that offers any consideration to adoptive families. As you finalize your budget decisions, please consider a less aggressive cut to the Special Access Pass, it provides opportunities for beautiful memories in these children's lives.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lonna Hagen
Salem, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lana Davis

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

davisfarms2015@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Camping should be free! It is so expensive and you cant even get a space most of the time.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rachel Powell

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:30 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

drboyce@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My husband and I live in Eugene and regularly RV camp at Oregon state park campgrounds all over the state, year-round, often once or twice per month.

My husband is also a veteran and we have a Special Access pass.

We would be in favor of changing the refund policy for cancellation. We typically make our plans 1-4 weeks ahead of planned trips and many state parks have no or only a couple of available sites when we look online. Most of the time once we get there we find 25-50% of campsites are vacant. While same day reservations may be fine for campgrounds within a couple of hours of home, we are not willing to travel several hours from home without confirmation that a campsite will be available when we get there. It is frustrating and inconvenient for us and a significant loss of revenue for the parks when people book sites months ahead of time and then just cancel at the last minute with no cost to them.

We have always thought 10 days of free camping per month for veterans was excessive. We would be in favor of scaling that feature back to some degree. While we don't object to paying day use fees, we do enjoy not having to sort out the pay station at every parking lot. Perhaps when someone requests a special access pass, they could pay a flat annual fee to cover day use fees at parks and get a sticker to add to their pass.

We would not be in favor of "dynamic pricing". Just choose one sustainable, equitable price for camping and stick with it!

Thank you! We are blessed to have so many beautiful places to visit and well-appointed and - maintained campgrounds in Oregon.

Rachel Powell DVM



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Chambers

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

chambersdave@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon State Parks Reservation Team,

I am writing to express strong opposition to any proposed change that would increase cancellation fees based on how far in advance a reservation was made — specifically, a policy similar to Washington State Parks, where the longer a reservation has been held, the higher the penalty (up to 50% loss for reservations made six or more months ahead).

Such a policy would be unfair, counterproductive, and would punish the most responsible and dedicated users of Oregon's parks for no reason other than planning ahead.

Key reasons this approach should be rejected:

Early booking is not speculative — it is the only realistic way many of us can secure a site at all. Popular parks (Beverly Beach, Cape Lookout, L.L. Stub Stewart, etc.) routinely sell out within minutes of the 6-month window opening. Families with school schedules, out-of-state visitors booking flights, and working adults with limited vacation time have no choice but to reserve as early as possible.

Life is unpredictable months in advance. Illness, family emergencies, job changes, or wildfires can force cancellation long before the trip. Penalizing someone 50% simply because they booked responsibly six months earlier is neither fair nor reasonable.

If the goal is to reduce no-shows and last-minute cancellations, fees should be tied to how close to the arrival date the cancellation occurs — not how long the reservation was held. A tiered fee schedule based on notice given (e.g., 0-7 days = higher fee, 30+ days = full or nearly full refund) directly targets the real problem without punishing early planners.

Washington's policy has been widely criticized by campers for exactly this reason. Oregon has an opportunity to learn from our neighbor's mistake and keep a policy that treats all users equitably.

Please do not adopt a system that effectively charges people more for the “crime” of planning their limited vacation time far in advance. Any increase in cancellation fees should be based solely on the amount of notice provided, not the length of time the reservation has been held. Oregon’s current policy is one of the most camper-friendly in the West because it recognizes that responsible planning should not be penalized. I urge you to keep it that way.

Thank you for considering public input and for everything you do to keep Oregon’s state parks among the best in the nation.

Sincerely,

David Chambers
Hillsboro, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Altara McLean

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

altaramc@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Change your reservation window. When you have to make reservations so far ahead, you will have high cancelation rates. That is a large part of the problem. People that make a reservation 2 months ahead are much more likely to keep their reservation. A web page of recently cancelled sites would be great so we could go back to the old days, deciding to go at the last minute. That sure hasn't been an option in a long time.

The last few years I have done much more camping at private campgrounds because I couldn't get in to Oregon parks. You don't always know that far ahead that you will be able to go at any given time.

Thank you for trying to fix the problem. Altara McLean



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Sholian

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jsholian@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Hi there. I think it's long overdue in regards to penalizing people for gaming the reservation system. It's not just the state park reservation system either as the forest service reservation system is a problem as well. It's tough to plan far ahead for sure but the current system makes it easy for people to snag prime camping spots and bail out at the last minute. Sometimes it's necessary to cancel as unforeseen circumstances pop up and we experienced that this last summer due to a nagging back injury that hampered our camping trips that were made months before. As a result, we had to reluctantly cancel a couple of trips to our favorite coast park but did so soon enough to just surrender the initial reservation fee. Legimate reasons do exist for cancellations but it's too easy presently to work the system.

I also believe that out of state fees need to be raised. Nothing against those from other states visiting our state parks but fees that favor Oregonians that can only afford to camp in-state would open things up I believe. I see an abundance of out-of-state license plates which I suppose is nice for the tourism dollars but when some of those motorhome dwellers bring everything with them and hardly step outside to enjoy the surroundings, how much impact are they imparting locally other than taking up space during peak summer dates? Premium sites along our beautiful coast are hard to come by so a premium rate for out of state visitors should be implemented. If they can afford to travel from other states, then they can afford to pay extra to camp in our state.

I hope the reservation system can be improved and when there are cancellations, I hope those sites that open up can be reflected so that people can have a chance to take advantage of the opening.

Regards,
John Sholian



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alex Maier

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

alexmaier2@gmail.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robin Gill

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rlg11112017@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a small family now on limited income, the proposed adjusted rates for RV camp sites could strongly effect whether we can afford to go camping in the future, for more than one night at a time, and it's too much work to go for only one night. We do not approve of the potential cost of \$80 per night!

Thank you,
Robin Gill
Canby, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joseph Yochelson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

trpfscout@aol.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled veteran and Oregon resident I am very grateful for the Special access pass. But to cut the days from 10 a month to 10 a year seems a bit much. Making up your funding shortfall on the backs of Veterans is just plain wrong. Perhaps it would be better to cut the free days by a reasonable amount like maybe 20 to 25 days a year. Many veterans live on a limited income and depend on the special pass for family vacations they otherwise couldn't afford. Please don't price out the people that sacrificed so much so others can enjoy our beautiful state parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tommy McCleary

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mccleary97502@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Most Disabled Veterans can barely afford food and shelter. After giving their health, limbs and opportunities to our country, taking away their opportunity to enjoy parks is just wrong. Especially since their opportunity to use the parks is "space available " only. They get to use the spaces only if someone else doesn't want the space or cancels their reservation. I don't understand how taking away space available sites from Veterans will increase park revenue. I urge you to support the Disabled Veterans who gave their health for their country



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

justin hanson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jshanson89@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I think scaling back the special access passes is a terrible idea. Years ago I was a homeless disabled veteran living out of my car. Those 10 nights a month gave me a safe space to park, sleep, shower and enjoy the peace and beauty of nature. That program saved my life and getting rid of it would be a travesty. Its one of the main reasons I moved out here in the first place.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Phyllis Kennedy

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pkennedy803@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good Evening,

I am in support of the changes needed to fund Oregon's beautiful State Parks.

One request, please, do not charge so much for tent sites.

Tent camping is the gateway for those eager to learn more about camping, to be good stewards of nature and a refuge for healing.

A \$45 per night cost is steep and would deter opportunities for the majority of tent campers.

Tent campers do not utilize the sewer hookup and many do not access the electrical box.

Thank you for this open dialog and I hope you will reconsider a lower tent camping fee.

Warm Regards,
Phyllis Kennedy



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Miller

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dbmiller@bendbroadband.com

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

Public comment:

My wife and I are glad to hear of the proposed changes to the reservation system. The abuse of the existing setup has been getting worse and worse, we often see multiple reserved sites unoccupied. I would support some kind of penalty for those who frequently blow off their reservations.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Laura Conley

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

fleetfoot84604@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I'm a resident from Hillsboro, Oregon and read my info about proposed changes on oregonlive.com (couldn't find it on the state park website). Here are my comments:

Refunds for Canceled Reservations: I agree that changes should be made. No refunds for no-shows and advance refunds depending on date of reservation and cancellation seem reasonable.

Dynamic Pricing: Very against dynamic pricing based on demand. This creates a lot of stress and makes it difficult to plan trips and the budget for them. Different rates per season makes sense, but would rather not have it changed by day of the week.

Changes to Special Access Pass: Reduction to 10 days per year and Oregon residents seems reasonable. Hope they could still spread them out over multiple park locations.

Flexibility for camping/parking fees: Seems fine.

The biggest change I think State Parks should make is to start charging for parking on the coast! They are some of the busiest places for tourists and locals and the funds could go to improving infrastructure and upkeep. As a fairly regular coast visitor, I'm happy to pay for my annual park pass to be able to go. You could install kiosks that would allow people to pay by credit card (there is a solar-powered one at the Eagle Creek trailhead in the Columbia River gorge).

Laura Conley



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sam Schultz

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

finklip65@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

For many years now I've all but given up on reserving or camping in Oregon state parks. The problem is that when the magical date opens to reserve Oregon state parks, which I'm a lifelong resident of, when you do get thru there's only a handful of less than desirable spots available. This is due to people booking sites they may or may not actually camp at. This is done due to the cheap cancellation policy. Change to a you booked it you pay policy and suddenly the parks are full and funded. Personally some of our parks deserve a big increase in fees!

Thank you
Sam. Schultz



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian and Christie Langford

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

christierustan@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Members of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to eliminate or substantially restrict the free camping benefit currently provided to Oregon's certified foster, guardian, and adoptive families through the Special Access Pass program. While I acknowledge the financial challenges facing the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and the need for fiscal stability, balancing the budget on the backs of the state's most vulnerable children and their dedicated caregivers is a profoundly misplaced priority.

The free camping benefit is not a simple perk; it is a critical tool for resilience and family stabilization. Children in foster and adoptive care have often experienced significant trauma, making stable, predictable, and supportive environments essential for their healing. Camping provides a low-cost, distraction-free environment—a "therapeutic recreation"—that facilitates essential family bonding and reduces the stress that often leads to placement disruptions. By providing a safe space to connect with nature and each other, the state is investing in the long-term well-being and stability of these families, which ultimately saves far more in future social and mental health costs than any marginal revenue generated by charging for a campsite.

Furthermore, the caregivers in these families, who are often operating with minimal financial

reimbursement, rely heavily on this program. Foster care payments are intended to cover basic necessities, leaving little room for discretionary expenses like recreational travel. Forcing these families to choose between paying essential bills and providing their children with these vital, stabilizing experiences is unacceptable. This program is a small but powerful way the state acknowledges the extraordinary commitment and financial sacrifice of these caregivers. Eliminating it would act as a regressive tax on the very people stepping up to address Oregon's child welfare crisis.

We recognize OPRD's need to address its budget shortfall, but the revenue potential from eliminating this specific pass is negligible compared to the total deficit. As OPRD explores broader strategies like adjusting fee ranges, pursuing business concessions, and applying dynamic pricing to high-demand sites, the department must ensure that the burden of increased revenue generation does not fall disproportionately on vulnerable populations. We urge the Commission to focus on high-yield, broad-based fee increases and expanded revenue streams that do not jeopardize the welfare of children in state care.

We strongly request that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission maintain the current, generous terms of the Special Access Pass for our foster and adoptive families. Oregon's children deserve every opportunity to heal, connect, and thrive, and access to our beautiful state parks is a non-negotiable part of that commitment.

Sincerely,

Brian and Christie Langford

Adoptive Parents



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dan Sweet

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dersweetone@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello there,

Please reconsider your plans to dramatically cut back on camping/day use benefits for disabled Oregon veterans.

I'm not sure if you understand how vitally important it is for many of us to spend time outdoors.

Veteran suicide rates are at an all-time high. Getting rid of a vital lifeline is absolutely shortsighted. Please don't put a \$\$\$ sign on veterans mental health!

Thank you for your reconsideration,
Dan Sweet



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nathan Keith

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nrkmann@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran with no-fee camping privileges. I am very thankful that Oregon gives disabled veterans this privilege. I am willing to be part of the solution. So what does the park system need to charge we with no-fee camping to make up the difference. If it is \$5 or less per night would fill the gap I am all in. If higher then we need to discuss what the fee would be.

Get the VFW, American Legion, etc. in on the conversation and any other groups with no-fee camping privileges.

Other suggestions:

Flat fee for tents and trailer/RV fees based on vehicle length and number of campers.

Higher fees for out-of-state campers. We have no sales tax to receive income to take care of public infrastructure and they pay no income tax

An Oregon State Park membership fee, say \$100/yr that give the member extra privileges such as first chance at overflow sites until 8PM, reservation phone line without the long waits, 18 month reservation window, a base fee for a site regardless of length or personage, and I am sure many other privileges can be considered.

Please keep me posted on this issue.

LTC Nathan R Keith AUS Ret



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ken Evsns

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:47 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kenneth.evans@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

Quality parks are an indicator of a well managed state. With that said, I am okay with the general fund be used as a tool to bring down some of the cost of any fee increase. I think any increase, should be born by out of state visitors.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Wheeler

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

robertwheeler882@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

If you let me talk instead of instead of rob,copy,
write phony mob tickets on heavy narcotics,FCC violations the State might make some money
.Robbers and liars,traitors never made any economic plan

Robert Wheeler



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff Lewis

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

yjlewis2@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose changing the Oregon Parks rule regarding Disabled Veteran status. I have the pass and use it every year.

I live on the Oregon border and spend a lot of my recreation dollars in Oregon, including parks. I think it is short sighted to change the disabled veteran rules. When making my recreating decisions, the Oregon Veteran pass is a key factor for me.

I think it is short sighted to change this rule. It may lead veterans like me to choose to recreate in other states rather than Oregon. I spend a lot of money shopping, visiting breweries, eating, buying gas, etc. etc.

Thanks for your consideration

Jeff Lewis



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peggy Burian

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

peggy.burian@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

Coming from a very above average camper-meaning we go almost every weekend to the coast and spend weeks in the summer camping and fishing in the State Parks on the coast. If the prices go upwards of the current prices to your \$80 to \$100 a night you will be making it harder for most people in this economy to afford to go and do what they love!!! We stay on an average of 10 to 13 nights each stay in the summer! That will make it extremely hard for us to be able to afford to go and pay for fuel and food and all the things that go along with it. I understand the stricter rules for cancellation policy but raising the prices to an extreme level will hurt!

Thanks

Peggy Burian



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Nicholson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nwdiver88@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a disabled Army veteran, I am sharing with you that it would be a critical mistake to reduce veterans camping benefits.

Many disabled veterans like me, also, like me have PTSD. Having the ability to remove ourselves from daily life and out into nature is critical to our mental and physical well being.

The marginal cost of this veteran benefit is certainly inconsequential to overall budgetary matters.

As for raising parking fees, camping fees, and making reservations non refundable? I'm all for that. Especially the 1st. Too many i. And out od state campers reserve sites and never show up.

Please think critically about what I shared about veteran needs. If you served, you will understand.

Matt Nicholson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Danis

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kevintdanis@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern -

As a 100% disabled veteran, I strongly disagree with the proposed cuts to time allowances for veterans camping in the state. Public lands are maintained for the public to begin with, and reducing access to those of us who fought for them and now use them to maintain our mental health is the wrong place to try to save money. Taking small amounts of money from veterans trying to use campsites to recreate with family and friends instead of focusing on real areas of government waste and unnecessary bureaucracy where actual large amount of money are wasted is plain wrong. The government should care about veterans and be constantly expanding their benefits and access to recreation opportunities to support their mental health, not reducing and removing them in an attempt to save a few dollars. Please consider reversing this policy change and the message it sends to the veterans who fought and died for the freedoms this county gets to enjoy.

Sincerely,

SGT Kevin Danis
Disabled United States Army Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Agee

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jervinrn@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I too have been troubled by the current rules AND contributed to the empty site problem. As it stands, sites are so hard to get that I book as soon as the website will allow for the summer- BUT the amount I get back if I cancel is so little it isn't even worth it and thus I leave an empty site.

I propose two fixes:

1) have your camp hosts be much more strict that if you no- show for the first 24hrs they give away your site- post the site online as well. This will vastly increase the amount of last minute sites. And I have had many a host vehemently argue they cannot allow me to use that unused site.

2) This will sound crazy but do reverse pricing. If you book 6 months ahead, for instance, you pay the highest fee, then graduate down to the cheapest fees the closer to the booking date. Incentivize cancellations. Maybe even tack on an early booking fee at busy campgrounds that can be returned when you check in. It will increase access. And decrease no-shows.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anne Schroeder

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

anne.schroeder@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Employee of the OPRD,

I recently read about the proposed rate changes for Oregon State Parks. I was dismayed to hear that on top of higher gas prices, high property taxes (for many of us living west of I-5), and high income taxes, Oregon residents are now going to face higher prices at our state parks. As someone in the middle class raising 3 children on a budget, this is aggravating since the proposal indicates that the times of year that children are out of school will be more expensive for camping, thus significantly affecting families. It is surprising to me that despite how popular our state parks are, there is a budget shortfall.

At any rate, my proposal is charging out-of-state visitors a higher fee versus Oregon residents who fund OR state parks through taxes and lottery ticket sales. Furthermore, Oregon doesn't even profit on the many, many out-of-state visitors through sales tax.

In addition, I think Oregon residents should be able to make reservations before out-of-state visitors. It is so very difficult to get a reservation during peak times. As the people who fund the popular state parks, we should get the first chance to use our parks.

I don't like dynamic pricing. It feels like the state is pricing people out of nature and the outdoor experience in the lower income bracket and even in the middle class as we have become more selective in how we spend our money in this economy. Dynamic pricing could also backfire on the state with people choosing a similar priced hotel/motel (i.e. if a deluxe cabin is \$190 and a hotel room with a free breakfast is the same... people may opt for the hotel room).

Also, the \$25 day pass is too much. I think that extending a full refund up to a month before the booking is fine versus 3 days. As you know, people book as soon as sites become available 6mos out due to popularity and then cancel once they know their plans as the

booking gets closer. 1 month might be a reasonable time to fill that booking.

In summary, I feel like charging out-of-state visitors more makes the most sense. Assuming nothing drastic happens with the economy, they will still come. People in the upper middle class and up who are traveling and looking for the outdoor experience will absorb the higher prices easier in this current economy. Perhaps having off season and in-season rates is worth considering, but only lowering rates for winter months to drive more traffic to parks and increase income. I see this as being different from dynamic pricing. Also, if winter has high vacancy rates, then how can the parks drive bookings in the off-season (e.g. offer events, more heated yurts/cabins, basic lodge rooms with heat, covered tent sites, no bookings/staff during week, etc.) to bring in more income?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anne



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Doug Livermore

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 08:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dlivermore22@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello, I have attached a letter discussing the drastic change being discussed in the Veterans' Pass program with the hopes of giving insight of the tremendous benefits that our Veterans, including myself, have come to depend on. Please reconsider the change that is being contemplated, as it will have an adverse impact on many Veterans in our state!

Thank you!

Doug Livermore

Subject: Preserve the Disabled Veteran Camping Benefit — Oppose the Reduction to 10 Days Per Year

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed reduction of the Oregon disabled veteran camping benefit from 10 free days per month to 10 free days per year. As a disabled veteran who relies on this program, I respectfully urge you to reconsider this drastic change.

For many of us, Oregon's parks are more than recreational spaces. They serve as places of recovery, connection, mental health support, and community. Reducing this benefit by over 92% would significantly limit access to an experience that has proven essential for many disabled veterans' well-being.

Why This Benefit Matters So Deeply to Disabled Veterans

1. **Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being** Time spent outdoors has been proven to reduce symptoms of PTSD, depression, and anxiety—conditions disproportionately affecting disabled veterans. Regular access to camping opportunities gives us a healthy, constructive, and natural outlet for stress relief and emotional resilience. This has been incredibly beneficial for me, allowing me to be able to de-stress in ways other activities cannot compare to.
2. **Physical Therapy and Recovery** Camping encourages light activity, fresh air, and engagement with nature. These non-clinical experiences often support physical recovery and mobility, especially for veterans who struggle with staying active due to pain or disability. Being able to utilize the veteran benefit at Oregon campgrounds has given me the time and opportunity to learn and experience other therapeutic activities such as fishing and hiking, in locations I normally would not have considered going to.
3. **Connection with Family and Community** Camping offers a low-cost way for veterans to reconnect with children, spouses, and other loved ones. Cutting access by 92% will significantly reduce opportunities for family bonding, especially for lower-income veterans. Because of this benefit I have been able to allow my grandchildren to experience the joys of camping alongside me, something I was not able to do as a child because of the costs involved. My goal is to help foster a new generation of campers!
4. **Financial Accessibility** Many disabled veterans live on fixed incomes. Free camping days help offset the financial barriers that prevent us from participating in healthy, restorative outdoor activities. Reducing the benefit so drastically makes Oregon's parks effectively inaccessible to many who need them most. This will hit especially hard when coupled with a site rate increase or the dynamic pricing model that is also being discussed.
5. **Oregon's Commitment to Veterans** Oregon has long expressed deep appreciation for its veterans. This benefit stands as a symbol of that commitment. Such a steep reduction does not align with the values the state traditionally upholds. Many veterans that have given so much of themselves and have relied on and cherished this benefit, including myself, will feel a sense of letdown, or that this state no longer cares.

Why the Proposed Cut Is Too Deep

- A reduction from 120 days per year to 10 days per year is not a minor adjustment—it's nearly a complete removal of the benefit.
- For many disabled veterans, a few days per year is not sufficient to support ongoing mental health needs.
- This change would disproportionately affect the very population the benefit was designed to support.
- The proposed reduction eliminates flexibility—monthly allotments allow veterans to choose when they need a break without losing days if they cannot travel in certain seasons.

Alternative Solutions and Compromise Options

If maintaining the current benefit at full strength is not possible, I respectfully ask you to consider the following compromises:

1. Reduce the Benefit Moderately Instead of Drastically For example:

- 6 free days per month, or
- 30–40 free days per year, instead of only 10. This still provides meaningful support while managing costs.

2. Implement a Seasonal Cap Instead of an Annual Cap Allow veterans up to a set number of days per season (e.g., 5–10 days per season). This spreads out demand and maintains adequate access.

3. Require Reservations for Veteran Benefit Use This would help prevent overcrowding or unintended overuse while still allowing veterans consistent access.

4. Exclude Peak Holidays but Retain Monthly Access If capacity is the issue, allow the benefit year-round but restrict it during peak holiday weekends only.

5. Explore Increased Funding Through Grants or Partnerships Outdoor nonprofits, federal programs, and veteran organizations often contribute to state veteran recreation initiatives. A collaborative funding model could preserve the benefit.

A Respectful Request

I ask that you reconsider the depth of this proposed reduction. The current benefit is not merely a discount—it is a lifeline for many disabled veterans who rely on Oregon’s natural spaces for healing, connection, and stability. A more balanced approach can protect the financial concerns of the department while still honoring the service and needs of Oregon’s disabled veterans.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important issue. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or share personal experiences if that would assist in your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Douglas Livermore

CPL/USMC



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

michael mulder

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mmulder67@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I will address the points as they were laid out in the article on OregonLive:

1. Cancellation policy: I would like to see the policy allow for full refunds with cancellations made at least 90 in advance. $\frac{1}{2}$ of your cost refunded at 60 days and no refund if cancellation is made less than 30 days. BUT, if someone cancels AND that site is subsequently booked for any/all the days canceled than the original reservation should be refunded minus reservation fees and any days not rebooked. This ensures fairness to those that might experience unforeseen last minute circumstances.
2. Special Access Pass: I would recommend allowing up to 14 days per month with a 28 day per year limit for both veterans and foster/adoptive family Pass Holders (I am a Pass Holder). I would like to see this restricted to Oregon veterans/residents UNLESS other states reciprocate equally. It is unfair to allow outside states' residents to use this benefit if we can't also utilize it in those outside states as it restricts us to competing for camping in Oregon only. I would also like to allow Oregon resident Pass Holders the opportunity to make reservations 210 days ahead while retaining the current 180 days availability for all other campers including out of state Pass Holders regardless of any changes the state makes to Pass Holder program.
3. Flexibility for camping, parking fees: As stated in the article, we need to be careful to not price out lower income residents. I do not think "dynamic pricing" should be implemented for that reason. We need to be careful not to increase prices to a level that would encourage campers to use other resources like hotels/motels, KOA or other options that offer more amenities at a similar cost which defeats the purpose of bringing in revenue to Oregon Parks. Day use parking fees are trickier. You could raise rates, in the future, for single day use to a reasonable price but make annual passes available at competitive prices to encourage residents to buy

one which could increase revenue. And for the Special Access Pass holders a minimum fee for annual day use passes could be implemented instead of free day use. This may encourage Pass Holders to buy the annual pass, even if they don't take full advantage of it, which would bring in revenue.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kari Mollgaard

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kari.mollgaard@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I would like to offer my opinion and alternatives to your upcoming changes.

I agree changes could be made, but to take this benefit from disabled veterans should be on the lowest of lists.

If it must be changed, perhaps it could be lowered to 5 days per month for both disabled vets and foster families. The peace that comes from camping in our beautiful state is invaluable to many vets with both physical and mental disabilities. They fought for our country and state, they deserve this benefit from our State.

I'm not sure I agree that foster families should have free or discounted rates as they are paid for fostering children, but again, perhaps lowering it to 5 days per month or a discounted rate could be a compromise.

Perhaps another alternative could be a reduced for these people, maybe a \$10 per night rate after the free 5 days per month or maybe just \$10.00 per night for up to 10 days per month.

I was unaware that Oregon offered these benefits to in state and out of state vets... Perhaps the **benefit could be only for Oregon vets**. I don't believe other states offer free camping to our vets.

I appreciate the opportunity to give my two cents worth. Our Veterans deserve all we can give them, this seems like a small offering which has a big impact on may that have disabilities from the days they fought for us.

Thank you
Kari Mollgaard



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stan Marshall

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

smarshwin@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom it may Concern:

I want to give feedback on the proposed changes especially as it deals with those who are disabled. First I understand the need to increase revenue and decrease cost. So, the first thing should be to review overhead within the department and eliminate any waste and inefficiency.

I have a few suggestions around the proposed changes that will also help.

1. First reduce the number of days allowed for those who are disabled to 5 days per month, this would be a 50% reduction in benefits instead of the proposed over 90%. Those who are on disability are the ones who are less likely able to afford to pay for the full park fees and thus will not use the park and have no outlet which is essential to good health.
2. Increase the park fees by 10% and the registration fee from \$10 to \$15 dollars thus affecting everyone across the board and bring in additional revenue.
3. Change the days available during the month of June - September for disabled to 3 nights per month or a combined of 12 days for this period.
4. Lastly, review the cost to maintain, manage, and oversee the parks' operations. Waste should be identified and eliminated first to cut cost without impacting service and efficiency. Private industry does this all the time and their example should be followed.

I appreciate you giving us the opportunity for feedback. Please send out notifications via Social Media and other news networks about the proposed changes as the only way I found out was from a friend. This has not been advertised well and should be communicated clearly to the public as we are the ones who will need to pick up the cost for these changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrew Laine

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

andrew.laine@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Andrew Laine, a lifelong Oregonian and proud annual parks pass holder. In the past five years, my family and I have become devoted users of the Oregon State Parks camping system. I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal for dynamic pricing, which I believe would undermine the very mission of our parks: to provide equitable access to nature for all Oregonians.

Like many families during COVID, we turned to camping as a safe and affordable way to reconnect with each other and with the outdoors. Our first trip to LL Stub Stewart State Park sparked a love that has since taken us across Oregon—from spring breaks at Nehalem Bay and Beverly Beach, to summer adventures at Detroit Lake and the Cove Palisades, to crisp autumn nights at Silver Falls. Year after year, our favorite destination has been Fort Stevens State Park, where history and natural beauty combine to create unforgettable experiences.

The key factor that has made these trips possible is affordability. As a family of five, hotels are out of reach, and private campgrounds often cost two to three times more than state parks. Oregon's public camping system has been the only way for us—and countless other families—to enjoy the richness of our state without financial strain.

Dynamic pricing threatens this accessibility. Raising costs during peak seasons would exclude families of modest means, turning public parks into a luxury reserved for those who can afford them. Worse, it risks driving away higher-income campers as well, who may choose private campgrounds with more amenities at similar prices. Why should families pay premium rates at state parks when they lack features like pools or mini-golf that private campgrounds provide? I understand the need for revenue, but pricing based on demand is not the solution. Oregon State Parks are not a business—they are a public trust. They exist to serve all Oregonians equally, regardless of income. Dynamic pricing would erode that trust, creating inequity where there should be inclusion.

I urge you to reject this proposal. Keep Oregon's parks affordable, accessible, and welcoming to every family who seeks the joy of camping under our skies.

Respectfully,
Andrew Laine
Instagram: [@nativeoregoniansguide](https://www.instagram.com/nativeoregoniansguide)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tina Chirgwin

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:03 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kchirgwi@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hi,

I would like to voice my concern regarding the change to Veterans 10 free camping days a month and free day passes. I do not think it should be changed as proposed. Please consider changing it to 5 days a month and set limit of free day passes and or keeping the free day passes.

Thanks,

Tina Chirgwin



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Keith Carpenter

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

57carpenter@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Taking benefits away from those who were disabled serving there country seems like a low blow. Working on early refunds should be a top priority!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gail Fahlman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

fahlmania@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I totally oppose an increase for State Park fees. In fact, I think it should be free to everyone. Although I can easily afford to pay, I think there are many families who can not afford groceries let alone something that might be considered a luxury. The natural beauty of preserved lands shouldn't be something a child never sees. Doesn't State Park imply State, not private. The State Parks should be for everyone.

Sincerely,

Gail Fahlman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kimberly Ramirez

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kimmieiramirez@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a veteran and have used these benefits over the last 15 years. Please consider not taking away the day use passes and increasing the night per year to more like 30. It's an extreme cut being proposed and there should be a middle ground that doesn't come at the cost of veterans benefits. Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Ramirez



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bill Hackenbracht

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

william.hackenbracht@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I am an Oregon resident and I write to you because I am concerned that the proposed reduction of the Special Access Pass for Veterans with Disabilities from covering day use fees and the costs of 10 days of camping per month to 10 days per year is an over correction to the very real budget issue facing Oregon State Parks. Many Oregon Disabled Veterans are on fixed incomes and/or unable to pursue full employment due to the nature of their disabilities - dramatically reducing this program adversely impacts a vulnerable population, many of whom have very limited recreation options due to limited budgets and limited physical abilities.

I make the the following recommendations to the commission (detailed discussion below):

- 1) Limit the Special Access Pass to Oregon residents.** This change would update Oregon's program to mirror those of neighboring Washington and California.
- 2) Establish a minimum disability rating for eligibility.** This change would update Oregon's program to mirror those of neighboring Washington and California.
- 3) Once the program is limited to Oregon residents with significant disability, increase the number of covered camping days available to each disabled veteran.** This change would update Oregon's program to mirror those of neighboring Washington and California.

1) While I would prefer no change to the program, in all honesty - the Oregon Special Access Pass for Veterans with Disabilities is probably too broad. Unlike similar programs in Washington State and California, it is open to all disabled veterans regardless of residency. Limiting the number of days to non-Oregon residents is probably a good idea - and any days more than zero for non-Oregon residents would be more generous than our neighbors.

2) Oreon does not set a minimum disability percentage in order to receive the 10 days per month benefit. Washington State requires a 30% or greater and California requires a 50% or greater disability rating. Establishing a minimum rating would probably achieve the goal of reducing the number of individuals using the benefit while continuing to ensure that those who have sacrificed the physical

well being for our Country continue to be able to enjoy the outdoors on a fixed income.

3) Neither Washington nor California establish a maximum number of days. If you were to revise the Special Access Pass for Veterans with Disabilities to only apply to Oregon residents above a certain disability rating, perhaps the cap on days could be lifted for this small, but deserving population.

I appreciate your compassionate and considered review of my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Bill Hackenbracht
Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

MICHAEL TEAGUE

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lowlevl@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

Some of the proposed changes effecting reservation changes I deem worthwhile to penalize those who abuse the system and cancel last minute, thereby affecting others who were prevented from obtaining reservations.

I do however highly disagree with the proposed cutbacks to Veteran & Foster Families to only 10 days per year. I can agree 10 days per month could be realistically reduced to 7 days per month or even 2 weeks per quarter. Your own statistics indicate a large percentage of eligible individuals don't currently uses this privilege to it's maximum, so the question then is why even consider reducing this time? There's no priority for this group when making reservations, so they must navigate the reservation system just like everyone else. There are many within this group who need that current time limit within the outdoor system for various therapeutic and other reasons. There was also a mention to limiting the Veteran program to only Oregon Veterans, which I see as a dis-service to all our veterans from other states. Again probably a minimum of out of state veterans are even aware of or use this program, so why change it? While I currently live in Washington, I typically camp in Oregon to be near family & friends, and enjoy the many wonderful parks/sites in your state. I am also a Volunteer Camp Host for ORPD who resides out of state, so that like saying only Camp Hosts can be from the state of Oregon, so I would strongly advocate for no change to the current Veteran & Foster Family programs.

Mike Teague
Vancouver, WA



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rebecca Cassel

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cassels97055@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed drastic changes to the veterans Special Access Parks pass and camping reservations.

I am disappointed to see such a huge and negative impact to our disabled veterans who have served our country so faithfully. I could see limiting the passes to 50% of the dates (60 instead of 120 camping nights a year) but to cut down from 120 nights to just 10 in a year AND removing their day pass access is a HUGE blow to our veteran community many of whom live on a limited income as it is. Why do we need to make such a large slash!?

I could also agree with limiting veteran passes to only Oregon residents but to remove the Special Access for Oregon residents who have a service related disability is a huge disappointment.

Please, please reconsider other options before slashing this benefit so brutally! As an Oregon resident and Disabled Veteran household the State Park day access pass and camping benefits are truly valued in our household.

Rebecca Cassel



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Cochran

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wercsje1@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Attention: Director/Policy Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Urgent Request for Reconsideration and Proposal for a Tiered Structure for Oregon State Parks Veteran Camping Benefits

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Leadership,

I am writing to express my profound concern and urge the department to fundamentally reconsider its proposed changes to the veteran camping benefits within the Oregon State Parks system, specifically the reduction or elimination of these crucial benefits for disabled veterans.

As an Oregon resident and a 100% Service-Connected Permanent and Total Disabled Veteran, I hold an Oregon Special Access Pass (Card Number 26). For my family, this benefit is far more than a recreational discount; it is a vital tool for accessibility and quality of life. It has been instrumental in providing my spouse and children, who are experiencing Oregon for the first time, with meaningful vacations and the ability to fully engage with our state's natural heritage.

I fully recognize and support the need for the department to review and refine the benefit structure, especially concerning out-of-state reciprocity. I agree that the primary focus of these privileges must be on Oregon resident veterans, given the lack of comparable reciprocal benefits offered by neighboring states.

However, I strongly advocate that any changes must safeguard the existing benefit level for the most severely injured or impacted Oregon veterans. I urge the implementation of a fair and

sustainable tiered benefit system, like those used by other state agencies, similar to the DMV. My specific proposal is as follows:

- Maintain Current Full Benefits for the Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher (including P&T) must retain the current, full veteran camping benefit.
- Implement a Minimum Threshold for Reduced Benefits: For veterans below the 70% threshold, a minimum service-connected disability rating (e.g., 30% minimum) should be required to qualify for a reduced benefit, such as a designated number of complimentary camping nights per year. Veterans below this proposed minimum would not be eligible for the camping benefit.

Removing or drastically lowering this benefit for veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, those of us classified as 100% P&T, would be a profound disservice. We appeal to you to structure any changes in a way that respects the depth of sacrifice and recognizes the essential value this benefit holds for our most highly rated disabled service members and their families.

Thank you for your time, your dedication to our state parks, and for giving serious consideration to this request. I look forward to your response and confirmation that this invaluable benefit will be protected for Oregon's most disabled veterans.

Sincerely,
Chris Cochran

SSgt USAF & Oregon Air National Guard
100% Service-Connected P&T Disabled Veteran & Resident of Salem, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Debbie Rogers

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dar021456@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I totally agree with all the proposed changes. The one about last minutes cancellation should have been done a LONG time ago!! It is so frustrating for those of us that make a reservation because we want to camp. When we arrive and see all those empty spots it isn't fair to serious campers or the state.

I wish there was a way to do an hourly rate for the day use parking. I can see the \$10 or even \$25 if I was parking for the whole day. I recently just needed to pull in and eat some lunch and let my dog out for a few minutes. I was parked for 1/2 hour and couldn't justify paying \$10 for that.

Love the Oregon state parks and will continue to use them no matter how this turns out

Thank you to all that work so hard for us to have this privilege!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Amy Molthan

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

okn0tok@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I would think twice about increasing parking fees so high. People will just camp elsewhere. Some of these changes are okay but these are just way too high.

Stop allowing six months in advance bookings. Change cancelation rules. Charge more to out of state campers! Keep our parks accessible to Oregonians.

Amy Molthan



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marin Palmer

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

marin.palmer@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon's State parks are one of our treasures. Park managers face numerous challenges in conserving these resources and maintaining sustainable opportunities open to all Oregonians. I fully support proposed fee changes and flexibilities.

Marin Palmer
Portland OR 97220



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynne Burcham

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynne.burcham@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a foster parent.I have to say that these changes would greatly change the amount of time and access to nature that I can give the children that we care for.

We rely on these free camping nights to get the kids out into nature.

As a foster parrot who receives very little for children in regards to care for them.After paying for sports tutors, health care and all the normal necessities that children need camping and outdoor adventures can fall to the wayside

These free camping nights allow us to take the children and show them nature.Take them to classes that the parks are taking on and help them see a different side of the world that they may have never had access to.

I've even had children go on to become specialized career in forestry and nature.

Children need to experience the world.But we can't all pay some of the prices that are involved to show the children the world.

The little help that we get is extremely appreciated, and if we lose, it will be a great loss to everybody.Involved. but as the children who will suffer the most.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephanie Torgerson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

chefsteftorgerson@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Commission,

My name is Stephanie Torgerson, and I am a disabled U.S. Air Force veteran. I deployed to **Afghanistan** during 2009/10 Operation Enduring Freedom. I am writing to express my profound concern and strong opposition to the proposed cuts to the Special Access Pass (SAP) program.

I recently received my **full disability rating** and was finally able to utilize the SAP program this year. The timing of this proposed cut could not be more devastating. Having access to Oregon's beautiful State Parks through the SAP has already proven to be an **essential part of my transition and therapeutic healing process** from my service-connected disabilities, including PTSD that resulted from my deployment.

The ability to camp for up to 10 nights a month has been invaluable. It allows me to:

- **Decompress:** Escape the daily noise and crowds that often trigger my symptoms.
- **Reconnect:** Spend quality, uninterrupted time with my family in a safe, controlled environment.
- **Heal:** Engage in physical activity and find the solitude that is often prescribed for managing the long-term effects of combat trauma.

The proposed reduction from **10 free nights per month (120/year)** to just **10 free nights per year** effectively eliminates this benefit. The difference between having access for a monthly restorative weekend versus one single camping trip a year is the difference between a functional, healing veteran and one who loses a critical support system.

I understand the department has a budget challenge. However, I urge the Commission to view the SAP not as a revenue leak, but as a small but vital investment in the well-being of veterans who carried out our nation's most difficult missions.

I strongly oppose the current proposal and ask you to implement an alternative, such as reducing the benefit to **5 nights per month (60 nights per year)**, which would still honor our service while acknowledging OPRD's need for cost reduction.

Please do not take away this lifeline from veterans, especially those of us just now learning to utilize it for our recovery.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Torgerson

Portland Oregon

Captain 2003-2010, USAF



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gerald Strebendt

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jerrygbent@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dynamic pricing is codeword for you want to rip us off. This is why you lost the election and this is why we (100 percent disabled Wounded Warriors placard holders) will vote against you until we are non longer on this earth. Stop wasting taxpayers money.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Samantha Auteri

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:58 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

SamanthaMagnuson@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

Although I believe that pricing must change to reach the budget shortfall, might I make a suggestion? I have witnessed first hand the disabled veteran passes being used as a flexible tool and then the campsite remaining vacant or being vacated early. I see this as a major loophole in the system and disagree with its misuse and abuse. I believe that if a campsite is booked under those veteran or foster family benefits then it should also be used and seen as a privilege. Should a camper not show multiple times without adequate warning or should they frequently vacate the space early, they should have the right to free camping diminished. I also would say that 2-3 days per month is an adequate allotment, not 10/month. Another suggestion would be that camping and day use fees be less for Oregon residents than visitors. Although we love to meet people from all over, we as a family, often are outrun by people from out of the state and we are not able to use the facilities close to home that we love and cherish.

I appreciate your time in reading this and hope for a better future for Oregon Parks.

Sincerely,
Samantha Auteri



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tracey Kearns

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 09:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

traceykearns885@msn.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alfred Hendricks

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

vulture2320@aol.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled veteran with diagnosed PTSD. Being outdoors fishing , hiking, camping etc is a great therapy for me and it is well known amongst the medical community to help veterans with PTSD. The proposed cuts would deeply affect myself and other veterans as well. Thank you for your attention to this matter

Alfred R Hendricks
SSG, US Army (Ret)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ian Downard

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kayaking@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Thanks for soliciting public input about the proposal to reopen the rules on park rates.

While I favor a tiered refund system for cancelled reservations, I am outraged by the proposal to introduce dynamic pricing to campgrounds, and to enable increases to the cost of day use parking permits.

The whole park system is supposed to be an accessible way for Oregonians to access our natural resources. Dynamic pricing reduces the accessibility of our state parks to lower income Oregonians.

I believe the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission should think creatively about how to increase capacity and usage. For example:

- Increase capacity by using day lots and waysides as overnight spots for car or RV campers. So many places have pit toilets that only get used during the middle of the day. Find ways to invite people to access (and pay for) toilets overnight.
- Make campgrounds more inviting to visitors during the shoulder seasons. For example, put shelters like tiny homes into campsites to make camping in wet and cold weather more comfortable.
- Put pay-per-use showers at beach accesses.
- Think about other sources of income, like weddings, tripod permits, drone permits, and other ways to charge money for things.
- Have a study be done by a group of outside experts who can help you look for opportunities to increase use and produce income throughout the whole state park system.

Thanks for considering my ideas and thank you for the work you do to make Oregon State Parks the best they can be.

Ian Downard
Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tom and Mary Hadreas

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:02 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

maryhadreas@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello Oregon State Parks officials,

My husband is 100 percent disabled Vietnam veteran, and we use our special access pass constantly. Being outdoors for him is a huge part of his healing and one of the tools we use daily. For you to even consider making this cut is insulting to all of the veterans who have fought and given so much of themselves to this country. You need to scrap that idea completely. There are other places to make cuts; this is not one of them! When I read this on my feed, I got incredibly angry. It is not okay for you to take away these small benefits that are actually rather large benefits for our veterans. The last place to take away any benefits should be from our veterans!!! It should not happen! Shame on you for even considering such a choice! You cannot even begin to repay our veterans for their service. The benefits that our country gives to veterans have been earned!

Sincerely,

Tom and Mary Hadreas
Astoria, OR 97103

RANT: Oregon State Parks is considering major cuts to the Special Access Pass for disabled veterans — a program that currently offers 10 free camping nights per month and free day-use parking at state parks.

This pass wasn't created as a loophole.

It was created as a thank you — a tangible way to honor veterans who came home with service-connected disabilities. For many here on the North Coast, time outdoors is healing. It's where families reconnect, where stress eases, and where many of our veterans find peace.

But the proposed changes would:

- Cut benefits from 10 free nights per month down to 10 nights per YEAR
- Eliminate free day-use parking
- Limit eligibility to Oregon residents only

For Clatsop County vets — from Warrenton to Astoria, Seaside to Cannon Beach — this program has been a lifeline. Scaling it back this much takes away more than a discount... it takes away a symbol of honor that meant something.

We have a chance to speak before decisions are made.

Public Comment Open Until January 15

If you believe Oregon should continue honoring our disabled veterans in a meaningful way, please send a short email — even just a few heartfelt sentences make a difference.

✉ OPRD.Publiccomment@opr.oregon.gov



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Wendy Johnson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

johnson9118@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

This pass wasn't created as a loophole.

It was created as a thank you — a tangible way to honor veterans who came home with service-connected disabilities. For many here on the North Coast, time outdoors is healing. It's where families reconnect, where stress eases, and where many of our veterans find peace.

But the proposed changes would:

- Cut benefits from 10 free nights per month down to 10 nights per YEAR

- Eliminate free day-use parking

- Limit eligibility to Oregon residents only

For Clatsop County vets — from Warrenton to Astoria, Seaside to Cannon Beach — this program has been a lifeline. Scaling it back this much takes away more than a discount... it takes away a symbol of honor that meant something. Being a mom of a veteran, I am saddened that you would make these changes and think it is for the best. Most veterans would rather be outside than in and this program was supporting that.

Thank you,

Wendy Johnson

Hammond, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jay Pitman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pitman6755@msn.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Haley Lehman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hnproctor@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you do not implement "dynamic pricing" for day-use passes or double the cost of an annual parking pass.

These changes would hurt lower income families. Some people would be able to pay, sure, but these changes will alienate those who are already struggling financially. Our outdoor areas are a treasure and should be accessible to everyone. I understand needing to have more money, but please find it elsewhere. Simple access to the parks should be available to all. It would be a shame to see some people priced out of simply being outside in our parks.

Thank you,
Haley Lehman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bettina Birch

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ladyincammies@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I recently read the proposed changed to the Special Access Pass for disabled veterans.

This pass is one of the few benefits afforded to disabled veterans in the State of Oregon. This has a huge impact on many of us as the affordability of camping, once considered an inexpensive way to travel, skyrockets.

One of the reasons you state the 10 days per month should be rescinded is because disabled veterans aren't using this benefit. Most state campsites are impossible to get for more than a single night, if even that. I use my own frequently as do most of my fellow disabled veterans, WHEN we can actually get a camp site for consecutive days. Please fix the broken reservation system before you strip us of this incredibly valuable benefit. If we aren't using it, taking it away doesn't provide a cost savings. Leave the option open and available for when we actually can.

The day use pass waiver is the largest benefit for this pass. This provides accessible recreation to those who have more than earned it. With the increase in day use fees, our state parks are no longer accessible. They will become a privilege to visit for those with the income to afford it, and for many disabled veterans that is not feasible.

As I stated before, we have few benefits in this state. There isn't a large veteran community here that allows us to advocate for the whole. So I am using mine as best I can to advocate for those of us who ask for little after having paid a large price for our service. Disabled veterans make up less than one percent of the state's resident population. Our impact on the roughly 53 million day use visits is not significant enough to warrant the stripping of this benefit.

I understand the need to continue to maintain our parks. But please do not take one of the few benefits available to those of us who already struggle. Recreation is so important to the health of our veterans. It's often one of the few things we can enjoy in our state. It took me 20 years after my service

to understand there were benefits I earned. Please don't strip away those few available to us in this state.

Thank you for your time.

Bettina Birch

ladyincammies@gmail.com

503.816.8743



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Darryl Coulombe

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dandjc49@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please don't raise the fees for the State Park camping fees. Young families retired people can't afford that. The new fees seem outrageous!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Skip Heiney

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

skipheiney@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand that Oregon parks are for everyone's enjoyment, and that they cost a lot to maintain. Pricing folks out of the use of these parks is not the right approach.

1. Change the cancellation window from 3 days to 7 days, and forfeit the 1st day fee. This will raise some money. Allow full refund if due to a medical emergency supported by a paid bill!
2. Change out-of-State benefits to the Special Access Pass to 3 days only.
3. NO to dynamic pricing...it just isn't fair...and drives prices way too high. Oregonians should be able to use their parks without such a penalty. Dynamic pricing would force folks to book early to get the lower price, and then cancel if plans change, which you've already said is a problem.
4. Re-evaluate the programs and services offered by the parks to campers. If money is tight in my home I do without, and so should campers. If money is tight in the Parks Budget, cancel some of the programs and services that are not essential. Camping at some Parks has become so cushy it's not even camping anymore!
5. Re-evaluate the cost to the Parks for providing septic drain service. Maybe charge an extra fee just to dump tanks? Why should tent campers be paying for this service in their camping fee?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Schmidt

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

matthewschmidt2@me.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,
I am writing to express my concerns and displeasure regarding the proposed changes to the camping rules outlined in your recent announcements. As a frequent visitor to Oregon's beautiful state parks, I value the opportunities they provide for recreation and relaxation. However, the proposed changes, particularly the new cancellation policy and fee increases, are troubling.

The decision to implement tiered refunds needs to be very carefully thought out as there are life events that happen that are genuinely out of our control. Instead of encouraging more people to experience what our parks have to offer, it may lead to reduced visitor numbers and discourage families from planning trips. Instead make it easier to use the reservation available notification system by allowing to subscribe to an entire campground for example.

Additionally, the planned increase in fees for parking and camping are completely outrageous given our current economic climate. IF you were to implement a sliding fee scale it should be for those out of state and country. Not to your own Oregonians. And the amount it increases to be reduced regardless of who pays for it.

Furthermore, the proposed changes seem to reflect a short-term budget solution rather than a long-term strategy for sustainable funding. I urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to explore alternative avenues for funding that do not compromise accessibility and visitor experience. Taxing and charging more for the same experience is just bad governance.

I sincerely hope my feedback is taken into consideration as you deliberate over these changes. Our state parks are a treasure, and they should remain accessible to everyone who wishes to enjoy them. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Best regards,
Matt Schmidt



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Ludwig

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jludwig316@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not remove the disabled veterans
10 free campsites per month.
I spent 41 years in the military and it is
Our only way of being outdoors and
Enjoying Oregon beauty.
Thank you!





Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dave Cross

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

krazycross@gmail.com

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

Wow.... that's a slap in the face.

Seems like you didn't even consider halving it...

Reducing it by 90% is simply turing you back on Veterans that kept you safe.

A shame that you would even consider reducing our pass by 90%.

I fully OPPOSE you changing this.

AND..... My wife and I gave you over 10000 hours of service over several years as a volunteer.

Saddened by your choices.

Dave Cross
Disabled Veteran
Baker City



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeremy Hand

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jeremyhand80@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

As a 21 year retired and disabled veteran who's served over 3 years in combat zones, this is insulting.

I don't ask for discounts at stores, and I could ultimately do without your support(Not that the state of Oregon offers much of that), but when I do use this pass, it's my time to heal and enjoy our beautiful state.

I could get behind limiting it to Oregon state Residents, or lessening the number of nights a month to even just 4, but your proposal is insane. Whomever thought this was a great idea should be ashamed of themselves. The state already doesn't support veterans as well as other states do, and you want to take away one of the few ways that the state does? Absolute shame on you. The fact that the idea even went this far should bring shame to anybody making these decisions.

Very Respectfully,
Jeremy Hand



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Shauna Riegel

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

shaunariegel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern-

It has been brought to my attention by a fellow foster parent that the motion of changing the access to Oregon campground and day use access. Please hear my story.

I wanted to share why I believe this will be a huge detrimental loss for at risk babies in our foster care system.

My name is Shauna, I have been a resource parent for 7 years come February. I have had two dozen children come through my home at this time. In these two dozen children, I have permanent guardianship of two children and finalizing an adoption of a third child.

My guardianship of the two- This children came from brutal sexual abuse and neglect. Horrible fear of water, crowds, cars and men. These two have been diagnosed with PTSD, anxiety, depression and reactive attachment disorder. My adoption child came to me with positive drug tests, a skull fracture and a traumatic brain injury. I had these three children for over three years before there was an permanency.

We are a family who works diligently with healing. Traditional therapy, neurofeedback therapy and NATURE. The board is significantly underestimating the healing of nature. We utilize this camping pass atleast once a month, sometimes more. I feel like changing this limits the access to healing.

I would take a guess that atleast 80% of the children that have come through my home I have taken camping, hiking or have taught them how to swim while accessing this pass. Some have been on a paddle board, on a boat, have been introduced to a s'more. Just this past weekend my youngest son thats being adopted held a salamander for the first time. 6 months ago he was scared of bugs, mud and loud noises. We were camping, went on a hike and finally after 3 years of being with me he scooped up a Salamander and talked about how cute it was. We camp year round and utilize this pass. Have you ever seen the joy of a child waking up to snow at camp? The joy of a campfire and

smore? The joy of letting go in the water and "IM DOING IT!"

This past weekend we spent 4 days at Detroit lake over Thanksgiving. We went on a water run hunt, all the mountain run off water, the pipes gushing water- following them all the way down to the lake. Comparing mushroom sizes, shapes and color. My three year old with a TBI can tell you mushroom facts. My kids are currently learning about Kings tide and we will be spending this weekend watching it in all its glory.

The idea of the camping pass being significantly cut back by people who dont understand trauma, dont understand the power of nature and dont understand the access to nature this pass holds is such a wild idea.

Most importantly these children DESERVE this access- these children who are against their will, full of anger and broken spirits, no say or way out DESERVE this access. Foster care is trauma- on top of this biological trauma. Taking their access to basic things like nature is cruel.

Secondly, fostering traumatized children is hard, its expensive. You can look at your own website and see the reimbursement is not "Meant" to cover the full cost of raising a child and I promise you it does NOT. I am in it to heal babies, give them a soft place to land when their world is dumped upside down- what also is upside down is finances vs reimbursement when it comes to helping raising children that come to me from bad places. IT'S WORTH IT. I choose to keep doing it every day because babies deserve better then they're getting. They deserve better from the state of Oregon. So the reimbursement that falls short of the cost it takes for a child to thrive, The lack of resources- but.. CAMPING? camping is on the chopping block? Such a simple and healing way to give back to the children and the resource parents that tirelessly work for you to keep these babies afloat.

My daughter 4.5 years old. Extreme sexual abuse and neglect. PTSD ((DIAGNOSED AT 11 MONTHS OLD!) , Anxiety and reactive attachment. She grabs bugs raw with her bare hands, her light has come back in her eyes. Shes silly, not only comfortable in a bath tub but also comfortable around people now- comfortable lost in the woods on a hike- hoping to come across a big bear or a fox. She has no fear now. Is also comfortable jumping in a lake and is learning her value and how much more she is than the victim of her circumstances. This child has been camping or hiking in Oregon state parks atleast 100 days since she came to me 1277 days ago. At Least 270+ DAYS on a low end guess- even the day trips to hike waterfalls, the day trips for pic nics in Oregon state forests. Please take the time to let this sink in. My daughter went from 5x a week therapy, to ONCE A MONTH. ONCE A MONTH!! She has spent a quarter of her life with me (10 months old until now), during her ongoing healing in the woods.

My daughter (her half sister with even more of that abuse) is 5.5 years old. She is so extremely traumatized. Shes on multiple meds to keep her and her siblings safe, she talks about killing people, shes put her foot through walls, tried to smother her baby sister when she was just three years old. Do you know when the smiles come out of this child and the light turns on? when shes jumping off a dock into the water that she was once TERRIFIED of, when shes happy screaming in the woods and mesmerized by campfire. When shes spotting slugs on hikes. Do you know when shes just in complete awe? When she wakes up to her daddy making her favorite breakfast around a campfire. A CAMPFIRE BREAKFAST makes her feel so special. I cant fathom not understand how simple yet magical that is.

My two daughters have 5 siblings across the state of Oregon that I work diligently keeping in contact where its mutually wanted. That means my two daughters have been hiking and camping with their biological siblings because me and their resource parents/adoptive parents utilize this pass to keep them connected to their roots. We have formed a giant family around these biological siblings, Where we have bonded and healed our secondary trauma around campfires and camp breakfast.

My youngest son- Came from drug exposure, a skull fracture and a traumatic brain injury when he was

just a couple months out of the NICU and coming to me from the hospital trauma center. They told me my baby would need a lot of work to sit up, likely wouldn't walk, maybe something with braces and his language would always be lacking. He was a fragile baby who couldn't take in much formula at a time so he's always been small. He was exposed to hard drugs his whole pregnancy and the short time he went to his biological home- He had a failed reunification about 1.5 years later where he again came back to me; the only home he's ever really known testing positive for methamphetamine. During this failed reunification that lasted approx 2 months? I had him for 18 of those days. Do you know what we did in those days? We picked him up from his mother and took him camping with us. We took him hiking, we prepped his favorite camp foods so he had some comfort during this stressful time. Hes in limbo, We ran to the comfort our baby knew being with us his whole life... A CAMPFIRE, fishing and hiking.

Christmas day in 2023 he stood up on his own, Valentines day of 2024 he walked down my hallway like hes been doing it for years- though hes a clumsy boy, he runs like his peers. My son can listen to a song once and memorize the lyrics and sing it like he wrote it himself. He likes to be jumpscared with the most contagious belly laugh. He honed his walking skills on hikes in woods, camping and hiking. His fear of bathtubs was soothed by dipping his toes in the bottom of waterfalls- and understand the bathtub is nothing more than a tiny water fall he gets to dip in. He had delayed coordination with chewing, he's a very small guy for his age. The joy of him indulging in a s'more bigger than his little hands? PRICELESS. He's not a dock jumper.. but he's a hold me tight while we go deeper into Detroit lake. He's a set me on a floaty and let me rock with the waves.. He went on a lake inner tube with me, death gripped my finger and screamed FASTER MOMMY. He went from a vomit from screaming over a bath.. to watch me mommy. He's the walker, the runner, the eat like a grown man with hollow legs and the brave boy noone gave him the credit for. I've dedicated his whole life after the first 10 weeks to his healing-- the greatest tool in my box of being a foster parent? NATURE.

I need you to understand the access- my children have been to 17 states, This isnt you footing the whole bill. This is just carrying some of the cost it takes to raise and heal a child. Giving more than a reimbursement check to help these children. This is going the extra mile to make sure no child falls through the crack. Some foster parents can't afford to camp, without this pass- \$20-\$52 a night depending on the site plus a registration fee online.

Better perspective. Over thanksgiving we stayed 4 nights in our RV, needing an extra vehicle because of the kids in our home. That would have been an average of \$208 for just the site, another \$40 for the extra vehicle (That I pay for currently, there's no coverage for that) Plus the \$10 that went up from \$8. I would have paid \$258 in exchange for my mud fearing baby to face his fears and hold a Salamander. a \$258 core memory for my little boy, just for one longer holiday weekend when the campground was empty. We paid \$50 for it instead- extra vehicle and online fee. That is a huge difference for a lot of families- especially on the money it takes to feed a family over the weekend.

PLEASE, PLEASE consider how much you will be taking from these children who deserve more. The children suffering in silence and trying so desperately to heal through the heart ache. We can do more for them. Our foster system is flawed and broken- and this is not a minor adjustment, this is a major ball drop when it comes to our children in the Oregon state foster system. It's a major ball drop for foster parents who already feel like its them vs the state when it comes to the best interest of the traumatized children we raise while biological parents and the state of Oregon figure it out.

Not only should you keep this access pass exactly how it is, you should do even more to support children in care, their healing and support the resource parents who dont have a say in much of anything when it comes to the kids they show up for every day. We can clean up the vomit, show up to all the events, drive back and forth for the therapies, wipe the tears, rock through night terrors, keep a neutral face for brutal disclosures, struggle with second hand trauma, hold space for mental crisis- and still be told how much more we can bend and how much more we can sacrifice. This pass may not

affect you- but it affects myself, my children and every other foster child in the system.

If as a group you sit together around a table and believe that the state is doing a great job to support us all- I promise you're not paying attention or you're not speaking to the people directly affected by the foster care system. I would ask the table of people who make this decision first; Are you a foster parent? If no, have conversations. If yes, Do you utilize this pass? if no, have conversations.

Thank you for your time,

Shauna Riegel



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Barbara Rasmussen

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rasmussenba@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

1. Agree that a tiered cancellation policy is reasonable. Would it be possible to post “alerts of availability” for parks as camping sites are cancelled, rather than the current hit and miss searching for an available site?
2. Please maintain the Special Access pass for all U.S. veterans, not just those from Oregon. (and does “from Oregon” mean now residing in Oregon or an Oregon resident when entering the U.S. military?) Agree that 10 free camping days per month is overly generous, but just 10 per year is the other extreme—is there a middle ground?
3. Disagree with raising cap limits on fees, seasonal pricing, and raising day use fees. This only shuts out people economically and creates parks for the “wealthy.”

Thank you,
Barbara Rasmussen



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sigrid and Thomas Maier

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

oregonmaier@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to comment on the proposed changes to Oregon State Parks fees, including dynamic pricing for camping, higher day use and parking charges, stricter refund rules, and changes to passes and discounts.

I understand that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is facing a serious funding challenge. Public information from OPRD and recent coverage describe a projected 14 million dollar budget shortfall this biennium driven by declining lottery revenue, rising operating costs, and the fact that Oregon State Parks do not receive General Fund tax dollars for operations. I support the goal of keeping parks open and well maintained. However, relying on dynamic pricing and broad user fee increases is the wrong primary tool for a public system that is supposed to provide equitable access to nature for all Oregonians.

Dynamic pricing and fee spikes tend to reduce participation and make access more exclusive

We have national examples that show what happens when public land agencies lean too heavily on price increases and peak pricing.

In 2017 the National Park Service proposed a large peak season fee increase at some of the most popular national parks, raising vehicle entrance fees to 70 dollars during high demand periods. Public response was overwhelmingly negative and centered on concerns that the hikes would price out lower income visitors and families. After receiving more than one hundred thousand comments, the agency backed away from the peak pricing concept and instead adopted a smaller system wide increase. The lesson was clear: aggressive, demand based pricing for public lands is widely seen as unfair and exclusionary.

At the state level, Washington raised the price of its Discover Pass in 2025, increasing the annual pass from 30 to 45 dollars and the day pass from 10 to 15 dollars in order to bolster funding for parks and wildlife. Early data presented to the state parks commission showed that while total revenue went up, the number of passes sold dropped significantly. In other words, the state made more money from fewer households, and that meant fewer people had convenient, annual access to their own public lands.

These are cautionary examples for Oregon. It may be possible to raise more revenue from a smaller group of users, but that comes at the cost of reduced participation and reduced access.

Cost is already a barrier, and dynamic pricing will hit lower income families hardest

Decades of recreation research show that lack of money is one of the most frequently cited reasons that lower income and working class people do not participate more in outdoor activities. When fees rise, these households do not simply absorb the cost. They go less often, or they stop going.

Camping data reinforces this. National reports show that a very large portion of campers come from households under 50,000 dollars a year, and that most campers view camping as the most affordable way to travel and recreate with family. Many already say that rising costs are changing how often and where they go. For these households, even modest increases are meaningful.

Holiday and three day weekends are often the only practical windows when lower income and working class families can go camping. People who work hourly jobs, in service industries, or in multiple part time roles rarely have the freedom to take

random weekdays off. A dynamic pricing model that makes holiday and peak season weekends the most expensive effectively penalizes the very people with the least flexibility and the least disposable income.

Camping is one of the last relatively affordable ways for lower income Oregonians to spend meaningful time in nature with their families. Policies that make those experiences less attainable run directly against the idea of state parks as a public good.

Public access today is directly tied to conservation tomorrow

Time in the outdoors is more than a leisure activity. Childhood and family experiences in parks are strongly associated with later support for conservation measures, environmental protections, and investment in public lands. People who camp, hike, paddle, and fish are more likely to see themselves as stakeholders and to speak up when rivers, forests, and coastlines are at risk.

If higher and less predictable fees mean fewer people can visit Oregon State Parks, fewer children will grow up with those experiences and fewer adults will feel a direct connection to these landscapes. Over time, that shrinks the constituency that will fight for parks, for healthy rivers, and for long term funding. Fewer people in the outdoors means fewer people falling in love with the outdoors and wanting to protect it.

Before asking users to pay more, OPRD should demonstrate real efforts to reduce waste and improve efficiency

We realize that OPRD does not control lottery revenue or inflation. However, before shifting more of the burden onto park users, the public deserves clarity on what has already been done to reduce internal waste and improve efficiency.

As one example from another state, a 2022 performance audit of Colorado Parks and Wildlife found that problems in the way staff managed campsite reservations, unnecessary closures, and inconsistent fee practices led to an estimated 2.8 million dollars in lost revenue in a single year. The audit also raised concerns that some sites were closed or blocked in ways that benefited family and friends instead of maximizing public use. That experience shows that internal practices and management can have very real financial consequences, independent of fee levels.

Oregonians should be able to see, in plain language, what OPRD has already done to:

- Tighten reservation practices and reduce unnecessary closures
- Limit non essential travel, consulting, and overhead spending
- Renegotiate contracts for reservation systems and other major vendors
- Prioritize front line maintenance and access while trimming administrative costs

Government agencies are often perceived as inefficient. Whether that perception is fully accurate or not, the way to build trust is to show clearly that every reasonable internal step has been taken before asking families, especially lower income families, to pay more.

There are better, targeted tools to fix availability without using dynamic pricing

We strongly support efforts to curb abuse in the reservation system. There are targeted tools that address this directly without turning campsites into surge priced hotel rooms.

Oregon already uses a penalty approach with hunters who fail to submit harvest reports by the deadline. They face an added fee on future licenses, and that has improved compliance. A similar model could be applied to chronic camping no shows and last minute cancellations. After a certain number of no shows or late cancellations in a year, campers could face fines or temporary loss of reservation privileges.

Other targeted tools include:

- Modest, refundable deposits for peak weekends to reduce speculative bookings and scalping
- Audits of reservation patterns to identify possible bot or reseller behavior and enforce rules
- Lottery or rotating priority systems for the highest demand campgrounds on the busiest dates, while keeping prices flat

These approaches go after the actual problem of availability rather than simply raising prices on everyone.

Consider funding mechanisms that focus on higher end recreation purchases instead of basic access

Instead of leaning heavily on camping and day use fee increases, Oregon should explore revenue tools that fall more on higher income, higher impact recreation spending.

For example:

- Oregon already uses RV registration fees and a portion of certain taxes to support parks and outdoor programs. The Legislature could modestly increase specific RV registration surcharges dedicated by statute to OPRD operations, with clear transparency about where that money goes.
- Oregon law already directs marine fuel tax revenue to the Oregon State Marine Board for boating facilities, recognizing that boaters should help fund the infrastructure they use. Similar logic could apply to a small excise or surcharge on in-state purchases of new recreational vehicles such as large RVs, travel trailers, and motorboats, with that revenue dedicated to state park operations.
- Other states provide models. Idaho, for example, has a dedicated Recreational Vehicle Fund that uses RV registration fees to finance campground and RV facility improvements statewide. Connecticut's Passport to the Parks program ties a small fee to vehicle registrations in exchange for free entrance to many state parks for residents.

These kinds of mechanisms recognize that people who can afford high cost, high impact equipment are in a better position to contribute incremental funding than a family renting a basic tent site for a weekend. They broaden or rebalance the funding base instead of making a single camping trip more expensive.

Public lands are not luxury products

Oregon State Parks are public lands. They are held in trust for everyone, not only for people who can afford higher and higher prices on the days most people are able to visit. Treating camping and day use more like airline tickets or resort stays risks turning a shared public good into a segmented, pay to play product.

We respectfully urge OPRD and the Parks and Recreation Commission to:

- Reject dynamic pricing for camping and day use
- Be extremely cautious about further fee increases at peak times and on holiday weekends
- Publicly detail the efficiency and cost control measures already taken
- Focus on targeted tools that address scalpers, chronic no shows, and internal waste
- Explore funding solutions tied to higher end recreation purchases, such as RVs and boats, rather than raising prices on basic access

Thank you for your work caring for Oregon's parks and for the opportunity to comment. We enjoy Oregon's State Parks every year. Please consider our comments a lot of our friends and family feel the same way.

Sincerely

Sigrid and Thomas Maier



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Schaerer

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

djschaerer@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

I read in today's (12/4/25) Oregonian where the Parks Department has proposed eliminating free day-use park passes for disabled vets. As a Viet-Nam era vet who has been disabled for the past 53 years, removal of this free day pass would be a disgraceful act to severely disabled veterans like myself.

For many years I've used my park pass as an affordable way to experience nature in Oregon's beautiful state parks. Taking away a veteran's benefit I've used all these years has the same effect as closing the gates to my favorite parks.

David Schaerer
Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Conant

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

waconant@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Re: reservation changes. As a retired camper I find the reservation system to be difficult to use. If people are allowed to tie up campsites in anticipation of what they might use then many sites quickly become unavailable. I recommend no refund. If you want to camp, set a sure date or forfeit the funds. I live in Eugene and like to camp at the coast but all too often nothing is available in the system. A 10 day window for refund after a reservation would allow for accidental errors.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tim Kittleson

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jungle1329@live.com

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

Public comment:

I would like to express my dissatisfaction on the proposed changes to the Oregon State Parks rules to "save money".

I am very dismayed that the budget short fall is actually looking to penalize Oregon disabled Veterans.

You mention "scaling back" benefits. Your suggested "scaling back" from 10 free nights per month to 10 free nights PER YEAR is very drastic. Also, the elimination of the free day use pass for Oregon disabled Veterans is another slap in the face.

These benefits are crucial for the overall well being of our Veterans & their families.

I hope you reconsider the actions you are proposing.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

LeRoy Mueller

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:27 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

twodoxies2@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I just read the article in the Oregonian about proposed changes to the special access pass for the state parks. I am a service connected disability veteran and I have been privileged to have a special access pass for several years. I am 81 years old and on a very limited income so this pass is very meaningful to me. We use the pass on average for about 25-30 days a year at our great state parks, we usually go for about 4-5 days at a stay. I believe that I do not overuse my access but it would really cut into my RVing times away from home. As you probably know the private RV parks are getting more expensive every year. I think that instead of limiting our stays from 10 per month (120 days per year) to half of that and allow us 60 days per, that would give the OPRD some much needed income and still allow us disabled veterans adequate time to enjoy the beautiful state parks. Also I would like to see non Oregon residents limited access to the parks.

Thank you for listening

LeRoy Mueller
St Helens, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tonya Griffin

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tonyagriff@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear representatives,

I am writing to provide comment on the changes proposed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, up for review in February. I am a life-long Oregonian, born and raised in the Willamette Valley, now living with my own children in the Portland Metro area. I was first taken camping at nine months old, and my sons were also introduced to camping in Oregon parks during their infancy. Being in the forest, along a river, swimming in a lake, exploring a lava field, playing frisbee golf in rain boots in winter, these are the things that bring us true joy.

I am thrilled to hear that some of these changes are intended to limit the number of open and empty, but not reservable or usable sites at Oregon State Parks. I have witnessed first-hand empty sites during high camping season. I have been unable to secure reservations because others have held sites for multiple weeks, only to cancel most days and stay for just a few. I think a tiered refund system makes good sense. I also think the parks need a better system to allow unused sites to be taken by walk-ins or via a wait list (like I've experienced at California State Parks).

I am, however, dismayed to hear about the changes to pricing. Most importantly, please do not take away benefits from our veterans and foster families. I could support a restriction to Oregon residents, but to go from a potential benefit of 120-140 nights per year to 10 is an unjust and extreme reduction. The sacrifices these folks, and their families make, warrants a rich benefit. I think there is a more reasonable middle ground, especially considering most eligible families do not make full use of the benefit.

I also strongly implore you to not employ dynamic pricing against Oregonians. A dynamic pricing model would be devastating for my family. I am a teacher, who has no control over her vacation time, and would certainly be paying the highest prices. I do not think Oregonians should bear the burden of high season. We are the ones who survive the wet winter and LIVE for beautiful days outdoors! I believe that out-of-state folks should pay the higher prices during periods of higher demand, which would result in more revenue AND preserve access for Oregon residents. We pay our taxes, we support our parks during dark winter days, and we deserve to have real access during prime times of the year.

Dynamic pricing would take that away from working-class Oregonians and give our parks to wealthy Californians and Washingtonians with wages to pay such exorbitant fees.

For our family, camping is our only vacation. We do not fly to tropical locales, drive to Disney, or rent houses at the beach. We camp - at county parks, state parks, and dispersed on public lands. It is what we love, and frankly, all we can afford. The proposed measures would put camping out of reach for many middle class families, including my own. My family has already reduced our camping trips because of increased fees in other parks (especially county parks) over the last five years. The proposed price increases would drastically restrict our access to Oregon's amazing natural spaces stewarded by the State Parks system. It would be a true loss for the generations of campers in my family.

Thank you for considering my comments,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Anthony Barber

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tonyandcathy@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

Subject: Public Comment Opposing Proposed Reductions to Oregon Parks Special Access Pass Waivers

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule changes that would reduce the Oregon Parks Special Access Pass waivers for service-connected disabled veterans and foster families from the current allowance (10 or 14 nights per month) to a maximum of 10 nights per year and eliminate eligibility for non-Oregon residents.

Our nation's veterans—especially those living with service-connected disabilities—have made immense sacrifices in the service of our country. The Special Access Pass program is a meaningful way for Oregon to honor their commitment and provide well-deserved opportunities for recreation, healing, and family connection in our beautiful state parks. Reducing access to only 10 nights per year not only diminishes this recognition but also places an undue burden on veterans whose needs for rest and recovery may be significantly greater than the average park user. For many disabled veterans, regular access to nature is not a luxury, but a vital part of physical and mental well-being.

Furthermore, removing eligibility for non-Oregon residents is inherently unfair. Many veterans have deep roots in Oregon, family here, or receive care at Oregon VA facilities, even if they reside just across a state line. Excluding them from this program undermines the spirit of camaraderie and national gratitude that should transcend

borders. Veterans' service was not limited by state lines; our appreciation should not be either. Also, when non-residents come to Oregon they contribute to our economy. Those who don't come because of this proposal will not be spending their money at local Oregon businesses, nor generating state tax revenue. I'm also concerned about reciprocal cuts other states like Washington and Idaho might undertake in response to this proposed rule change. Currently, as a disabled veteran I am afforded certain state discounted rates for recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing licenses in those states. Because of these Washington and Idaho benefits, I am able to connect with fellow veterans who live their much easier to maintain camaraderie and my own and their mental health.

From a perspective of fairness and equity, these changes disproportionately impact those who have already given so much. Disabled veterans and foster families often face financial and logistical barriers that make access to outdoor recreation challenging. Waived fees and flexible access are not simply perks—they are essential support for these communities. Reducing waivers and restricting eligibility sends an unfortunate message that Oregon is turning away from its tradition of supporting those who have served and those who provide care for our most vulnerable children.

Lastly, I'd like to address proposed rate increases and expected revenue from this proposal. First, \$2.2 million in additional revenue is likely overestimated. It would seem to be assumed that every space not occupied with a Special Access Pass holder would be rented at full price to another park user. That seems unrealistic, and perhaps something on the order of half of the lauded savings might be more accurate. It should also be said that (if I did my math right) the average increase over all categories of rates appears to be about 67%! That is in no way a modest increase, nor a reasonable one, to cover increased costs. Instead, this increase is part of a belt-tightening on vital services, where there are instead plenty of state-paid services and expenses that should come first on the chopping block before enacting this proposal to further limit access to the least-well-off Oregonians. If you need to raise rates, that's fine. But this proposal is very excessive.

I urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks Commission to reconsider these proposed rule changes. Instead, please seek solutions that continue to honor all disabled veterans and foster families—regardless of residency—and preserve meaningful, equitable access to Oregon's public lands. Our parks should remain places of healing, inclusion, and gratitude for those who have sacrificed so much for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this public comment.

Respectfully,

Anthony Barber
Tualatin, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brock Herriges Herriges

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bherriges@mac.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon,

Please keep the Oregon State Parks Veterans pass. "Gratitude should not be reduced, restricted, or taken away. Let's keep this gesture of honor alive." ☒☒☒

Brock Herriges
Warrenton, Oregon
Veteran, United States Navy



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Allen Newman

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 10:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

anewman622@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am absolutely disappointed to learn that someone thinks cutting veteran camping privileges is a good idea. Prior to retiring from the military you go through a class that shows what states give what benefits to veterans. You quickly learn Oregon is one of the least friendly to military retirees. Discounted camping and discounted fishing and hunting licenses are about all that is left for Oregon to offer. It gets people out in nature to enjoy one of the few things that keep people coming to Oregon, the beauty of the outdoors. Please reconsider this decision.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Karen McDermott

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 11:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mcdermott.k.i53@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom it Concerns:

A lot of disabled veterans suffer from PTSD. Camping, boating and picnics are a means of escaping and or refreshing when dealing with PTSD. I happen to be one of those veterans. Cutting the camping from 10 days a month to 10 days a year would extremely affect my camping time. I love the state parks and love getting out into the outdoors to feel better about myself. When I have been triggered, I tend to go camping.

I know how this change would greatly affect my mental well being. I can't speak for other veterans, but I am sure it will have a drastic effect on them also. Rather than 10 days a year, can the number each month be cut to 5 days. Maybe 40-50 days a year?

Please take into consideration the effect this will have on veterans

Regards

Karen McDermott



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patricia Whitaker

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 11:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

triciawhitaker0913@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern:

I just read an article that explained all the possible price increases for Oregon State parks. I implore you to rethink this as it will make Camping an impossibility for so many people.

I have a small Camping club and we go Camping eight times per year, March-October. We all get up at 6 AM, six months before our Camping trip, and book our reservations. If, perhaps on the rare occasion we have to cancel we should not be penalized because we are organized and have our camping trips planned out. A refund policy that penalizes someone for booking during the booking window does not make any sense at all. If you are modelling this after the state of Washington please rethink it. We avoid Washington parks at all cost because of their Draconian refund policies. 95% of the time everyone who books in advance goes Camping but there are also might come a time when something comes up in your life where you have to cancel.

Most of the members of my Camping Club are retirees and are on a fixed income. We have some members who are working but still survive at a lower socio-economic level. We also have disabled campers who depend on Social Security. Personally, I am retired and live on a fixed income and it is a stretch for me to pay each month but I do it because it is my chance to help others go camping and for me to socialize. This year you have already raised the price for Camping and it is putting a strain on me as we book for 2026. I certainly won't be able to go if you raise the prices even more. Please allow us to continue our respite weekends. Camping should be for all and not for just the people who are wealthy.

Please reconsider going through with your proposals and find another way to raise the necessary funds.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patricia Matiskella

Date comment received:

December 5, 2025 11:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pkhinshaw@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I am an Oregonian writing about the proposed changes to the Oregon State Parks rules. I agree that some changes are needed to address the budget shortfall.

I strongly support the proposal to adjust the refund policy on cancelled reservations. Too many people can negatively affect the process by making reservations early and cancelling at the last minute. This deprives others of the opportunity to plan their own camping vacations, and campsites remain unnecessarily vacant.

I am also a disabled veteran who benefits from the Special Access Pass (10 days of free camping per month and free day-use pass). I am not opposed to some modifications to benefit (e.g., reducing the number of free camping days or limiting it to Oregon residents only). However, I would urge the Commission to **KEEP** the free day-use pass intact for Oregon veterans and foster families.

Academic and medical studies repeatedly show that being in nature has strong therapeutic effects for PTSD-related symptoms. State park access for Oregon's disabled veterans and foster children is less costly for the community than many other treatments and trauma therapies. The free-day use pass allows these special populations to use the parks when they need them most.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Candice Wiege

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 12:00 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

candicewiege@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please reconsider the decisions to reduce veterans' accessibility to state campgrounds. At least look at increasing the yearly number of days from 10 to allow veterans the ability to enjoy vacations with family and friends. Veterans and most families have limited ability to afford vacations, so please think of them before making any final changes. Thank you for your consideration.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Terry and Michelle Henrikson

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 12:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

missystoptiercakes@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good day,

As native Oregonians, veteran pass holders and avid campers, we are often dismayed at how the reservation system works.

Many campers do not know how to set up an availability alert because of the disconnect between Reserve America and the Oregon State Park reservation system. You can only set it up on the Oregon site. It is a useful tool. The empty sites could potentially be filled if more education about the alert process were provided and computer programs meshed.

We know of at least 3 State Parks that have no cell service to even be able to make the reservation without climbing back into your rig after a long trip to find service. I'm sure there are more. Not all clientele are computer savvy and it's an extreme hardship not to have personnel in the kiosks.

Folks are getting tired of paying more for less personal attention. Who closes the bathrooms and showers early in 3 loops of one of the busiest parks in the state? Beverly Beach closed them 9/15 last year and the loops were full! Handicapped/mobility challenged folks were severely inconvenienced.

Park rangers are few and far between to provide good customer service.

We feel that the charge for making and canceling reservations are too high. No personnel are involved, it's all click and done. Veterans like us use the parks not only for pleasure, but often for medical travel. I would say 60% of our benefit is used for medical purposes. Charging, now \$10, for each transaction makes a hardship on people on fixed incomes. Please do not decrease the 10 day/month benefit that we depend on and enjoy.

Please consider going back to putting availability signs on the site markers. This would help people who are cruising the park last minute to fill the sites. There is no way to know if a site is available for purchase, unless you go find cell service.

You've got to figure out a way to not penalize folks for canceling, but still fill the sites.

Thank you for reading and have a productive meeting.

Terry and Michelle Henrikson

Elgin, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Amanda Hash

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 04:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mhash1504@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I am a voting, tax payer in Oregon. My husband is a disabled Veteran. Taking this benefit away from our Veterans is not the right choice. Many of the Veterans I know use the solace of camping to connect with family and friends. And removing the day pass option takes the benefit away from so many that are no longer able to overnight camp due to their injuries and/or disabilities suffered while serving our country and protecting our freedoms.

Enforcing this rule and the changes will only complicate and cost the system more. And putting it on the camp hosts to enforce dynamic pricing and the removal of camping benefits is not fair to your camp hosts. You will likely lose many wonderful camp hosts.

There has to be a better solution.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hash



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Dennison

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 04:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

slowhandb@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the budget concerns and know changes are required. I wish you could make less drastic changes. I am addressing the veteran proposal. I would suggest canceling out of state veteran passes first before doing it for resident veterans. Maybe raise the disability rating from 25% to 50% or higher. I don't have the data, but if you could look into the data to see what the percentages are. At the very least I think the 100% permanently disable resident veterans should not change.

Thank you for listening to my input.
Robert Dennison



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Vanessa Clark Smith

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 07:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

vanessa.clark@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I have been an Oregon parks camper for most of my life. It's still one of my favorite experiences, and I love that it's an affordable option for family vacations. I appreciate that OPRD is attempting to make changes that would help with the problem of people reserving long periods of time and then cancelling at the last minute. I fully agree with and support the changes to the cancellation and refunds policy. This really needs to happen so that more people are able to enjoy the parks.

Dynamic pricing seems like it could make camping harder to afford for many families though. They might only have weekends and/or holiday weekends as a time when they can go camping, and it's not fair that they would have to pay a higher nightly rate due to that. I am in support of is the fee varying by amenities. It is fair to pay more to camp in a campground that offers more amenities, or to pay more for specific sites that have more amenities.

The changes to the Special Access Pass and Day Use Permits seem reasonable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alyssa Close

Date comment received:

December 6, 2025 11:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lyss.close@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm in support of increased structure surrounding cancelation policies. However, I am strongly opposed to dynamic pricing. As a consumer we travel when we are available, based on work and life schedules. If we want to camp over the holidays or weekends it's because that's how we've chosen to spend our limited free time and we put the effort into trying to get spots during that busy time. We're already not able to get the best spots, typically. By increasing fees around holidays and weekends you're just making camping a less accessible option for families.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Morgan Tracy

Date comment received:

December 7, 2025 03:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

morgan.tracy@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

I am supportive of adjusting rates to reflect general demand (and levels of provided services) during different peak/off peak seasons. However, true dynamic pricing (which adjusts as site supply diminishes) is inequitable and designed to be exclusionary. For wealthier households, the difference is inconsequential, but this approach could make the difference whether a lower income household is able to afford the reservation. It also makes it more difficult for those households to accurately predict what the final rates will be until making a reservation.

Basically squeezing them out.

Oregon doesn't need to make playgrounds for the rich, there are lots of options available for private, exclusive, gated membership havens. Let's not make our state park system party to that. Kill the dynamic demand pricing model.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynne Chartier

Date comment received:

December 7, 2025 05:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynnechartier@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Hi. We love camping in Oregon State parks. While some of the rules above will take getting used to, I recognize these changes are necessary to ensure the parks will be open and maintained for camping and day use. My comments:

1.. The free use for families of children in 4th grade. Maybe still give them a free day use pass for that year and maybe reduced camping fees, but why free? Or limit to 10 days like the other special categories.

2. We have camped in private and county parks where cost for hookup sites varies depending upon need- so for example if I have a huge rig that requires a 50 amp hookup, I pay more than someone in a tent trailer that uses only a 110 plug. There should be separate categories with increasing costs- 20 amp/standard 110, 30 amp, 50 amp. We run a mini fridge, sometimes a small portable heater, and an overhead light in our camper. The rest is either propane or 12 volt battery powered. The rig next to us may be using a heater and/or AC in a motor home 5 or more times as large as ours. They have hot water heaters and showers which use more hot water in a day than we use in a week. Yet we pay the same fees. Same with sewer- we reserve full hookups so we can have water and electric but we don't use the sewer hookups. Unless it doesn't cost the department more, charge more for sewer usage. It would rely on user honesty but really upon check-in, the ranger can almost always tell at a glance if the rig has bathroom facilities that feed directly into the camp sewer.

Camping has changed over the years. We moved from a tent to a vintage camper that we restored but is merely a little step up from a tent or tent trailer. Those of us still wanting the camping experience pay the same as someone in a huge motor home or 40 foot trailer with television and who knows what else. We call them portable hotels. Maybe make them pay more for that resource drain.

Thank you for allowing me to comment and thank you for helping keep Oregon State Parks

accessible and welcoming.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

kimberly ferrier

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 02:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

ferrierka@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Why is there such a drastic cut in the number of days Disabled Veterans can camp with a Special Access Pass each year. I know that Oregon State Parks need more funding, but decreasing the number free stays from 120 per year or 10 per month down to 10 per year is way too drastic a cut. Are veterans not using their stays, making reservations and not using them or behaving badly in some way. If Veterans are making reservations and then not using them, decrease that particular persons access, not everyone's.

Veterans deserve better treatment than to have this wonderful benefit being slashed so drastically.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andy Blye

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 05:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

blyeandrew@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Does it really matter what we submit as testimony?

If it does matter, here's my .02, about all that's left after being taxed and fee'd to death here in Oregon: The cost of living in Oregon has become one of the highest in the country. It's becoming "land of the fee." The outdoors and parks is one of the main things that keeps people here and helps them justify not moving somewhere else. I certainly understand the need to maintain the parks and that it takes money to do that, but perhaps Oregon should find a new system of funding the parks rather than just making users/residents all pay more in fees. You already doubled the park pass and took away the 2 year option as a better value. If people can't afford to pay the increased fees to enjoy the parks then why even live here?

I don't like the language as is that it gives you a blank check to increase fees at will as needed. If fee increases are needed, then get them approved each time.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Eric Moll

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 06:07 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

edmoll13@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm disappointed that the Oregon State Parks have been so poorly managed that it has come to such a significant budget shortfall. It's embarrassing that Oregon is one of the highest tax burden states in the nation and these high taxes likely include unnecessary expenses but not the important treasure of our state parks. It's sad the important funding has been tied to an unreliable source of the lottery which is arguably unethical and reliant on people's addictions. Oregonians deserve better. Our State Parks deserve better!

There should be a fair rate for day use and camping. Dynamic pricing seems like an opportunity to unfairly raise prices in the future. \$200/year is \$120 more than an America the Beautiful Pass which includes a lot more throughout the country.

If possible, I think day-use fees should be free for county residents.

I grew up in Michigan which has an annual pass program with vehicle registration. It is much cheaper than Oregon. Likely this method has more people sign up for the annual pass so maybe more total revenue?

Michigan Resident Annual Recreation Passport Fees:

- *Motorized Vehicles: \$14 when purchased with your license plate renewal through the Secretary of State
- *Motorcycles: \$7 when purchased with your license plate renewal through the Secretary of State
- Commercial daily pass: \$21

*****Non-Resident Recreation Passport Fees:***

- Annual nonresident: \$40
- Daily nonresident: \$11
- Towed motor vehicle (only if being used): \$8

Another point, many campgrounds are often sold out or need to be reserved well in advance. This is a big opportunity loss. It would take work and more expenses initially, but I think increasing campground size would be a benefit for increased revenue and allow more people to visit our amazing parks.

Maybe Oregon State Parks struggles have reached the point to make an agreement with the National Forest Service/other federal land managers to have them take ownership and manage some of the campgrounds or day use sites? For example Oregon Dunes, Cape Perpetua Area, etc aren't managed by the state. Also, maybe some of the counties would like to take over managing some of state sites. Maybe the federal sites have better funding sources than Oregon does or are able to manage money more effectively. I've stayed at National Park Campgrounds for much cheaper than Oregon State Parks. I did notice that National Parks are significantly increasing prices for non-US residents and I'm not sure if this a good idea either.

Thank you for considering my comments and hopefully you will find the best solution to keep Oregon's beauty accessible to all for years to come.

Eric



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Charles

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 12:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tomc72018@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

I am concerned about the limitation for only 10 days of camping for disabled veterans. I normally camp for more than 10 days each year, this limitation will severely limit my capabilities for camping which being on a fixed income is my way of relaxing. I normally camp for 4 days at a time 4 times in the year. The new rule would greatly compromise my capability to do that. If at least 20% of us disabled camp more than 10 days a year. That's a fifth of those disabled veterans. Was our service insufficient to allow us to qualify under the current status quo? If this is unalterable, could it be modified to two full weeks. Which would allow for 4 more days. Your consideration is greatly appreciated



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steven Tucker

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 01:27 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tucker3760@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am concerned with this rate increase proposal. These facilities are needed for all Oregonian's including our vulnerable families that can not absorb more cost increases. By making the rates where they are increased so easily at someone's discretion is a policy that would encourage waste and fiscal irresponsibility.

I am opposed to what appears to be another money grab proposal.
Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joseph Hedberg

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 04:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jfhedberg@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I would ask that the state continue with the ten days a month access for the year for the disabled veterans. As a disabled veterans I may not utilize all 120 days of camping per year, but there are other veterans who have the pass that rely on those ten days a year to have somewhere they can briefly call home. There are veterans who utilize state and county parks who are working on other avenues to get into stable housing. Only having 10 days per year would limit them.

I've used my pass regularly having it. I recently bought a motor home and want to see so many more parks this great state has to offer. Ten days a year is almost what I get on vacations, it would be a shame to only stay locally and not do more exploring in the state or limit the resources available. It's not taking the opportunity away from me personally, either, it's taking the opportunities to explore this state away from my two young children as well. I ask that you keep the 120 days annually for disabled veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Malpass

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 05:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

billymalpass@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

10 days a year is a insult to me for the amount of time I spent in the army. It's a joke that Oregon state government is so broken and our shitty leader Kotex caint budget and leave the benefits which are minimal compared to other states like Alabama for example. Just take a look at how Alabama treats its veterans and learn. It's sad that they are taking away our minimal benefits and making it even less . Oregon veterans deserve better.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Douglas Massingill

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 05:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

d_massingill@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Sir/Ma'am,

This rule change severely impacts service-connected disability veterans. The new limits restrict free access days to 8.3% of the current overnight-stay availability. Also, eliminating the day use pass will keep most low income veterans from visiting day use sites altogether.

I understand the goal of reducing bureaucratic red tape, but this change will increase it. Currently, the system will not allow veterans to make reservations on dates beyond their disability pass expiration. By having to renew annually, veterans will now have to pay out of pocket (which most cannot afford), and for those that do, OPRD will be processing multitudes of reimbursements to valid pass holders.

The idea of limiting access to Oregon residents is a good one. If reducing the overnight-stay limit is necessary for fiscal reasons, then please consider a less severe limit, maybe 10 days per quarter year.

The rest of this rule change can only be received as slight to disabled veterans. It sends the message, "Thank you for your service, but we don't want you here."

Respectfully,

Douglas Massingill

Chief Master Sergeant, Retired



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Elizabeth Wenzel

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 06:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tutorelizabeth@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

We are an adoptive family in Oregon. Our children have been through a lot and the Oregon state park pass has been a way to get them lots of time in the outdoors. Camping has been a huge boost to their mental health (and ours! Raising kids with mental health issues isn't easy!). I respectfully ask that you maintain the current benefits for foster and adoptive families.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Josh Wenzel

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 06:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

josuewenzel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As foster parents for more than four years — and now adoptive parents to two children we welcomed through Oregon’s foster care system — spending time in nature has become one of our core family values. Exploring Oregon’s incredible parks has been deeply important for our kids’ emotional well-being, healing, and connection to our state.

The special access pass for foster and adoptive families has been essential in making these experiences possible. It removed a real financial barrier and allowed us to take our children camping frequently — something we would not otherwise have been able to afford. These trips have offered our kids the proven therapeutic benefits of being outdoors: the quiet, the space to breathe, the joy of hiking, swimming, and being surrounded by beauty.

Reducing access from two weeks per month to ten days per year would dramatically limit our ability to take these restorative trips. It would significantly reduce both the number and length of the visits we can make to Oregon’s parks, directly affecting the children who benefit from them

most.

I fully support efforts to run our state's parks efficiently and responsibly. But limiting this particular program — one that supports foster and adoptive families who have stepped up for Oregon's most vulnerable children — does not seem like the right place to cut. This pass is a small investment that creates a profound impact.

For the sake of the children who depend on these opportunities for healing, growth, and connection, I strongly urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to maintain the current access level for foster and adoptive families.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Teri Barlow

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 07:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

teriabarlow@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I read the changes that is on the table regarding State Park changes. It is a slap in the face to all veterans to take away the free days per month for camping to 10 days per year. Our veterans served to protect you and our country. Providing the 10 days per month is a small token of appreciation to keeping us safe during their time of service. Some veterans come home with mental and physical disabilities. I find this totally heartless. And yes, I am a veterans wife who advocates for what I believe my disabled vet is entitled to. Respectfully, Teri Barlow



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bob Langley

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 08:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

boblangley852@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I feel that OR State Parks are very important and need to be well maintained and affordable for everyone in our state. .

The \$8 million shortfall referenced in news article amounts to a pittance as a part of the overall state budget. So, here is my proposal which I am sure has been considered in the past --

Ask OPRD- friendly state representatives to prepare, submit, and support a bill to provide a small number of \$\$ from the general fund each year.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stewart Grater

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 08:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

stugrater@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Subject: URGENT CONCERN and OBJECTION: Proposed Rule Change Limiting Disabled Veteran Special Access Pass to 10 Annual Nights

To the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and the Commission,

I am writing as a disabled veteran and a proud user of the Special Access Pass (SAP) to comment on the proposed rule changes to OAR 736, Division 15. I support the efforts to secure the financial stability of our state parks and acknowledge the necessity of updated fee structures and pricing adjustments.

However, the proposal to limit the Disabled Veteran Special Access Pass to **10 fee-waived nights per year** is a severe, disproportionate cut that fundamentally undermines the purpose of the benefit and must be reconsidered.

1. The Requirement for Sustained, Restorative Access

The current allowance for 10 consecutive nights or 10 nights per month is not a privilege, but a **therapeutic necessity** for disabled veterans managing service-connected physical or psychological conditions.

For a veteran managing physical limitations, the initial ordeal of travel, setup, and settling into a campsite requires several days of rest before true enjoyment and restoration can begin. Limiting annual access to just 10 nights total effectively eliminates the ability to engage in more than one short, restorative trip and defeats the purpose of the park's healing environment. Extended duration is essential for genuine recuperation.

2. The Proposed Reduction is Excessively Disproportionate

The OPRD's stated goal for the SAP change is to achieve a **46% reduction in program costs**. The current benefit allows for up to 120 nights per year (10/month), while the proposal offers only **10 nights per year**. This is a reduction of over 90% of the available benefit, far exceeding the stated financial goal.

If the objective is fiscal responsibility aligning with a 46% saving, then a more balanced cut is mandatory. I urge the Commission to consider a revised limit, such as **60 fee-waived nights per year** (a 50% cut from the maximum available nights) or **5 fee-waived nights per month**, which aligns more closely with the state's budget target while preserving a functional and meaningful benefit.

3. Maintaining the Integrity of the State's Acknowledgment

The Disabled Veteran Special Access Pass was established as a formal and permanent expression of the State of Oregon's commitment, gratitude, and acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by those injured while serving our country.

Drastically cutting this benefit by over 90% sends a damaging and disheartening message to the veteran community. The benefit is more than a cost-saving measure; it is a vital part of supporting the well-being and reintegration of those who have borne the cost of war. I urge you to maintain a meaningful level of benefit that honors this original legislative and moral intent.

Specific Request:

I request that the Commission reject the proposal of 10 annual nights and amend the final rule to set the annual limit for the Disabled Veteran Special Access Pass at a minimum of **60 fee-waived nights per year** or **5 fee-waived nights per month**.

Thank you for your time and for considering the profound impact this decision will have on Oregon's disabled veteran community and their families.

Sincerely,

Stewart Grater

Albany / Linn County / Oregon
Disabled Veteran / Stewart Grater 2883 South Shore Dr. SE
801-884-6200



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff Stuart

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jstuk9@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I was recently made aware of changes to Oregon State Parks.

I agree and understand that some changes must be made. My comments are as follows:

1. Refunds for cancelled reservations. 100% refund 30 or more days prior to cancellation. 21-29 days 75% refund 14-21 days 50% refund, less than 14 days \$0 refund. I try and camp at Cape Lookout every year and it's frustrating to try and get reservations 6 months out and then see the campground 50%-75% full.

2. Disabled Veterans and Foster/Adoptive families special access pass. I am a disabled veteran and outdoorsman who chose to settle in OR because of their outdoor benefits for disabled veteran's. I use 20-30 nights per year with this program as well as 30-45 days of free day use entries per year.. I also have an adopted niece and their family uses 10-20 nights per year as well as the "free" day entry multiple times per year. This benefit should be for Oregon state residents only and not allow this benefit to out of state residents. Keep this benefit for veterans who reside in the state as a small way to say thank you for your service and understanding sacrifices that have been made. How many of the 41,398 veterans are Oregon residents and how many nights a year do they utilize the pass?

3. Flexibility for camping/parking fees.

Tiered pricing for RV hookups should be increased by seasonal demands and out of state campers should pay a 25%-50% premium price to use our states natural resources just like out of state hunting licenses cost more.

Tent sites are basic camping sites and for people who truly love the outdoors or want to rough it in nature for a few days. Only increase fees to out of state Campers by 25%. Yurts and cabins seem reasonable to have \$100-\$175 per night based on facility size and location. Again a tiered pricing for out of state users should be more than an in-state resident.

Bottom line. Oregon state residents should be able to enjoy the outdoors and Special access pass should only change to allowing Oregon State residents the free camping privilege. Charge out of state people more and limit full refunds to 30 days or more cancellation while charging out of state users more for using our state resources.

Jeff Stuart

West Linn, OR 97068



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pete Renfrow

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

peterenfrow@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Cutting back on Veterans benefits as to park fees is a slap in the face to those who's life's were responsible for your ability to even have parks!

What the hell is wrong with you? Do not change the current rules in regards to them

Pete Renfrow Dundee Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cary Cummings

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

cary1cummings@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

OPRD,

I am a VietNam Veteran with a 40% service connected disability. I use my Special Access Pass extensively for camping and to visit day use areas throughout Oregon. I find it very disheartening that you would think about cutting the camping benefit to only 10 days a year and charging to use the day use areas. That is a low blow to the disabled community!

My wife and I have traveled throughout the US and no other state that we have been in would let me camp for free. Some will give me a discount for being a Veteran. So I agree that Oregon's free camping should only be for Oregon Veterans with the Special Access Pass and maybe a discount for other Veterans from other states.

I am a native Oregonian having grown up in the Roseburg area and we did a lot of camping and enjoying Oregon's state parks.

The current camping rules, ie, 10 days per month is such a wonderful benefit for the disabled community and would be a shame for that to be cut so drastically to only 10 days per year.

Thank you,

Cary Cummings



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Karen Sjogren

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sjogrenkaren2@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The following are my comments on the proposed rule changes for Oregon state parks. I worked at Silver Falls as an assistant ranger seasonally between 2007 and 2015. I worked in the day use booth in 2009 and 2010 and the registration booth, day shift, including weekends, between 2011 and 2015. I want to most strongly support eliminating all refunds for no show campers. Savvy campers jump on the best campsites and cabins as soon as they are able, six months in advance, not knowing if they will be able to use them. They will often book Thursday night knowing they will not show up until the weekend in order to get the best sites. Absolutely nothing is more disheartening than turning away a camper from a supposedly full campground where some of the reserved site campers will not show up on the first night. A full refund should also NOT be offered so close to the reservation date as occurs now. A tiered system would be fine, possibly with also some exceptions for medical reasons or a death in the family. I also support proposed changes to the Special Access Program. It is quite generous now and not fully taken advantage of. It seems fair to allow veterans and foster families 10 days free camping a year, with no free day passes. On the other hand, I am opposed to additional flexibility on raising fees for camping or day use. State parks has now doubled day use fees and just now annual passes. There's no telling how fast they might jump to higher prices during peak times, which will truly exclude low income families for whom the park experience is so important, especially for children. I know because I worked in the day use booth when the entry fee was only 5 dollars per vehicle. State parks is forgetting its mission of making these parks available to the public and shooting itself in the foot. Fewer people will visit and more will not pay the vehicle fee (day use booth is no longer at Silver Falls). Cut back on planned projects until you can eliminate the deficit. Or give people the opportunity to contribute to reducing it. Don't place the burden on park visitors.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Roberta W

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

roberta1991marie@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

As a female disabled veteran I would like to strongly oppose veterans free camping being scaled back. All veterans pledged our lives to our country and receive little in return for this sacrifice. I personally appreciate the heck out of free state camping. If I had to pay full price I'd never camp. How about charging more for people in their \$100,000 rv's and flashy boats. People who've likely never sacrificed a day for this country?

†



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Bartley

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

john.bartley@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Re: Disabled veterans and the state parks Special Access Pass (SAP)

I understand you are considering changing the benefit for disabled veterans from 10 FREE camping nights per month (120/year) to just 10 FREE camping nights per year, removing free Day Use passes, and restricting this benefit to Oregon resident disabled veterans only.

Now, I am not a veteran (4-F), but I took care of my disabled veteran brother until he died from Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam, and camping in state parks was something he enjoyed immensely. It allowed us to spend time together economically in his last years, and that was very important to me.

Disabled vets typically don't have a lot of income, and depriving us of this privilege would have really hurt. Blocking his brother disabled vets from Washington State from our campouts would also have been wrong, and I surely do hope you will not enact this limitation.

Sincerely yours,
John Bartley
Tualatin OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ila Fetterly

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ilafetterly@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

In my opinion, something needs to change. I had a reservation to stay at Lone Pine with my disabled husband in May which I needed to cancel because he died in April. No problem. However, I did want to go to Ft. Stevens during the summer, between June and late September, but the campground was full every time I checked, as was Deschutes Recreation Area, so I didn't get to go. I've been camping in Oregon for many years. There used to be some sites that were "first come first served" at State Parks, but they are no more. The current reservation system makes no option for those of us who cannot schedule our stays 6 months in advance. Thankfully, since I didn't need a weekend, I was able to go to LePage Park, and Forest service Campgrounds this year. We have some of the best parks in Oregon, and I hope to be able to stay in one at some point, if I can afford it and if I can find a space.

Thank you,

Ila Fetterly, Rainier Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Teresa Bryan

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tjbryan0602@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

First, I have to say I totally understand about changing the rules for some reservations. I camp every year in an Oregon state campground and see many empty sites. I know life changes, but, people need to cancel as soon as situations change so others may use the site. Second, I am a disabled veteran and enjoy using my camping privileges. Please do not make any changes to the disabled veterans

Thank you

Teresa Bryan
Disabled veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jerry Klein

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ljklein77@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a long time Oregon resident. I am also a former Marine disabled in Vietnam and have enjoyed the state park camping benefit. I am now told that Oregon wants to dramatically change that benefit. I'm not sure why there is such a funding deficit but I do have an idea. For years I have seen out of state disabled veterans camping for free in our state campgrounds. The problem is that those other states do not reciprocate the benefit so when I camp in those states I pay the full amount. In fact I wrote to my state representative about this but did not get a response. I'm sure that Oregon is losing a lot of income from offering this free camping to all of these out of state veterans. It would seem fair to remove this benefit to out of staters rather than reducing our benefit from 10 days a month to less than 1 day a month for us. It is also hard to get a camping reservation. By limiting the benefit to Oregon disabled veterans there would be more available spots which would increase income for the state. Thank you for your consideration. We have sacrificed for this small benefit.

Sincerely, Jerry Klein



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judith Farmer

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:22 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jfarmer492@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Why are you changing the camping rules for veterans?

Changing the benefit from 10 FREE camping nights per month (120/year) to just 10 FREE camping nights per year.

RESTRICTION: Limiting the pass to Oregon veterans ONLY and removing free Day-Use Passes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Carrier

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

paul.carrier@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I need to voice my strong objection to the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) for disabled veterans.

Disabled veterans often are getting by on fixed incomes and being able to make use of Oregon's state parks is one way they can get recreation.

The proposed reductions are extreme.

I would urge you to reject them out of hand.

Paul Carrier



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Floyd Cook

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

curt.cook55@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a disabled vet that uses the Special Access Pass all the time. I feel that it is unjust to reduce the access for Oregon Veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robby Leverence

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

robbyleverence@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I apologize in advance to the person reading this, only because I'm pissed off so sort off all over the place.

I am a combat veteran on a fixed income, I am totally and permanently disabled, I rarely leave my house.

This free day pass gives me little excuse when my family wants to get outside and I want a safe area. Without this pass I would pass up the majority of parks I ever hear about even if they are a 5 minute drive, just from the costs alone.

The 10 free camping nights A MONTH means if I end up homeless AGAIN I can at least have a safe clean place to stay. If you switch that to a year thats just another thing I do not have the ability to do.

How often are these programs even utilized by veterans? Most of my friends dont even have these passes (disabled combat vets)

Most veterans are far too worried about money to go camping or visiting a park that maybe filled with tourist etc.

.

Oregon has pretty poor benefits for veterans. How many state still make totally disabled veterans pay property tax? 20. Oregon ranks dead last in exemptions.

In fact if I just go a couple hundred miles to Idaho, I get even more benefits. We do not even have a PX in Oregon.

The best thing vets got here is the pass, the state already messed with the exemption.

Why SHOULD vets choose Oregon?? Can you ask the "brass" that, please.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steve Northrop

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:27 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

stenor@aol.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

Oregon State Parks are a gem! We spent 30+ nights this year, from South Beach to Wallowa Lake to Goose Lake.

My only comment is on the 14 day maximum reservation. I think that is too long during the summer season. I would propose a seven day limit between June 15 and Labor Day weekend for the coast campgrounds and Wallowa Lake. This would allow more campers the opportunity to enjoy our most popular state parks during the peak summer months.

Oregon State Parks (and staff) are the best!

Steve Northrop
Eugene



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Micheals

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

adventbsupply@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE LOW INCOME AND SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS FOR OLDER AND LOW INCOME OREGONIANS.

TO QUALIFY:

- 1) RESIDENT OF OREGON
- 2) MEET LOW INCOME QUALIFICATIONS
- 3) BE DISABLED OR OVER AGE 65.

THOSE WHO ARE NOT LOW INCOME, DISABLED OR OVER 65 SHOULD BE CHARGED A FEE AT THE RESERVATION PORTAL TO MAKE UP FOR ANY MONETARY SHORTFALLS.

THIS WILL SOLVE ACCESS BARRIERS FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED GROUPS.

Sincerely

John Micheals



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paige Jenkins

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:30 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

paigeojenkins@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Commission,

I am writing to strongly oppose the devastating proposed cuts to the Special Access Pass (SAP) program.

The SAP is not a luxury; it is a vital therapeutic resource for disabled veterans like me, that are managing service-connected physical and mental injuries, including PTSD, and the isolation many of us experience living in more affordable rural parts of the state. About the only time I get a break from isolation is when I go camping with other veterans in Oregon State parks. The camaraderie I experience camping together with other veterans is nothing short of life saving.

I rely on the stable, low-cost environment for recovery and human connection.

The proposal to reduce the benefit from 10 free nights per month (120/year) to a mere 10 free nights per year is a cut of nearly 92%. This change strips the program of all meaningful value and removes a crucial part of our support system.

While I acknowledge OPRD's budget challenges, I urge the Commission to seek alternatives that do not disproportionately target veterans. Instead of a near-total cut, please consider a compromise, such as:

A moderate reduction to 5 free nights per month (60 nights per year).

Implementing a small, per-reservation fee (e.g., \$5) for SAP users.

Please honor the sacrifice of disabled veterans by protecting the therapeutic access provided by the Special Access Pass.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Paige Jenkins
Philomath, OR
USN 13 years



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Monroe

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mrmonroe1979@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Reduced veterans benefits at state parks is unacceptable. Ten nights a month down to ten nights a year is a very severe cut back, also doing away with day passes is not right. I am a disabled Oregon vet and use these benefits often. This now on top of recent tax increases, how much of a burden do you want to place on average Oregon residents? I hope you will reconsider these changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

terry loop

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

loop1936@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I was told by a government official the passes were made possible by lottery money, if lottery earning are down blame the governor for not properly managing the state money like the highway fund it's easy to blame everyone else, yes I'm a veteran and 100% rated



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Leonard Hickman

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ljhcsu@aol.com

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

Public comment:

Oregon Parks commission

RE: Recent legislation to CUT veterans benefits re park visitations!

The fact that this legislation was passed no public comments is an indication that there was a LOT of concern regarding possible public comments.

I would like to see the FACTS that support that this legislation would save millions to Oregon! I would also like to know if any concern was given to the possible loss of revenue to local businesses with the dramatic reduction in these benefits to veterans.

Cutting disabled veterans benefits by around 90% and cutting day passes will affect the ability of veterans to use our natural resources. I do not think that this will reduce the upkeep or expenses of upkeep. I would like to see how our state will realize millions in expense costs with this project. I do think that this would dramatically affect the local economies. Has this been considered?

Are there any facts available that actually display that veterans are presently staying 10 days a month or utilizing a large number of of day passes? I think that these situations would have a very limited number of veterans doing this, so is this legislation actually needed?

My major concern is that this legislation is being propose with little time to defend it, with very little research(if any) into consequences off this action, and no record of which individuals are pushing it! Why is this? Who benefits from this action? How does it actually reduce costs?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Daniel Sampsel

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dsampsel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not limit our veterans and Foster Families' access to Oregon Park Passes



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lauren Joy Verica

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lrn.joy@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I just have a few comments: I understand changing the cost of cancelling (though there are times when you're forced to cancel reservations due to sickness or weather and it really sucks to pay in that case) BUT one thing that could help is a cancellation blasts where users can sign up to get notifications about cancellations. Some of us would happily scoop up a random camp site a few days or a week out if we learned about it's existence. I assume most sites are booked so I wouldn't even look for a site only a week out, but if I could get an email or even a text when someone cancels at the campgrounds I choose, I'd love that! Just a thought.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Doug W

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mudduggie@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I suport the changes to the reservation system. For far to long people have been denied spots due to people making just in case reservation or the I might go there attitude. If you make a reservation and cancel within one week of the reservation you should be penalized with an additional charge and no refund if you cancel the reservation in a 2 week window. They should also be placed on a warning list having the reservation priority lowered.

As far as lowering the free days for the low income people and vets,(who happen to be a large portion of the low income) . This will remove even more options for thoes who struggle just to survive, let alone enjoy recreational activities. 300 dollars might be small to some but to many it is more than they can afford and still be able to eat.

Leave the free days/ parking pass alone. It is truly not impacting your budget.

With the proposed parking fee you will ensure that only well off people will be able to enjoy our state parks.

My question is, why does Oregon state hate vets and thoes who have already been denied so much?

Thank you, and please make it so the folks who have already sacrificed so much do not get denied even more.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Margaret Holten

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hmargaretj@aol.com

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

Public comment:

Yes please on cracking down on cancelations.

No please on raising prices. You will price out lower income people and only the wealthier will get peak season camping. Keep it affordable!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Shepherd

Date comment received:

December 8, 2025 10:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

whitewaterid@live.com

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

Public comment:

I have considered the day use issue and question how effective this will be. At popular viewpoints perhaps but at most parks people will just stop coming. Some local folks come several times a week a day use fee is too much. Have you done a thorough elasticity analysis of fees for camping and day use? Some of these bike/walking paths are multijurisdictional...have you consulted with all?

As labor costs increase and Legislative support decreases then legislature must take more responsibility for their budgeting failures and provide solutions.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Parker

Date comment received:

December 9, 2025 01:15 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mdparkerwrites@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand these changes are bound to happen over time and the need for the parks to maintain stability of revenue. However I believe one of the proposed changes can be done in a manner that is less drastic, while still increasing revenue and decreasing increased costs from waived fees for special passes (explained below in 2 steps):

1)

Instead of taking what is now a monthly benefit and making that the yearly for veterans and foster families, cut the the current monthly in half; 5 days instead of 10 or 14. Cutting the days by half+ still, obviously reduces the otherwise lost revenue of those sites being unpaid, but also creates scenarios where pass holders will pay for additional days more often.to extend a camping trip to 7 or 8 days.

2)

Then cut volunteer host staff by 25% -- some of these parks have far more hosts than needed and those sites could be opened up for camping use. Some examples from the coastal parks: include Honeyman which currently has a host for closed loop or Tugman with 8 host sites for campground of 100 sites and yurts. I understand at a glance this might seem like it would harm day to day operations, but we see county and national parks and campgrounds do the same work with about half as many volunteer hosts. With these host sites being paid for when in use and no longer pulling extra resources when not, it creates a slight revenue increase AND cost reduction simultaneously.

I do doubt that this will be read in full, but by chance it has I thank you greatly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Michael Parker, full time traveling RVer, Oregon resident, and disabled veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Colleen Martin

Date comment received:

December 9, 2025 02:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

horsetrails97537@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't feel it is fair to reduce the time disabled veteran can camp in State Parks from 14 days to 10 days. The state gives very few benefits to our disabled veteran, this is one that allows our disabled folks to see our beautiful state. By reducing the time from 14 days to 10 days you are limiting the ability of the disabled veteran to fully view and enjoy the surrounding area of the park. Disabled folks often must spend additional time in navigation and getting to and from places. Taking 4 days off the table really reduces the use from 12 usable days to 8 usable days, as the travel day there and travel day home is usually too much for a older disabled person to day anything other than get to and set up camp or tear down and travel home. Please don't do this to our veterans. IF you must take this action, please please allow our disabled veteran to add days to their reservation at a reduced rate, perhaps at the 50% rate allowed by federal parks. Disabled folks are often on a fixed low income, offering additional days at a reduced rate in the same park would allow the veteran to continue to enjoy the park and a lower than normal cost. This could be capped at at additional 4, 5 or 7 days. Thank you for your consideration,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jon Brown

Date comment received:

December 9, 2025 05:40 AM

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

Public comment:

Please don't do dynamic pricing. This is the past affordable family outing we have.