



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Julie Davie

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 03:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

trails4jd@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support the rule changes but find the proposal about tying the permit to the license plate (see below) will cause my family a hardship because although my truck (with horse trailer) is the primary vehicle driven to the nearby Silver Falls State Park (and others), we on occasion will take the family car instead. At this time, I can just transfer the permit between vehicles. I ask that you find a way to include an alternate vehicle.

- **License Plate Integration:** Updates language to allow for input of license plate input instead of printed tags.]

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Bortnem

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mark.bortnem@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose any proposed elimination of annual paper tags, replaced by integration with license plate, for annual parks permits.

The stated claim of 'Make permits easier to use by linking them to a license plate instead of a paper tag' is absolutely not valid from the annual-permit parks user perspective.

Families who own multiple vehicles currently currently have a choice of which vehicle to use for any day visit by displaying an annual permit windshield paper tag. If a change is made as proposed, those families will be penalized in multiple ways if an annual permit is locked to a single specific vehicle license plate.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kyla Moen

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kyal@att.net

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

Public comment:

Hello, I've used my disabled veterans pass for Oregon state parks for decades now. Why are you considering taking this valuable benefit away from people who have served our nation? I personally use my benefits with the Oregon state parks system multiple times a year, why is this being stripped away?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ben Goodlad

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

scubabengoodlad@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

I am an Oregon Resident and a disabled veteran. I am concerned about the proposed changes to the disabled veteran's pass program. The reduction from 10 days a month to 10 days a year would restrict access to veterans, creating a barrier for outdoor access. In my case, with rising costs of living, I have three jobs just to cover my costs. I am maxed out on how much I can work with my disability. We have found that the current program has created a lifeline to our mental health. A lot of disabled veterans are unable to work, and these changes will make it so that they lose their access to the outdoors. This will have a negative effect on our disabled veterans who have served our country. For instance, spending time outdoors significantly benefits mental health for people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder by reducing stress, improving mood, fostering a sense of control, and helping with attention restoration. I ask that you continue to support our veterans and do not make these proposed changes that will harm our veterans.

Thank you,
Ben Goodlad



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ryan Greig

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ryan.greig@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Given the numbers, it's obvious the bill targets the minority group of Veteran's who hold this benefit dear.

I can think of few things more repulsive to the spirit of the founding of this country than further restricting it's soldiers from experiencing it's beautiful lands.

The military has placed it's vast bases all over the country (much less the world) so that soldiers are trained to endure various battle conditions.

In peace, let them be reminded of the honor in their oaths and their hearts healed with the panorama of these lands.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tony Miller

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kartones01@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Not sure why a non resident Oregonian would be getting free camping in the first place. I am a resident disabled veteran and we camp more than 10 days a year.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Stephany Carsner

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

averaggal@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

I

am a wife of a disabled vet, and to hear that you are considering changing the number of days in which the vets can stay in state parks is

disheartening. I know firsthand how it has been therapeutic to my husband as well as other vets we know. We may not use it 10 days a month, but I am sure many do. BUT, possibly lowering it to 10 days PER YEAR is extreme. I hope you will reconsider the number of days and can come up with a better solution with a happy medium.

Thank you for your time,

Stephany Carsner



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mike Carsner

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

carsnermike@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The

proposed rule changes affecting veterans would affect me.

Reducing the

number of days from 120 days to 10 days seems very

excessive. 30-60 days

per year seems much more of a fairer compromise.

Mike Carsner



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kelly Smothers

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kjsmothers@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed rule changes to the Oregon Parks Special Access Pass program that would reduce or eliminate benefits for service-connected disabled veterans.

This program currently allows eligible veterans up to 10 nights per month of waived camping fees, and foster families up to 14 nights per month. Of the approximately 41,000 veterans enrolled, OPRD reports that 33% are non-Oregon residents. There are also roughly 2,000 foster families participating.

OPRD is now considering eliminating eligibility for non-Oregon veterans and limiting Oregon resident veterans to just 10 nights per year. While the department states that 80% of users already stay fewer than 10 nights annually, that statistic ignores the very people this program was designed to support—those veterans who rely on extended access due to disability, fixed income, or therapeutic need.

These proposed changes would reduce waived fees from \$4.8 million to \$2.6 million annually, generating an estimated \$2.2 million in additional revenue. That amount is negligible in the context of the state budget, yet the impact on disabled veterans would be significant and permanent.

Veterans—Oregon residents and non-residents alike—contribute substantial tourism dollars to local communities through fuel, food, supplies, and other

spending. These economic benefits already offset much of the perceived cost of the program. Penalizing veterans to close a relatively small budget gap reflects a lack of creative, forward-thinking solutions.

I oppose any changes to this program that are not clearly and demonstrably in favor of veterans. Oregon should be expanding support for those who served—not reducing it. If fiscal challenges exist, they should be addressed through responsible budgeting and innovative policy, not by balancing the books on the backs of disabled veterans.

I urge OPRD to reconsider these proposed rule changes and maintain the integrity and intent of the Special Access Pass program



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lesley & Kevin Bross

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lkbross@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

We are residents of Oregon, RV campers, and members of Oregon Parks Forever. We are grateful for all of the hard work you put in to keep our Oregon state park campgrounds top notch. After camping in California and Washington state parks this summer, we can attest that Oregon state parks are better by far.

There are 2 items mentioned in some of the recent media surrounding this topic that we'd like to comment on:

1)

Changing the cancellation policy and making it dependent on how long the reservation is held and how close it is cancelled to the stay date. While we are happy with the current policy, we understand the need to for additional revenue and to make sure that as many spaces are occupied as possible. This proposal is one of the better ways to do this. Washington State Parks provides a good model for this change.

2)

We are absolutely opposed to dynamic pricing. The price for the site should be the same regardless of when you make the reservation or how fully the campground is occupied. Obviously weekends would be more expensive under this policy which could price out middle class Oregonians who have to work during the week. One article mentioned charging \$80 for a campsite. This is crazy for a state parks campsite and will also drive up the cost of private parks.

2 suggestions we have that were not mentioned are:

1)

We know you have started charging out of state campers more, but this

ceiling could go higher. When we looked into camping in Idaho, it cost us twice as much as an Idaho resident. Many campers from Southern states come up to Oregon for weeks at a time.

2) At some point we

read a suggestion to add more concessions to the parks for additional revenue. If the park is large enough to support this, we are in favor.

There may be a trade off between how much it costs to set up the infrastructure to support concessions vs how much revenue is recognized.

Thanks for listening. We know you're in a tough spot. -- Lesley and Kevin Bross



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Goode

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 04:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jessicagoode26@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dear Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commissioners, and Director

I would like to first thank you all, as the body that sets the tone for the Department of Parks and Recreation, for the recognition and wonderful benefit you all have provided to disabled veterans and foster families up to this point. I recognize that you all set the tone and make recommendations for interpreting and executing the administration of OAR 736-015-0035. As a service-connected Navy veteran, this benefit has blessed my wife, daughters, and I. I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for the continuation, and also for consideration of a slight improvement of the currently proposed reductions in benefits, while also acknowledging the funding situation and agreeing that some cuts and changes would be beneficial, and ultimately necessary, with the revenue issues impacting the Department.

First, I agree that it makes wise business sense to apply the sliding scale of rates, based on peak seasonality. While I don't like it, it does make sense. I'm sure you all don't like it either but also, must try to deal with competing revenue issues. This is what private campgrounds already do.

Second, I believe your proposal to do away with the out of state veteran special access passes seems reasonable. At the end of the day, non-residents

don't pay state income taxes or property taxes. It seems reasonable to me that the pass should be applied to Oregon residents only.

Third,

I agree changes to the State Park campground cancelation policy is warranted. As a user of the state park online booking system, we have found that campgrounds are booked solid, usually within the first hour (often less) when the booking day comes into the 6-month booking range. Because of this hyper-competitive booking system, the cancelation issue is almost self-perpetuating. For example, the first summer that we purchased a camper trailer, we found precisely ZERO reservations within the State Park system, because we purchased in summer, and were looking for summer and fall camping reservations. We found out that we needed to book for summer in the prior winter. Since there is very little cancelation consequence, there is little downside to booking 6 months early. However, the consequence for NOT booking 6 months early is that there will be nearly zero options available. This creates the self-perpetuating issue. A more strict cancelation policy, with a non-refundable portion, or non-refundable days in the case of fee-wavier days, would significantly reduce this problem in a meaningful way. This would almost certainly reduce this imbalance in early booking incentives versus disincentives for avoiding speculative bookings too far in advance.

Finally, I would like to advocate for a less drastic cut to the veteran special access benefit. The current benefit, as it exists, of 10 days per month (120 days per year), cut down to 10 days total per year, is quite drastic. This amounts to approximately a 92% reduction from the current benefit. I will concede that a cut does sound reasonable, given the revenue issues. However, a 92% cut seems excessive. I think, taken in account with the other reasonable considerations above, this cut could be made to be significantly less drastic, while still likely having the major impact that the Department is needing. I would personally propose a 50% cut, down from 10 days per month to 5 days per month. Or at least NO MORE THAN a 75% cut. A cut to 30 days per year would be a reduction of 75%, though would at least still afford 10 days in spring, 10 in summer, 10 in fall. This would ultimately still be a very meaningful benefit to

veterans; and I believe it would probably be better for the local economies of the towns where State parks are located, too.

I'd also just like to add some situational information and context, as a veteran in the State of Oregon. Most veterans, disabled veterans, and military pensioners take a look at State benefits when deciding to relocate after military service. There are many publications which publish state-by-state comparisons of veteran benefits. For the first time in a long time, veterans leaving the military have the freedom to choose where to live, and almost every veteran makes this consideration when separating from service. This special access benefit was a big win

in for Oregon, in my opinion. In 2017 the federal government expanded access to military base facilities and morale, welfare, and recreation services on federal military installations (further expanded in 2020). This means that honorably discharged veterans and disabled veterans can now access military base campgrounds, lodges/hotels, gyms, and recreation options. Since Oregon doesn't really have any significant military installations, Oregonians don't really have access to that federal benefit. The existing Oregon Parks special access pass helped to level the playing field for Oregon. I can only speculate this benefit reduction could potentially lead veterans to other West Coast states where they have access to military installation recreation options. That could potentially lead to less federal revenues into the State economy from VA and military pensioners; less property taxes from VA home loans; less income tax for veteran employees; and potentially fewer VA healthcare center jobs allocated to Oregon to support disabled veterans and retirees. This could ultimately result in a reduction to State revenues overall, as an unintended consequence. There is a benefit to the State as a whole to offer some solid veteran benefits to encourage veterans to the State. This benefit is the best in the State, in my opinion.

I would urge the Commission and the Director to consider making less drastic changes to the disabled veteran fee waiver days, as outlined in the current proposal. If cuts are necessary, please consider doing it less drastically.

Thank you all so much for your time and consideration to read this letter.

Clayton Goode - US Navy Veteran and Oregon resident

Jessica Goode - Oregon resident, veteran spouse

A. Goode – Daughter who loves camping in Oregon State Parks

B. Goode – Daughter who appreciates you all!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Keri Blue

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 05:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

keribluephotography@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband is a 100% disabled Army veteran. Our use of the 10 free camping spots per month with his special access pass is our main source of joy. My husband is mostly bedridden for months at a time, but can do short walks at times. We frequently drive our conversion van over to the Oregon coast so that he can get outside and enjoy the coastal air. If the special access pass is changed to 10 nights a year, it will dramatically change his quality of life. We implore you to reconsider this change. We'd even be happy with five nights a month... But reducing it to 10 nights a year feels cruel. Please reconsider this change for our Oregon veterans. They have given so much for our country. The least we can do is continue to offer this benefit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information from myself or my husband.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Martinak

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 05:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

paulmartinak@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am a 78-year-old Vietnam Veteran who served our country from 1966 through 1969 in the Army. I served where our country deemed necessary. Me, along with many veterans were exposed to Agent Orange and have suffered the consequences by getting Prostate Cancer. I have been in treatment for this during the last 3 year. Hopefully the treatment will keep it at bay. Because of my service this caused me to qualify for the Special Access Pass program.

At

this time we are also Volunteers for the Oregon State Parks Program. We have been doing this since 2013, doing at least 6 months a year.

Because of our commitment to being a Volunteer we don't currently use the Special Access Pass much. However, as we age, we are cutting back on Volunteering and will have more free time to utilize our Pass.

During

our time Volunteering we see the campers that use these passes. Some are people who just love to camp, but some are people who are barely scrapping by, and the current program help them get by for their living expenses during the month. We see that all these Veterans really appreciate this benefit.

After

doing some calculations your agency is proposing a reduction of 8.333% of the current days your agency allowed. We're not talking about a 50% reduction, which I also wouldn't agree with. I feel as if your basically telling Oregon Veterans that their service is not being honored.

I agree with the proposal to restrict this to Oregon Veterans because this is the Oregon State Parks system.

I
also think you should reconsider the Foster Families proposed cut. Why
not reduce it to 10 days per month with just one site qualifying.

Thank

you for listening to my input. The current system really helped me as a
Disabled Veteran to feel recognized for my service and thanked by the
citizens of Oregon and the USA.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Martinak, Army Veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Martha Smith

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 05:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jaspunkin.mas@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand the need for changes, but why punish the disabled veterans for others actions of not canceling in time.

If

you have to reduce the number of days for the disabled veterans, reduce to 5 days per month. Going from 10 days per month to 10 days per years is going to deny veterans from enjoying that part of their life.

Reconsider the number of days for disabled veterans please.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Hagan

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 05:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kevinhaganjr@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a service-connected disabled veteran and Oregon resident writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Oregon Parks Special Access Pass under Division 15.

This program is one of the most meaningful state-level quality-of-life benefits available to disabled veterans. Access to Oregon State Parks allows many of us to remain active within our physical limitations and supports our mental and physical health. For me, this access is essential.

While I understand that not all participants use the maximum number of nights, reducing access to just 10 nights per year represents a significant rollback for veterans who rely on this benefit. This change would be detrimental to me and my partner and would directly reduce our ability and likelihood to continue using Oregon State Parks — the very parks our tax dollars help support.

As an LGBTQ+ veteran, Oregon's commitment to inclusive outdoor access was a meaningful reason I chose to live here. Programs like the Special Access Pass signaled that Oregon recognizes veterans' sacrifices in practical, tangible ways.

I respectfully urge OPRD and the Parks Commission to reconsider these changes and explore

alternatives that preserve meaningful access for disabled veterans who rely on this program, rather than sharply limiting its usefulness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gus Bedwell

Date comment received:

December 15, 2025 08:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Bedwellgang@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I was wondering a couple of things about these changes.

1. Was a committee put together to propose the changes? if not I suggest going back to the drawing board and putting one together.
2. Was there a Veteran Advocacy professional included? As in someone from the Veteran Service Officer world and or Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs included? I am glad to be involved. Been part of the process in the past.
3. I get the loss of nights in last minute cancellations or no-shows. However, why the 10 nights. Why not 20 per year?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ken Lehman

Date comment received:

December 16, 2025 02:44 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kjlkenkeri@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

-I would like to see the math on how reducing the special access pass visitation by over 90% is going to save \$2.2 million.

-Lisa Sumption told me via email reducing the special access pass visitors by over 90% will help make the state park access more equitable by allowing more time for disabled Oregonians and Senior Citizens, yet you say that's not the case, that it's going to reduce the budget shortfall by \$2.2 million.

Which is it?

Why did Lisa say this if you say "We do not have a plan to add disabled Oregonians and Senior Citizens to the SAP right now?"

Someone isn't being completely forthright.

-Who's responsible for the State Park budget shortfall? How is it possible the parks were mis-managed for so long that we're in this situation?

Is anyone being held responsible for this?

-If you're going to reduce special access pass users by 90%+, can you tell us how often the parks are filled 100% and the impact the special access pass has on the reservations?

Lisa Sumption said only about 20% of disabled veterans are using the majority of the days currently offered.

If so few disabled veterans are utilizing their time, how is reducing their time by over 90% going to save money for the state parks?

-Who was the state employee who told the 100% disabled veteran "goodbye" as the veteran was giving their feedback on the online forum?

The comment was extremely rude and disrespectful.

If you don't investigate, I'll contact my state representative to see if they can figure out who it was. His comments clearly show how this committee feels about disabled veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Trish Rossitto

Date comment received:

December 16, 2025 03:11 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

plwrossitto@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

I understand the need for increasing the user fees. I am able and happy to pay the higher amounts in order for the parks to be funded for proper maintenance and ranger availability. BUT the cost seem very high for regular working families. When my kids were small there was no fee to go to nearby Silver Falls Park. Now is now, of course, but the fees for park use, and yurt and cabin rental just seem so high.

Are there programs in most parks for volunteer "friends?" as there is at Silver Falls? That could at least help with garbage clean up and reporting of problems to rangers.

I have wondered and don't know where to ask: Is there a mandate for the State to continue developing parks on and on? If there is not enough money to properly maintain and staff the current parks, it seems wrong to acquire more land, stretching the available funds too thin.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Charles Boyer

Date comment received:

December 16, 2025 03:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

cqboyer@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm opposed to excluding non-Oregon disabled Veterans from a Special Access Pass. How dare you! Our Veterans served all of our states! Veterans born in Oregon may be currently living in other states. Would you deny them access to their home state parks? That's outrageous! I object! I oppose this idea in the strongest manner! It could only be proposed by someone who does not have Veterans in their family.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cindy & David

Date comment received:

December 16, 2025 06:00 AM

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

Public comment:

We have some observations and ideas for consideration:

1. Refunds - People who plan ahead shouldn't be punished by receiving less of a refund. We reserve yurts and cabins at parks throughout Oregon and have to reserve 6 months in advance, as these lodgings go very quickly, particularly in high season. Why should we receive less of a refund, if we're forced to cancel for unforeseen reasons, than someone who reserves only 4 months in advance? The amount of refund should be based on the length of time between cancellation and the reservation, not on how long the reservation was held. Also, perhaps a "three strikes and you're out" policy should be considered - if someone repeatedly cancels reservations, they should be blocked, period.
2. SAP - It would be helpful to know how often SAP are used, for what length of time, at what time of year. What are the use metrics? The proposed changes seem drastic - from 10-14 nights per month, to 10 per year - and there doesn't appear to be enough information to support them. What is the root problem that is being addressed and where is the data to justify the change? We do our camping in yurts and cabins, often during off-peak seasons, and there appear to be a lot of vacant campsites. So why not let veterans and foster families use them? Perhaps vary the offering by season - e.g. 10-14 nights per month during lower use months and fewer nights during peak season.
3. Transaction fee - Raising the transaction fee from \$10 to \$30 seems excessive, particularly if the reservation fee maximums are also increasing.
4. Cabin and yurt nightly maximum fees - These fees are already high. Raising them to over \$100 and up to nearly \$200 per night is outrageous. If they are in such demand as to require charging premium rates, then perhaps more need to be built so there is less competition. Cottonwood Canyon comes to mind - only four cabins that are extremely difficult to reserve, even 6 months in advance. Or Wallowa Lake where there are only two yurts.
5. Out of state campers - The per reservation fee as well as the nightly reservation fees should

continue to be higher than for Oregon residents and could benefit from there being a higher differential than currently.

6. Day use parking fees - Increasing these fees will make it unaffordable for many low and middle income individuals and families to enjoy our State Parks.

Overall, we encourage you to be more measured in your approach to rule and fee changes. Rather than making so many changes across the board, make incremental changes or make adjustments in select areas and see the effect. Then reevaluate and consider other changes if needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Judy Steagall

Date comment received:

December 16, 2025 09:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

judysteagall@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am very concerned about the change to the Disabled Veterans number of days. To change the free usage from 10 days a month to 10 days a year is just unfair. You need to make sure the Oregon disabled Veterans have some privileges. After all they put their lives on the line for the freedom of this country. They now have a disability as a result of their service. 1 day a month does not honor them in any way what so ever. Oregon should honor the Oregon disabled veterans by continuing the 10 days a month. If you want to save some money take away this privilege for out of state disabled veterans. My husband was born and raised in Oregon and served this country and needs to be honored by this state. It' the one activity that we can still enjoy in this state.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ian Krogh

Date comment received:

December 17, 2025 03:41 AM

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

Public comment:

My comment is specific to the "License Plate Integration" section for Day Use Permits. OPRD's notice of rulemaking provides no justification for why this integration is necessary or beneficial.

It seems contradictory to include this measure in a rule change purportedly focused on cost-saving. In reality, license plate integration requires significant investment in equipment and technological services, and will increase workload for park staff. Implementation would require staff to add new plate-checking procedures to their duties, and enforcement will require the use of data devices with real-time database updates to verify paid plates. This will cost money. Additionally, such systems will naturally result in frequent errors and burdensome appeals. All these as-yet-undisclosed costs will likely balloon as they are applied across the wider array of parks now requiring day use fees.

It is unacceptable that such a significant shift received only a single sentence of explanation in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

I am concerned that OPRD is not being transparent regarding the long-term intent of this integration. If this is a stepping stone toward a "license-plate-only" system, that end goal should be explicitly stated. Left vague, the notice is severely deficient. To be clear: a license-plate-only system would be a costly boondoggle for OPRD and a nuisance for park users. We do not need the imposition of something like Portland's "Parking Kitty" app upon park users and staff. I would oppose such a system and any steps taken to move toward one.

I recommend that the License Plate Integration element be removed from this rule change. Any future proposals on this topic should be presented with detailed justification and addressed independently, rather than being bundled with unrelated changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bruce Cook

Date comment received:

December 17, 2025 04:38 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

b.cook.7344@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I find it appalling that while every county in the state has a “we honor veterans” sign on roads entering those counties, AND that the service connected disabled veterans have sacrificed their bodies for the benefit of the people, the state, and the country, that such a drastic reduction in benefits should even be considered.

SERVICE CONNECTED disabled veterans are not the group upon which budget shortfalls should be filled.

It is also appalling to me to find out that foster families currently get 40% more free camping days. Yes, fostering can be helpful to the community at large but SERVICE CONNECTED disabled veterans have indeed sacrificed for the benefit of the community, many in ways that are, frankly, horrendous.

If you want to reduce budget shortfalls I suggest you reduce foster family benefits, but leave the disabled veterans alone.

And if you actually want to make an impact on budget shortfalls, significantly increase non resident prices. In the southern coast area a drive through will reveal hundreds of California plates filling Oregon slots as the people who destroyed their economic system flee to the lower priced Oregon campgrounds and make it near impossible for any Oregonian to book a weekend in a state campground without planning weeks or even months in advance.

Leave the disabled veterans alone and their benefits as they stand, at the least, for the service connected disabled veterans who are often financially challenged because of the sacrifices they made for the people, the state, and the country.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Scott Haynes

Date comment received:

December 17, 2025 11:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

haynesscott@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Thank you for allowing me to make input into your proposed changes to the park reservation system. As a disabled veteran I have made extensive use of the Oregon Park system for many years now. It is one of the few recreational opportunities I can partake in, of course only in the fair weather months. I disagree with the idea of limiting disabled veteran camping to 10 days per year and ask that this not be changed from the current number of nights per month. I do agree with penalizing folks for not canceling reservations and being "no shows" as this impacts those wanting to use the parks (I always cancel if plans change, as far in advance as possible). I can also agree to not allowing disabled veterans from other states to have free camping nights as most other states do not reciprocate and there would be no real penalty if these folks do not show. So bottom line, please do not change the number of nights veterans can utilize per month. I believe this is a small benefit for our years of service and the disabilities we incurred.

Thank you,
Scott Haynes
Bend, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ken Goodin

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 01:55 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

Kengoodin@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support this draft rule. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jerry Johnson

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 04:32 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

jljjerry69@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I do not agree with this fee increase. Everything is going up and we already have a high income tax that should be paying for more of the park maintenance. You should get more money from the state rather than taxing Oregon citizens. With this Increase in fees you are pricing middle to lower income out of OUR state parks. We are already paying for these parks in state taxes. The state wastes a lot of funds that could be directed into our parks instead of hiring more administrative employees. I getting tired of every agency that is having budget deficiencies the first option is always raise prices. Instead of looking inside and figuring out if their funds could be spent more efficiently. It's getting real hard to go to a state park and camp. Reservation are already gone on the six month window. And now if and when you get a spot for a week it cost close to 275.00! So again please do not raise fees.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kara Allen

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 05:13 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

karakallen@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Charging higher rates for busier times makes it hard for low income families to camp over 4th of July, let's say. It feels like an equity issue. Charging more for cancellations makes sense. Charging out of state residents more as they don't pay state taxes that contribute to the parks makes sense. But keep it affordable for all Oregonians to camp, no matter when, because our parks are for everyone



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jim Foucault

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 07:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

foucaultjim@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose most of these proposals. They are an overreaction to a problem; there are better solutions than raising prices over and over. Dynamic pricing model has no place in management of public lands. You are not running a private business. You are managing a public resource. Manage it for the owners, the residents of Oregon. You need to take a hard look at how you, as the hired stewards of our land, are protecting it for the actual use of future generations of Oregon residents. Currently your methods are on their way to locking out the average resident's ability to use the parks and turning our state parks over to the use of wealthy out of state tourists.

Your proposal changes to Oregon veterans are a slap in the face to all veterans. It's obvious you wanted to do away with the program entirely but didn't dare take such a drastic step. These 10 days a year idea is just as bad as dropping it completely. You are not fooling anyone. Two years from now you will wipe out the 10 days.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sandy Storrie

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 02:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sdwoolies1@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

As a Camp Host I am hearing a lot of negative with the day use fees. I believe if you raise them to the higher end \$100-200 you will lose a lot of usage. Keep the daily fee of \$10 and a yearly pass at \$60 and offer a 2yr for \$75. I've been reading in FB groups people will use day use and not pay the fee as receiving a ticket will be cheaper. No refunds for cancellations if not made 48hrs prior.

I've been trying to think of ways to make money for the parks and if the rangers and volunteers when downing trees use that wood to cut and sell for firewood, but an investment of a cutter would need to be made to not cause so much wear on the people cutting it. Instead of paying a company for wood this would reduce that cost. Adding fuel stations at campgrounds with boat ramps could also bring in revenue for the parks. Of course up front costs, but in the long run a profit.

Not sure how to add this fee but those with dogs (not "true" service dogs) get charged for not obeying park rules of dogs off leash. Myself I've had a dog charge me being off leash and back in Aug after having major surgery another camper with an off leash dog leave their site (I was not aware as my back was turned) and my puppy went to see it and pulled my arm back. Needless to say I just recently had to have surgery again to repair that damage and may end up having to have another surgery to replace the shoulder again. (pricey for me and not for the people in the wrong) Another volunteer had an issue with off leash dogs that charged him and his dog. This is an on going issue and not only for your volunteers safety but for fellow camper safety it needs to be addressed in some way.

I know there are other ways I just am blank right now. I would love to help in any way come up with ideas



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Megan Thornton

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 03:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Megsthorn@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Camping is supposed to be an all access, easy to do activity for families. As prices continue to increase it is becoming less accessible for families. Oregon prices are already very high compared to many other states. If you raise prices for camping and day passes again you are making it an unattainable activity for many families as camping will be too costly. Changing cancellation access is great but stop raising prices so young and low income families can't afford the activity.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peg Hamlin

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 03:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jjerbe99@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm all for the adjustments and fee increases. I would like to see automatic increases for the future built in.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tony Kerwin

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 03:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

akerwin@jeffnet.org

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

Public comment:

Dynamic pricing has a very bad connotation, essentially pricing on the fly depending on how many people are trying to make a reservation, among other factors, but primarily demand, and is meant to increase profits. If you are really implementing dynamic pricing, state that in plain terms.

Your description includes "demand," but the general description seems to water that down, saying that prices will vary by "**day of week, season, holidays, amenities.**" This is a reasonable approach and I don't have any problem with these types of adjustments.

Please state your real intent. If you are going to implement dynamic pricing, state that without watering it down; if not, please take that term out of the final changes.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Noah Wahl

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 03:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wahlno@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Talk about poorly managed funds. Of course the state wants to take more.. Can't even balance a check book but wants more money to "maintain" campgrounds...



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marty Nowell

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 04:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Martynowell01@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I feel that changing the veterans to 10 days a year is unacceptable they didn't fight for our freedom 10 days a year they fought every day 24/7 I've talked to alot of veterans their camping is their peace and quiets their mind a way to get out in nature. They live on a limited income and cannot afford extras. Change it to 5 days a month if needed but please let's give our veterans as much peace and freedom they risk their lives to give us. Go to campsites talk to the people see whose there especially during the week VETERANS!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pam Garrett

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 04:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bama97202@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand needing to raise prices to some degree, but I hope you will reconsider the dynamic pricing model. This completely prices out middle income and low income families who often can only camp around holidays because of work. Dynamic pricing is a money grab that only benefits the most wealthy people who are interested in camping and will still cause the campgrounds to be less than full when all the sites are booked because they will cancel with no concern about the money they might lose doing so. I have been using Oregon State Parks since 2020 when I purchased a small RV. I think our parks are some of the best in the country. I want to see that continue. If I cancel a reservation because of an emergency, I expect to lose the money I paid.

Maybe a solution would be to extend the time period that people could cancel with penalty. For example, if you cancel a reservation 5 or fewer days in advance, you would lose all the money you paid for the reservation. Right now, it is 3 days and you only use the money for one day of the reservation.

I wonder if Washington has this problem? You can make reservations up to 9 months in advance at their state parks. They also charge an additional cost for out of state users. Do we do that?

I hope we can keep our state parks as wonderful as they are, and that the middle income and low income users would be your first consideration. For some of us, camping is our only vacation.

Thanks, Pam Garrett
Teacher and frequent state park user



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Reiten

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 05:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

thinwater57@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm sorry this is complete Bull-stuff! What business raises their prices because they have too much business? Only one the government! Typical Democrat strategy of nickel diming the public for every penny they can get out of us. The democrats have run this state into the ground and it's time for a change!

Robert R



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Claire Van der Zwan

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 07:03 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

claireszwan@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I wish there was a way to limit people from making multiple reservations on the same day. It's not fair that people book multiple reservations and then don't show up. It's frustrating to get to a campsite that says it's full but several spots are never occupied. Is there a way to get your reservation system to limit multiple reservations?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patrick Long

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 07:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mrpatricklong@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a Oregon Disabled Veteran with an Oregon State Parks special access pass.

I was surprised that Oregon allows out of state residents to obtain the same pass. I would never expect another state to give me the special rates being an Oregon resident. I think out of state residents should not get special access passes.

I support special pass holders to continue to receive free day parking.

I think 10 days of free rate camping can be reduce to a week (7 days) per month for special pass holders.

Thank you for asking for input and consideration,

Patrick Long
Dallas, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Atkins

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 07:58 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nspector51@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I realize that prices need to go up, we have been getting a pretty good deal for a long time. That being said, the proposed price increase is a little excessive.
What do no-shows get a refund at all, there's your money....



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tim Glazier

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 10:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tim.r.gman@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As a partially disabled veteran residing in Oregon, I would like to offer feedback on the proposed changes to the Special Parks Access Pass, specifically those affecting disabled veteran benefits. I fully support restricting the camping special pass to Oregon residents, particularly since neighboring states do not offer reciprocal benefits.

However, I respectfully request that the number of waived camping fee nights remain at the current level of 10 per calendar month. The existing benefit and guidelines provided by the State of Oregon and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are deeply appreciated by Oregon veterans and their families. Access to and extended stays in Oregon's parks play an important role in my stress management and overall health and well-being.

I urge the advisory committee to carefully consider these comments as part of its decision-making process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your continued support of Oregon veterans.

Tim Glazier, USAF retired, Woodburn OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Zibnack

Date comment received:

December 18, 2025 10:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jzibnack@velocityusproperties.com

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

Public comment:

I agree with the cancelation changes especially NOT allowing third party sales.

Please do not enforce dynamic pricing. This hurts us working folks, like myself that can only camp on the weekends.

Please do not increase the price for an extra vehicle. The base fee should cover the cost of the campsite. When I have friends joining me they are not inflicting additional use of the campsite. They are simply parking and enjoying the use of my trailer. That additional hike in price is excessive!

Perhaps SAP passes should be at 50% of the regular fees and not free as to try to recover some lost revenue.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dan Fox

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 12:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

fox.oregon@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

Thank you for allowing me to provide comment and I support all of these changes.

I own property that shares most of my southern property boundary with an Oregon State Park on the southern Oregon coast, which does not allow overnight camping or ATV's on the beach. However, due to the lack of resources and available overnight rental spaces, I see the parking lot full of RV's every single night during the summer months and stretching all the way until the late fall. Some of these RV's never leave the entire summer, or only leave to go to town to get groceries, and then come back at sunset. I would say that the majority of the RV's have out-of-state license plates. They then bring out their ATV's and ride the beaches throughout the evening knowing there is no enforcement and create a noise nuisance; let alone trespassing. I used to report these to the Cape Blanco staff and they responded, but it became too time consuming for me to do and it never seemed to make a permanent difference. There has been multiple thefts occur to my own property and to my neighbors from these overnight illegal campers. A friend of mine even alerted me to a few phone apps that show this parking lot for caravans as a place to "camp for free" without getting caught. Please note, there is also no gate on this parking lot, which is Paradise Point.

If these changes were implemented, then hopefully this would free up additional spaces for people to stay and possibly raise some more funds to provide resources for enforcement of the rules that are currently in place. This might even help with the constant battle between neighbors and visitors disobeying the rules. I say raise the fee to the maximum and then ask to raise it more for out-of-state visitors.

Thank you,

Dan Fox



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sheri Melling

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 01:58 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sheri3561@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I oppose Oregon State Parks' proposal to raise camping fees, tighten refund rules, and introduce dynamic pricing. Our state parks are meant to be accessible public spaces, not a luxury product. Higher and constantly changing prices will disproportionately hurt families, seniors on fixed incomes, low-income Oregonians, veterans, and youth groups. They also reduce equity and fairness by making access dependent on who can afford shifting prices rather than on shared public benefit.

Stricter refund policies penalize responsible visitors who face unexpected life events, weather hazards, or wildfire conditions—realities that are increasingly common in Oregon. Instead of discouraging use, we should encourage safe, predictable access.

If there is a budget shortfall, the solution should focus on stable funding,

legislative support, cost-efficiency, and alternative revenue strategies—not placing the burden on everyday Oregonians who depend on parks for affordable recreation, mental health, tourism, and community connection.

Oregon State Parks are part of our identity and public trust. Please maintain affordability, fairness, and accessibility for all.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kim McCarrel

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 06:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

vppubliclands@oregonequestriantrails.org

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

Public comment:

Dear OPRD:

I am writing on behalf of the members of Oregon Equestrian Trails, an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit that maintains trails and horse camps and advocates for equestrian access to public land. We cherish Oregon's state parks that allow horses, especially those that have horse camps.

We wholeheartedly support the proposed changes to your cancellation fee structure. Our members are frustrated by how often they are unable to get a reservation at a state park horse camp, yet when they go to that park for a day ride, they see one-third of the campsites unoccupied. We support having no-shows forfeit their entire fee. And we support the proposed sliding scale that incentivizes early cancellation.

We also think dynamic pricing is a reasonable approach. After all, hotels have used it for years. However, implementation matters. We don't want peak-period fees so high that some Oregonians are priced out of ever visiting a state park on a summer holiday weekend.

We believe the range of daily parking fees is too high. We've absorbed the recent fee increase without protest, but we object to the possibility that daily parking could cost \$25 and annual passes \$100. Fees at that level will put state park access out of reach of some of our members. In particular, equestrian trail riders in the Portland, Salem, Astoria, and Eugene areas highly value the close-to-home riding opportunities at our state parks, but high parking fees will limit their access.

We also hope you don't tie all parking passes to specific license plates. Many of our members use a pickup to tow their horse trailer to a state park to ride their horse, then

use their cars to visit other state parks for picnics, hiking, or sightseeing. They value the ability to switch their parking passes from their pickups to their cars to accommodate both activities. Furthermore, each year, our organization does a bulk purchase of annual parking passes to award to our most active volunteers. It won't be practical to continue this practice if we have to provide the volunteers' vehicle license numbers in advance to procure the passes.

At the public hearing, we raised several questions but did not receive answers. Our questions include:

1. Will the public have an opportunity to comment on fee increases within the ranges proposed? We hope the answer is yes.
2. Will all day-use parking passes be tied to a specific license plate? We hope residents will have the option to buy a pass that can be used in any vehicle.
3. Will vendor fees apply only to parking passes purchased from a store or another party? We hope vendor fees will not apply to passes purchased directly from OPRD or on-site.

Thank you in advance for considering our views.

Kim McCarrel
VP Public Lands
Oregon Equestrian Trails



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ted Vorwerk

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 06:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

snowzone600@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

This is concerning the proposal to charge to use the dump station in state parks. Hopefully this could simply be absorbed by the higher camping fees. The reason I am saying this, my wife and I camp a couple times a year at Oregon state parks and just love them. We camp in a small a-liner pop up trailer which requires us to use a small camp toilet only at night. Our normal stay is 4 nights which requires us to make a trip the dump station twice to dump only between 2 and 3 gallons of liquid at a time. Hopefully you can find a way around this for us. Thank you.

Ted



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ted Vorwerk

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 07:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

snowzone600@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I commented earlier on cutting disabled veterans free camping days from 10 days a month to 10 days a year. I can certainly see cutting it down from 10 days a month but to make it 10 days a year is almost a 92% decrease. Please reconsider this deep of a cut and give us maybe 15 days a year at least. Thank you

Ted



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

J P

Date comment received:

December 19, 2025 08:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jp979901@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

It's too bad that the state parks can't get support from the state instead of needing to be self-sufficient. Parks are an amazing benefit for citizens of Oregon and everywhere else.

Please do not link the park pass to a license plate. I don't always use the same car when visiting parks.

The problem of no-shows is longstanding. I don't know what the right answer is -- reservations set up the problem, but having everything be first-come, first-served is also a problem. I'm glad you are trying different things and I hope you will continue to experiment, so that people who must plan ahead and people who are unable to plan ahead are both able to enjoy our parks. I have not camped in an Oregon state park for many years since it's so hard to get a reservation -- I don't always know when I'll be able to camp until fairly late, sometimes. It's still very annoying to visit a park for the day and to see so many empty camping spots where people with reservations ended up being no-shows.

I have no opinion on reducing the number of free days available for certain categories of Oregonians.

I STRONGLY disapprove of your plan to try dynamic pricing. It makes it IMPOSSIBLE to plan anything because you never know how much anything is going to cost. I'm often more than willing to move my trip to a less expensive time, and it's very hard to do without trying all kinds of possibilities to see what they might cost, unless there is some kind of easily-found chart that has all the prices on it. And even then, not knowing what the dynamic-pricing cost will change to by the time you commit contributes to this problem. It's infuriating. Also, it will make it harder to fill campgrounds, since some people are going to balk at high prices when they aren't able to plan ahead and the campground is close to full. And frankly, "dynamic pricing" just seems like a euphemism for price gouging, which is not a nice thing to do to people.

Having somewhat higher prices for camping on holidays, popular weekends, and for certain amenity-filled parks that are always full is not unreasonable as long as the extra fee is constant and clearly labeled somewhere so that people can plan. It'll make me sad, though. Also, this kind of thing tends to spread as people look for less expensive alternatives, and although you might like being able to charge extra fees at more parks, it makes it more difficult for people to afford visiting the parks, especially people who don't have a lot of flexibility in their free time. Furthermore, this should be for camping only, not for day visits.

Please don't price lower-income people out of the parks, especially parks that are popular because they're near urban areas, please don't price-gouge, please don't antagonize our out-of-state visitors with extremely high surcharges, and so on, which I know is difficult to balance with the increasing maintenance costs and the uncertain current funding streams.

I love our Oregon park system, and I hope you can work with the legislature to get a better funding set-up, so that all of us can continue to enjoy our parks even if we don't make a lot of money or have jobs that allow us to plan ahead.

Thank you for opening this up to comments.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Clarkson

Date comment received:

December 20, 2025 04:20 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

mna82@msn.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

As a disabled Oregon Veteran, I am dismayed to learn of the proposed policy change regarding the Special Access Pass. Reducing the number of free nights from 120 per year to 10 per year is beyond drastic! If you need to make a change, consider reducing the number of free nights per month to 7 and then charge for any additional nights over that at 1/2 the regular site fee. I realize that not everyone can afford to pay for the additional nights, but this will still allow disabled vets to continue to use the state campgrounds each month. This should also apply to foster families too.

Regarding dynamic pricing. This idea is absurd!! It will make camping unaffordable for a lot of people; especially if you increase prices around holidays May - September. These holidays are a chance for families to vacation and enjoy the beautiful Oregon scenery.

Where in Oregon would anyone pay to park for the day for \$25?

Thank you for your consideration,
Mark Clarkson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Merab Smith

Date comment received:

December 20, 2025 03:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

merab004@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I am in favor of the proposed changes to the reservation system and the Special Access Pass (SAP). In particular, I support reducing the number of free nights available through the SAP. This adjustment will help increase revenue for Oregon State Parks while also opening more reservation opportunities for paying customers. As an Oregon resident who regularly books campsites, it has become increasingly difficult to secure reservations, and I was surprised to learn how many free nights were previously available under the SAP.

Oregon's state parks are meant to be shared spaces where everyone can recreate and enjoy the outdoors. Under the old system, the high number of free nights allowed some individuals to occupy sites for extended periods, essentially living in the parks for months out of the year. Limiting SAP benefits to 10 free nights per year strikes a fair balance: it still provides meaningful support to qualifying veterans and foster families while ensuring broader access for all visitors.

I also agree with the proposed updates to the cancellation policy. When reservations can be made at no cost, there is little incentive for people to cancel if their plans change. This leads to unused campsites that could have been made available to others. The new policy encourages timely cancellations and will help ensure that more sites are actually used, improving access for paying customers and making the system more efficient and fair.

Additionally, I support the proposed fee increases. The new rate structure remains affordable, and the quality of Oregon's state parks fully justifies the adjustment. These facilities are clean, safe, and well-maintained, with excellent trails and friendly staff. Paying a slightly higher rate is a reasonable investment to ensure that these parks remain well cared for and accessible to

future generations.

Oregon's state parks are something to be proud of. By improving reservation availability, encouraging responsible use, and stabilizing revenue, these proposed changes will help preserve the high-quality outdoor experiences that so many of us value.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

David Aiken

Date comment received:

December 20, 2025 09:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

david.aiken68@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Subject: Please Preserve Full Special Access Pass Benefits for Disabled Veterans

To: Oregon State Parks

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as an Oregon resident and a disabled veteran (or “on behalf of disabled veterans”) to respectfully express my concern regarding the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass (SAP) program for disabled veterans. I appreciate the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of our state parks, but I strongly urge you not to reduce or restrict the current benefits available to disabled veterans.

The Special Access Pass has long provided meaningful access to Oregon’s beautiful state parks by offering free camping and day-use privileges to veterans with service-connected disabilities. This benefit supports veterans’ physical and mental well-being, helps facilitate family connections, and honors the sacrifices many have made in service to our country.

The current proposal would significantly change the program by limiting eligibility to only Oregon residents and capping free nights at just ten per year (instead of monthly), which would disproportionately impact veterans who have limited mobility and fewer opportunities for recreation.

These passes are not simply a perk — they are an important part of healthy, affordable access to nature, community, and healing. Many disabled veterans rely on outdoor recreation for therapeutic respite from ongoing service-related challenges. Reducing access would be a hardship for those who have served and sacrificed. I respectfully ask that you reconsider any proposal that would limit or eliminate the effectiveness and scope of this valuable benefit.

If budgetary concerns persist, please explore alternatives that maintain this benefit while addressing financial sustainability, such as:

expanding partnerships, sponsorships, or voluntary donation programs tied to park use seeking dedicated funding sources outside of veterans' benefits improving campground reservation efficiency without reducing core veteran access.

Thank you for your service to our parks and for considering the voices of disabled veterans. I urge you to preserve the full Special Access Pass benefits without restriction or reduction.

I am happy to provide additional comments or testimony in writing.

Sincerely,
David Aiken



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jerred Shoemaker

Date comment received:

December 21, 2025 05:50 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

skidoo_j@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes by OPRD to reservations, rate ranges, and special access passes (SAP) for state parks. It is surprising that some of the proposed changes were not done long ago. Things such as Oregon no longer refunding any failure to appear or allowing such a narrow cancellation window. As a camper I have noticed attendance to be very low, however, my family over the past 5 years have had nothing but problems finding vacancies at campgrounds. All sites always seem to be booked months in advance, now to find out that all this time the reservations that "no show" are receiving refunds... This is infuriating!!! The times we have actually found vacancy we are typically the only campers in that loop with the other reserved spaces not attended. With the proposed rule changes to no longer providing refunds and increase in reservation prices, what is the estimated increase in revenue? I would also propose Out of State/ non-residence bookings should be charged at higher rates. I do support the change in the cancellation policy and understand the increase in rates, however I do not agree that rates be set and readily changeable by the director without a board or committee resolution.

A part of the proposed changes I am in complete opposition; the changes to the SAP for our Disabled Veterans regarding their waived night rate. It is understandable for the SAP to only be eligible for Oregon residents, however, reducing their allotted nights by 92% is unconscionable and abusive towards our disabled veterans. Many of the veterans who utilize the benefits of SAP on a regular basis treat the parks as therapy, and some utilize them to prevent living on the streets. It gives them something to feel like they are appreciated and something to live/look forward too. The SAP program is the only proposed change with a financial impact estimate; this is disheartening as it shows ORPD's primary goal is to target and eliminate small benefits that our Disabled Veterans receive. The way it is presented in the "what's changing" and the "public notice" is dismissive and downplaying the change; "Up to 10/year" vs actually posting it is being cut from "120/year to 10/year" or "10/mo to 12/year". It has been intentionally presented this way to downplay the change to people who are unaware of the previous benefits thus resulting in compliance through ignorance.

This is the beginning of Oregon Turning on its Veterans!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Piper Muoio

Date comment received:

December 21, 2025 04:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

piper.shop@outlook.com

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

Public comment:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment. This approach is mostly on track for the goal of a better experience for all. For a greater experience, I would suggest the following:

1. First be more specific about what the actual budget shortfall dollar amount is. Multi-million sounds super excessive. Be honest and transparent about what is occurring.
2. There needs to be a penalty charge for cancellation of the day of arrival. The guest should have to pay an additional \$5 for late cancellation.
3. There needs to be a higher penalty charge for no shows i.e., up to an extra night charge in some cases AND the remaining reservation days should be immediately cancelled and available to be reserved by someone else or become FCFS. Additionally, the guest should not be able to reserve again if they have 2 offenses.
4. There should be no or little variation on the refund amount based on time held or distance to date. If it is cancelled more than 1 - 3 days in advance, they should get a full refund. If it is less 24 hours, no refund.

If you truly have a goal of reducing unused reservations, these suggestions will allow that goal to be actually attained. Otherwise, people will continue to reserve sites at whatever cost, because it is still fairly inexpensive for the majority of campers even if they lose the money due to no show or no penalty for cancellations. The majority of campers are not camping because they can't afford nice hotels at a much higher cost. The majority of campers have very expensive rigs and setups and can likely afford to lose the small camp fee in the end.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

john westfall

Date comment received:

December 21, 2025 06:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

yowestfall@gmail.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 04:48 PM

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

Public comment:

Many comments mention the no show issue, why not consider using the reservation system like recreation.gov does, you can go in and change any of the dates in your reservation and no extra fee (the reservation fee doesn't go to Oregon). This allows those who don't have a reservation to go in and make a last minute reservation. As an Oregon resident going camping last minute is a thing of the past, this could possibly cut down on no shows.

It would also be nice to let Oregonians reserve a month sooner than non residents, this is being done in many states.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jackson Rath

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jackson.h.rath@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To whom it concerns,

I understand if theres a shortfall with revenue and a need to try to fix that. I think a lot of the changes are reasonable like stricter cancelation policies. I even understand the flexible fees for times of the year or week. I think dropping the days from 120 days a year for veterans, even more for foster families, to just 10 is very upsurd. You could drop it to less than 10 a month but your proposal is so drastic. I feel theres a lot of mental health benefits to veterans and foster families, not just from a economical standpoint and the ability to participate in activities, but as a encouraging motivator to get outside. I think you would be damaging the population who rely and benefit the most, who have/are deserving of the help. If you absolutely need to make changes I understand, but I dont believe you "need" to make a change so drastic and limiting.

Respectfully,
Jackson River



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

royerjason64@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I don't agree with these changes . I haven't applied for this benefit yet since 2004 but I don't like the idea of taking any program away from veterans at this point in time we struggle with so much as it is. Thank you for allowing me to comment and taking the time to read it.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

donstoeson@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As an Oregon resident and holder of an Oregon special access pass to state parks. I am pretty sad that the parks dept is trying to take away time I can stay in state parks. From 10 days a month to 10 a year. I am not sure how you issued these passes to out of state people but I think you need to start by stopping that and not go after the disabled veterans that are residents of Oregon. Seems to me between the V A and the state of Oregon we don't seem to matter at all. It's just another slap in the face for veterans. Thanks Don Gilbert



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dbkruse@bmi.net

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

Public comment:

As a 5th generation Oregonian and disabled veteran, I strongly urge that the commission carefully evaluate the changes to fees charged and special passes.

1. I agree that raising the daily fees for RV and tent sites is needed. State parks are still less expensive than private RV parks.
2. I agree with the out-of-state surcharges. All states around the boundaries of Oregon do the same.
3. I agree with doing away with out-of-state disabled veteran passes. Again, states surrounding Oregon do not provide that to Oregon veterans.
4. I don't agree with reducing the number of days per month for Oregon veterans and foster care special pass holders.

- a. Reducing the number of days from 10 per month to 10 per year is extreme.
- b. If days need to be reduced, I suggest 7 or 8 per month.
- c. If, after a year, reevaluate the number of days used by Oregon disabled veterans and foster parents.
- d. Note : It is easier to reduce number of days, after reevaluating, than trying to add days to the special passes.

Thank you, David Kruse

Corvallis , Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pitchwood67@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

8 million dollars with the "short fall" is from "our" leaders not being held accountable for their actions. It's seems like here in Oregon all the officials just want to keep spending ,while" we the people " keep receiving less and less and were expected to pay more . I propose that "all "of our employees be fired and let's hire people that are really interested in our best interest. Not their bank accounts.We have already paid enough for the park system. When is the state of Oregon going to let the people enjoy what is theirs? And what they have rightfully already paid for.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

LANCE LARSEN

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

l2larsen@mac.com

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

Public comment:

We need to have a financially sustainable and viable system if we want to protect our public lands forever, which is the goal here. Without ongoing and affordable access to public lands, people will reduce their visits (and enthusiasm for wild places) which in turn will lead to increasing privatization and extraction industries will move in. So, ya, we need to fund it. However, this approach where you ask us all to agree to increasing "the range" without actually defining THE ACTUAL INCREASES that are likely for us all is super flawed, and I am sure you know it. Just tell people their favorite campsite is going from \$8 per night to \$15 per night (or whatever is planned).

The parking fees are way, way over complicated. I have 3-4 different parking passes and one overlanding trail pass for my jeep. When I purchase my fishing license, i have to buy a parking pass to fish certain areas (like the Ana River). Ridiculous.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

carsonjd1@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good morning,

I understand there is a shortfall in funding for State parks, this is unfortunate.

But how does limiting the nights holders of the pass use going to save money when they are not using those nights anyways? This math does not add up to me. I think this is the last place you should make changes.

I do agree that tiered cancellation fees are a good option to limit bad behaviors.

I hope more real thought and consideration is put into this before a final decision is made.

As a reference I am a Washington state disabled veteran with a special access pass, which I use maybe once a year. How does it save money if I am not using it anyways? This pass is one of the things I think is great about Oregon.

Respectfully,

Jason

Chasing meaning is better than avoiding discomfort!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jlysot@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Leave the veterans, foster families, and adoptive families alone. The disabled veterans served our country so we can have the campgrounds that everyone enjoys. Many of these people actually went war and got shot at so we can enjoy this country and state of Oregon.

John



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:32 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

corradohome@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Thanks

for the opportunity to comment on your proposed changes. I am a disabled vet and depend on the free camping privileges I receive under the Special Access Pass to be able to afford to camp several times in the year in Oregon State Parks. I would suggest you restrict this privilege to Oregon Residents only and continue it at 10 days a month.

Or, possibly reducing it to say 5 days per month - not 5 or 10 days a year.

Raising rates for camping for non-Oregon residents is a good idea.

The

other idea is not refunding any money for cancelled reservations. This is an excellent idea since so many are cancelled at the last minute. I have seen many campsites go unused and believe it is due to people making reservations that never keep them.

Thanks

Roger Corrado



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

greenpwr@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Dec 21, 2025

OPRD Staff in Charge,

Do not make any changes to the access that Oregon veterans currently enjoy and deserve. Your statistics on usage mean nothing! You don't predict what the veterans in the future will do as far as more camping and recreating. We have an epidemic for veterans health in this state. Keep the park pass for disabled veterans just the way it is or increase the free nights to 14 from 10. If you ever transfer parks to counties ensure these benefits are honored by the new owner. It is a disgrace to take away camping from those that served. Less than one percent served so think about that when you support any of these changes hurting vets. I'm calling the state reps to put the pressure on your staff that is coming up with this trash. You will be held accountable.

End of Comment

Jared Considine

Oregon tax paying resident veteran-Jared Considine



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dpswehosky2001@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Greetings,

I am an Oregon resident, have been for quite some time. During all my time living here, I've paid state & federal taxes, property taxes, associated fees that residents in this state pay. I also am a registered voter & I exercise my right to vote whenever able.

One of the few things, perk if you will, from living here in Oregon - our state parks. I remember the times my family & I use to camp in the primitive camping area @ Oswald West sp - that is up until you (State of Oregon) closed this cg to camping. We have been fortunate, sometimes, to actually secure a reservation to camp @ some of our coastal state parks. However, those times are VERY rare as out-of-state campers take the spaces, stay for weeks at a time. Should not our camping spaces in Oregon's parks be available to our state's residents? After all, over the years, we've been supporting them, paying taxes & fees to build them & maintain them. Should not Oregon residents get the opportunity to use them? Do you have ANY idea how hard it is to get a camping spot to camp on the coast?

I get that the state does not provide fees to support our state parks. Users' fees & the lottery are what our state govt has come up with to fund them. It appears to not be a system that works well. The proposed fee changes will only make it worse! By that I mean that the increase in fees will make it so the avg Joe Oregonian & his family won't be able to afford camping there. It will make it so that only the rich & wealthy citizens will be able to afford to do so.

I'd like to think that the state of Oregon, including state parks &

recreation, would want ALL Oregon citizens to have the opportunity to use our state's facilities without having to take out a mortgage or go into debt, just to stay a few days on the coast.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Swehosky
Stayton, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:36 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

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ljhcsu@aol.com

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

Public comment:

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 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

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kevinhaganjr@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am writing to submit a public comment regarding the proposed Division 15 rule changes affecting the Oregon Parks Special Access Pass for service-connected disabled veterans.

This program is one of the most meaningful state-level quality-of-life benefits available to disabled veterans. Access to Oregon State Parks allows many of us to remain active within our physical limitations and supports our mental and physical health. For me, this access is essential.

While I understand the need to manage agency resources, reducing access to just 10 nights per year represents a significant rollback for veterans who rely on this benefit. For me and my partner, this change would be detrimental and would directly reduce our ability and likelihood to continue using Oregon State Parks — the very parks our tax dollars help support.

As an LGBTQ+ veteran and Oregon resident, the state's commitment to inclusive outdoor access was a meaningful reason I chose to live here. Programs like the Special Access Pass signaled that Oregon recognizes veterans' sacrifices in practical, tangible ways.

I respectfully
urge the Commission to reconsider these proposed changes and explore
alternatives that preserve meaningful access for disabled veterans who
rely on this program, rather than sharply limiting its usefulness.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and stewardship of Oregon's state parks.

Respectfully,

Kevin Hagan



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tleggertmac@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I just read about the proposals for changing camping fees and reservation cancellations. I think raising fees may be needed. I would suggest considering making the out of state ones a bit more than just two dollars on the daily fee. I have been traveling around the country and notice that if the locals pay 10 the non locals pay 15.

But my most strident response is about reservations. I totally agree that if the reservation is not canceled within 2 weeks it should not be refunded. Ever since the increase in allowing or requiring reservations we have experienced that "reserved" sites have remained empty in almost every case where we have been able to get a first come first served camp site.

Sent from my iPad



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:40 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bubenikb55@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I would think there are other ways for the parks to save money. Our disabled vets deserve the park reductions currently in place. One item to look at would be to significantly increase the cost of a wilderness access permit. Isn't the daily access fee, say to Marion Lake in the Jefferson wilderness area only \$1/day. This could be increased tenfold



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

htmottl@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The camping fee increases should be designed to not eliminate the OR state citizens who can not afford these proposed fee increases. Perhaps a low income annual pass can be established based on OR annual income tax submission. This pass would allow Oregon residents making under 2 times the poverty rate a 50% fee reduction for non premium parks and sites. Applications would be required annually in enough time to verify the information. This program would be similar to the Federal senior pass but renewed annually. The cost to process the pass should be born by the state department of revenue under governors discretion or legislative action.

As a footnote, I would not qualify for such a pass

Henry Mottl
Powell Butte. OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:41 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ange.wright@me.com

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

Public comment:

Hello

Thought I'd send an email regarding the increase in rates to State Parks. I totally get the need to increase because of shortfalls. The people who make reservations and don't show up are frustrating because others can't enjoy a camp out. That happens in Washington as well. We live in Idaho now and are full time RVers who love the Bend area. We go there every year. Even going to a resort the fees are just about impossible to stay and they hike the rates because they can. It just makes it hard to visit the area because of cost and make it impossible to visit especially on limited incomes.

Angela Wright



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

suegraves2345@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am extremely okay with fee increase to help keep our camping as great as it has always been. However I do feel that out of state campers should pay a higher price. It is difficult as an Oregonian to get places to camp in our own state.

I also agree that the refund policy be changed. It is frustrating when one camper books five sites and then no shows.

Thank you for the proposed changes. Much needed in my opinion.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:44 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

msmarysteph123@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please accept the following as formal public comment regarding the proposed changes to Oregon State Parks camping and day-use fees.

The proposed camping fee increases fail to account for how Oregon State Parks are actually being used.

Under current rules, campers are limited to 14 days in a 30-day period, forcing constant relocation. For veterans, assistance covers only 10 days per year—not per month—leaving most of the year unaffordable.

In our case, even with a veteran pass, we still pay \$10 per day just to park a vehicle. Over a standard 14-day stay, that's \$140. Add four nights not covered by the veteran benefit—another \$160—bringing the total to \$300 for two weeks at today's rates.

Our household income is \$1,235 per month following a job loss. The rates being discussed approach or exceed the cost of a two-star hotel, yet parks impose stricter limits, fewer amenities, and no housing stability.

Dynamic pricing based on demand penalizes people who rely on parks because they lack alternatives. Public land should not function as a scarcity-based

revenue model when people are using it to avoid homelessness.

If access disappears, displacement follows. That is not an unintended consequence—it is a predictable outcome.

Thank you for confirming receipt of this public comment.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

dorantj@frontier.com

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

Public comment:

As an Oregon resident, I recommend charging out-of-staters a MUCH higher rate than residence. Many times all of the licence plates, we were competing with while making camping reservations, end up being from out of state. It is so frustrating! Also give residence an earlier opportunity to book their reservations. Perhaps a two-week earlier window.

While visiting the Big Island of Hawaii, we had day-use fees while Hawaiian's had no fee! Take care of Oregonians first!

Regards,
Tim Doran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ben@millikanfinancial.com

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

Public comment:

I request the fees for out-of-state campers increase but residents fees NOT increase due to the fact that California per-capita income is MUCH higher than Oregons.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:48 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

matthew.a.carter13@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

My name is Matthew Carter and I'm a disabled Veteran with 100% P&T. I find it very apaling and disrespectful that OPRD would even consider reducing a huge benefit which we sacrificed our lives for. I truly believe there are other avenues that OPRD can accomplish to reduce costs and increase revenue.

I have attached some questions and possible solutions that OPRD can consider.

Please reconsider to not change the disabled Veterans pass (SAP) from 10 days per calendar month to 10 days per calendar year. Thank you and God Bless

- 1) Why doesn't OPRD strictly enforce campers that drive into a state park after hours then camp overnight and leave early in the morning? Basically, the illegal campers steal the electricity, water, and sewer (where available). I witnessed this numerous times as a camp host for OPRD.
- 2) Can OPRD stop selling firewood? Would this save money and cut down on the manpower in buying, and selling of firewood?
- 3) State Parks with dump stations always have RVs that are not registered for camping at the state park dumping their tanks and not paying. I witnessed many non-registered RVs lined up from Hwy 101 to the dump

station at Tugman State Park. This caused the registered campers to wait in long lines for hours.

Can OPRD install a pay station (electronic) at all dump stations for non-registered campers and provide a code in the reservation for registered OPRD campers?

4) Illegal dumping in state parks is an also issue. This happens frequently at the trash compactors and trash bins. LaPine State Park has a large trash container that you drive up and dump your trash. Unfortunately, people that are non-registered campers with LaPine drive and dump their household trash in the large trash container adding more trash and more frequent pickups which in turn increases the frequency of dumping and cost. I have witnessed this illegal dumping numerous times at state parks when I was a host. Can OPRD install locks on trash compactors and large trash containers which would be locked at a certain time in the evening and unlocked in the morning. Also have some type of cameras to catch illegal dumping?

5) Can OPRD keep Collier Memorial State Park opened year-round? Closing Collier SP in October for the winter season loses thousands of dollars when Collier could be making a profit. If campers can camp at Collier during the winter, they can visit Crater Lake National Park and utilize central Oregon's winter playland. This would involve transforming the water spickets in the facilities and at the camp sites to non-freeze components which costs money. But I believe the costs to upgrade the water system to keep them from freezing and keeping Collier SP open during the winter season, would pay for itself in the long run. LaPine State Park's North and Center Loop would benefit also from being open during the winter season for the winter activities.

6) Lastly, I find it very interesting that OPRD is proposing the cuts and price increases for all state parks the same year the governor wants a billion-dollar tax bill without voter approval. Now the tax bill will be placed on a ballot for voters. This is highly unlikely a coincidence. It seems that since the governor's tax bill will be on a ballot now, the governor is trying to raise millions of dollars by cutting benefits for disabled Veterans and foster families. Why did OPRD wait until 2025 to propose this and not years ago?



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:49 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bradkillip@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Stricter cancellation policy aimed at no-shows and early bookers

I am completely in agreement with this proposed change. Three days is nice for the person canceling but if I want to camp for the weekend three days is too short of notice. I think this should be moved out somewhere about two weeks for RV/tent spots and one month Yurts/cabins. I have been able to book a camping spot, but it has been several years since I have found a yurt/cabin for available.

Disabled veterans and foster families may see camping nights scaled back

I disagree with what looks to be a drastic change in the nights of camping per year for veterans and foster families. What is provided now seem a very high amount, while I don't know what the correct number is 10 nights per year seems to be a large change. Would it be appropriate to reduce it by half or 5-7 days a month? Or 10 stays a year not to exceed 7 days per stay?

Park officials want flexibility for camping, parking fees

I'm
in agreement with the outlined pricing but please consider the cost in
comparison to local hotels that have an in room bathroom and serve
breakfast and other local private campgrounds.

Thanks, Brad



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jjbubenik@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello, I am writing to oppose any proposed changes to the Oregon State Park benefits offered to our veterans that would otherwise diminish the benefits offered to them. Thank you.

Justin Bubenik (he/him)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jjmarkovich@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello,

My

name is John Markovich, I heard there were some proposed changes to increase revenue at Oregon state parks. While I support the need to increase revenue to keep up with the cost of doing business, I strongly oppose the reduction of any veteran benefits. I think several other ideas need to be implemented, to include raising the cost for out of state campers to allow Oregonians better access to popular parks during popular seasons.

Reducing

or eliminating veteran benefits has and always will be VERY unpopular not only politically, but ethically and socially. I was shocked to hear it was even being considered.

As

a service connected combat veteran, I feel like the Oregon State Park benefits are one of the most exciting state benefits for Oregon veterans. To cut into or eliminate these benefits shows that the state no longer wants to support veterans, and that is not a message I'd want to be associated with sending out.

So

if you're one of the people in charge of implementation of these changes, I'd urge you to consider other avenues and leave cuts to veteran benefits off the table.

Thank you,

John Markovich
US Army combat veteran



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:51 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

steved1@bendcable.com

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

Public comment:

Katie,

The proposed change in the Disabled Veterans camping represents a 92% decrease in the service. It seems to me that the Oregon State Parks is trying balance their budget by taking services away from the state's most vulnerable. Is there a compromise? Instead for reducing from 120 days a year to 10 days a year, how about offering 60 days a year? Or, another option?

As a disabled, retired veteran, I look forward to camping in the states parks. I cannot afford to camp without the free camping currently offered. However, whenever I camp I also have family camping with me in paid sites.

Please reconsider your decision to reduce the benefits to disable veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

plr4470@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

My name is Pamela Vinson. My Husband is a Disabled Veteran. He proudly served our country for 22 years in the U.S Navy. There are approximately 90,000 Disabled Veterans in the State of Oregon, not all of them are aware nor have the Oregon Disabled Veterans Special Access Pass for discount for camping in Oregon State Parks. Only 41,398 Veterans have an Active pass. According to the article published 12/1/25 in the Oregonian/Oregon Live, most of the veterans who have the pass do not take advantage of the benefits. Reducing this benefit for the Veterans would be a terrible disservice. With the current proposal of reducing the camping benefits from 10 days per month to 10 days per years would have little to no financial impact on the budget. Many veterans with disabilities would be financially harmed if this service were to be reduced. Please consider other options. month to 10 days per years would have little to no financial impact on the budget. Many veterans with disabilities would be financially harmed if this service were to be reduced. Please consider other options.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

tomjacobson62@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good morning, I am writing in regard to rule changes about the 10 night stay per month for disabled veterans and the upcoming proposal changes. As a veteran I like to take advantage of the ability to camp as often as possible and I use more than 10 days a year. Our veterans are not always offered many benefits for the sacrifices we all make over our careers. I would hope that the decision to keep the 10 nights a month rule stays just as it is currently and the choice to strip the veterans of more services is tossed to the side.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kjlkenkeri@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

-I would like the following statements/questions posted on the public forum:

-I would like to see the math on how reducing the special access pass visitation by over 90% is going to save \$2.2 million.

-Lisa
Sumption told me via email reducing the special access pass visitors by over 90% will help make the state park access more equitable by allowing more time for disabled Oregonians and Senior Citizens, yet you say that's not the case, that it's going to reduce the budget shortfall by \$2.2 million. Which is it? Why did Lisa say this if you say "We do not have a plan to add disabled Oregonians and Senior Citizens to the SAP right now?" Someone isn't being completely forthright.

-Who's
responsible for the State Park budget shortfall? How is it possible the parks were mis-managed for so long that we're in this situation? Is anyone being held responsible for this?

-If

you're going to reduce special access pass users by 90%+, can you tell us how often the parks are filled 100% and the impact the special access pass has on the reservations? Lisa Sumption said only about 20% of disabled veterans are using the majority of the days currently offered. If so few disabled veterans are utilizing their time, how is reducing their time by over 90% going to save money for the state parks?

-Who

was the state employee who told the 100% disabled veteran “goodbye” as the veteran was giving their feedback on the online forum? The comment was extremely rude and disrespectful. If you don't investigate, I'll contact my representative to see if they can figure out who it was. His comments clearly show how this committee feels about disabled veterans.

Ken Lehman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

redkaw454@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

My name is Kevin Vinson. I am a Disabled Veteran. I proudly served my country for 22 years in the U.S Navy. There are approximately 90,000 Disabled Veterans in the State of Oregon, not all of them are aware nor have the Oregon Disabled Veterans Special Access Pass for discount for camping in Oregon State Parks. Only 41,398 Veterans have an Active pass. According to the article published 12/1/25 in the Oregonian/Oregon Live, most of the veterans who have the pass do not take advantage of the benefits. Reducing this benefit for the Veterans would be a terrible disservice. With the current proposal of reducing the camping benefits from 10 days per month to 10 days per years would have little to no financial impact on the budget. Many veterans with disabilities would be financially harmed if this service were to be reduced. please consider other options.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

shawn.v.steele@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Hello, I am writing in support of NOT Reducing the current Oregon parks special access pass program, which allows service – connected disabled veterans and foster families to receive waived camping fees in state parks.

Disabled veterans, like all people have busy lives and conflicts that prevent us from always taking advantage of the benefits provided because of our service and disabilities. Reducing our benefits is not the answer. That said, I also do not believe in the state losing money because there are empty sites; however, I don't think that is happening. If it is, and a site is not filled by a disabled veteran within a week of the date desired, I would be open to allowing those sites to be available to anyone.

Please do not remove more of our benefits.

Thank you,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

feldmach@ohsu.edu

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

Public comment:

Oregon

State Parks should not make any changes to veterans benefits because these benefits reflect basic fairness, respect, and equity for people who have served their country. Veterans camping benefits are not just discounts. They are a meaningful way the state recognizes sacrifice, service, and the long term impacts of military life.

Cutting

or limiting these benefits to save money would place an unfair burden on a group that already faces higher risks of economic hardship, mental health challenges, and difficulty reintegrating into civilian life. State parks provide access to nature, healing spaces, and family connection, which are proven to support well being, resilience, and community health. Reducing access would create a disproportionate impact on veterans who rely on these spaces the most.

From

an equity and inclusion standpoint, changing veterans benefits sends the wrong message. Public agencies have a responsibility to avoid policies that increase systemic inequality or weaken trust with key communities. Veterans benefits are a small but important part of honoring a social contract that recognizes service with tangible support.

Keeping

these benefits also supports community stability and local economies. Veterans and their families often travel, spend locally, and act as

responsible stewards of public lands. Removing benefits could lead to negative ripple effects that outweigh any short term budget savings.

Most

importantly, preserving veterans benefits shows values based leadership. Oregon State Parks has the opportunity to demonstrate accountability, ethical governance, and respect for lived experience. Maintaining these benefits reinforces the idea that public lands are inclusive spaces that honor service rather than cutting support where it is most visible and meaningful.

For

these reasons, veterans benefits should remain unchanged. Protecting them is not only the right thing to do. It reflects Oregon's commitment to fairness, community well being, and respect for those who served.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 05:56 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wmiddleton70@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

Please don't eliminate our day use pass. I served 30 years and this pass is great for myself and other veterans.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

james bowers

Date comment received:

December 22, 2025 11:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kureroo@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support the proposed changes to your reservation policy, but I am concerned about the dynamic pricing and the potential increases to camping costs for regular Oregonians. As prices climb on everything, it's important we not price out ordinary citizens who would like to spend time outdoors with friends and family. I believe in keeping state parks accessible to everyone!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

A Nnonymous

Date comment received:

December 23, 2025 01:15 AM

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

Public comment:

Price increase is way out of line with inflation. I don't care if other states charge more, you are comparing apples and oranges. We supposedly fund through lottery, fees, and rv registration. I already pay high rv registration costs. Public land should not be managed like a corporation or piggy bank for the State. As a 4th generation Oregonian I grew up being able to go to parks without paying a penny. So what happened? How were they able to do it back then? Well, we didn't have to spend millions on technology, and money was spent for actual work that needed to be done. Workers had a work ethic, I know, since I worked for the parks and spent many a long day out cutting trails, cleaning restrooms, etc. The parks were part of ODOT back then, at least that is what my paycheck said on it. Maybe stop adding new facilities if you can't maintain what you have. Live within your means and figure out a funding model that works without making parks a luxury for the well of. A senior discount, much like the federal senior pass would help those on a pension as well.