



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

December 23, 2025 02:31 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

sonia.vandenbark@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

After reading through the proposed changes, I very much appreciate the thoughtfulness and I think the changes will be very beneficial. I love camping at Oregon State Parks, and would be happy to pay slightly more in order to help make them sustainable over the long term. I also think that the lack of inventory is incredibly frustrating, and changing to a refund framework that is based on length of time the reservation has been held is a great idea. I support any changes that increase availability of sites and disallow third party ticket resale. Thank you for doing this!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Date comment received:**

December 23, 2025 11:01 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rms.gaston@gmail.com

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



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Richard Smith

**Date comment received:**

December 23, 2025 11:16 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rms.gaston@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

While I understand the need for some fee increases given the lottery shortfall, what I don't see is any mention of cost cutting efforts. ORPD has been subject to mission creep in recent years into activities besides parks and recreation. Returning to your core mission will help solve the funding shortfall thus minimizing impacts on middle class Oregonians whose public and financial support you need.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

AJ Rudd

**Date comment received:**

December 24, 2025 03:11 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

alisonjrudd@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Absolutely NO DYNAMIC PRICING. Raise the day rates a little to promote sustainability if needed, tighten the cancellation policy to avoid vacant spaces, but STOP changing prices. Leave them the same all season so people can budget while everything is so expensive, let us at least enjoy our public lands without the stress of unpredictable price hikes.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Navy Chhiv

**Date comment received:**

December 24, 2025 02:23 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

navylynnc@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I have been an avid oregon state parks visitor, camper and advocate for so many years. Over the years, the camp fees have become very unreasonable to an average income family, and fortunately I am in a position to be able to offset these increases, especially for the 2026 season, but do not know how long this can be sustained in light of more proposed rate increase. As a camper, I was shocked at one state campground's charge for ice - a few weeks prior, the cost was \$3 a bag for 7 lbs, then increased to \$7 a bag - that's over a 100% increase! and directly affects those who do not have the luxury of a camper/trailer facilities.

Regarding reserving campsites, well that's been like a mission - currently 6 months in advance right at 6am! and usually if you're a minute past, you're out of luck! I believe the current cancelation rate/fees are fair, refund within 3 days of arrival - I make reservations this far in advance, but the actual trip is COMPLETELY dependent on the weather, and there have been times where I've had to cancel within this timeframe and then the weather changes:( In my experience, no sooner than I've canceled a reservation, that it's immediately booked, so in essence OR state parks gets extra reservation fees from cancellations.

Another comment with regards to Veteran's/Special Access pass - I work with foster parents/kids and have always wished for at least one basic yurt or cabin to be reservable because not everyone has the camp equip and having a basic yurt/cabin would provide an actual camp experience for foster children. I suggest if this access pass is used and they are able to obtain a yurt, cabin or deluxe either, then perhaps the camp fee (for tent site) could be credited to them? If I were a foster parent, having access to a hard camp shelter would be so beneficial and amenable to providing a memorable camp experience for the foster children.

The parking increases and other fees proposed seem somewhat reasonable, but please leave the camping fees attainable, especially for inclusivity and all to enjoy.

Respectfully,  
Navy



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Dawn Slavin

**Date comment received:**

December 24, 2025 06:30 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dawn.slavin@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The only problem I have with the changes is how expensive it may be to go to a state park. The pricing is making the difference between a state park and other parks (RV, county, etc) not that much. RV parks in particular have many more amenities (full hookup, swimming pools, etc) and they are easier to get into, at the moment. If state parks fees go too high then the decision to go with an RV park becomes less of a monetary decision. I have booked a spot at La Pine State Park this year and the cost went from somewhere in the upper \$30's to now \$57. That is quite a jump! Maybe look at increasing the out of state fees rather than the in state. I know that Idaho will impose a 100% fee on its more popular parks to out of state people.

I think the new cancellation policy is fair and needed. I have been to many parks that are "sold out" only to have several empty spots the entire time I am there - no shows. It is my guess that many people grab spots early and then change their minds but do not cancel in time for others to book. I hope your new cancellation policy will deter that. It is frustrating to get onto the website promptly at 6am 6 months out and not be able to get a spot because they sell out so fast.

I hope you reconsider how high the fees could go. You may be pricing a lot of people, especially seniors on a limited income (such as myself) out of the camping market. Is there any thought to offering seniors some sort of a discount? That could help.

Thank you for reading.

Dawn Slavin



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Charlyn Ellis

**Date comment received:**

December 24, 2025 07:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

charlyn.l.ellis@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The reservation system for campgrounds and trails as it exists is broken. We often see up to a third of campsites "reserved" but unoccupied, especially in the central cascades which is feeling the pressure of increased populations from Bend and Redmond. They remain empty all weekend, keeping other people from dropping in and using them. I have to imagine the same problem exists on the popular trails-- people reserve, but do not show up. I would support a robust no refunds policy if there was also an reasonably challenging appeal process (things do happen).





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

kricket caffery

**Date comment received:**

December 27, 2025 07:15 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

pegstilts@pegstilts.com

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

**Public comment:**

Keep access affordable. Continue to allow veterans and foster families the same access they currently have, please do not reduce access to discounted/free days especially for veterans.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

John Ballard

**Date comment received:**

December 27, 2025 04:14 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

revjohnballard2@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

The special access pass needs more than 10 nights a year. Some retired disabled vets spend their time in the parks and have earned it.

A middle ground would be 30 days a year or no more than 7 consecutive without a limit.

I am not one of those who camp over 10 nights most years, but we can do better than 10 nights a year.

I like the pass only available to oregon residents. That is a great idea.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mike Malone

**Date comment received:**

December 27, 2025 06:33 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mikemalone1951@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The proposal to reduce the number of nights that Oregon disabled veterans can camp for free in Oregon State Parks from 10 nights per month, to 10 nights per year is a disgraceful and disrespectful undertaking. I was injured in Vietnam, fighting for the USA and Oregon. Many other Oregon veterans of Vietnam and other wars were permanently injured while fighting for our country. When I returned from Vietnam in 1971 veterans were not welcomed home and we were treated poorly. However in recent decades veterans have been treated much better. The proposal to reduce benefits for disabled veterans in Oregon State Parks is a shocking step backwards towards the efforts to thank veterans for the sacrifices that we made for Oregon and the USA. Please do not reduce benefits to disabled Oregon veterans.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kristin Odell

**Date comment received:**

December 27, 2025 10:26 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

odellk68@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Would like to see the veterans and foster families changed to all states instead of just oregon to 10 days per year. Just to recognize our veterans and foster families. Big change already to lower to 10 days.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Helen Harbin

**Date comment received:**

December 28, 2025 12:24 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

helharb@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

In gneral these are needed and appropriate changes. If you link parking permits to license plate, pleas give us a convenient way to update the license plate. In the next 12 months I am likely to trade out my vehicle. It's also plausible that I might own 2 vehicles, be uncertain which one I will use on a given day.

Thanks for your consideration. Oregon State Parks are a wonderful resource in danger of being degraded by over use.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Danielle River

**Date comment received:**

December 28, 2025 05:55 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

drelyea09@apu.edu

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

**Public comment:**

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Danielle River



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Carole Kelley

**Date comment received:**

December 28, 2025 04:50 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

kattenkittey777@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I do not agree with the exorbitant raise in camping fees. The new fees far exceed some of the private parks! We live in this state and pay taxes annually. There should be a discount for Oregon residents, AAA, Good Sam, AARP, etc. and not be price gouging us. IE: Fort Stevens was \$33 per night mid week for a full hook up site. Now in 2026 it's \$60! You do not think that is an excessive increase?! You are pricing seniors and low income campers out of OUR state parks! This is nothing more than a giant money grab. I understand that prices increased but you cannot just dump this kind of jump on everyone in a single year. And then to say they're going up again in the near future? You must only want the 'rich' to camp. Most of the private parks that have these prices have amenities such as swimming pools, hot tubs, nice club houses etc. Oregon State Parks have always been to enjoy the outdoors in natural settings. The natural settings do not require the upkeep that the man made amenities do on a daily basis which justify the private park 'resort' fees. I understand fallen trees, trail maintenance and such, but to raise the camping fees so high in one year is absolutely a ridiculous money grab. 15%-25% increase, yes. But almost DOUBLING the nightly fees? Unacceptable.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Linda Williams

**Date comment received:**

December 28, 2025 04:58 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

thewillows98@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

We are a retired couple and enjoy staying in the cabins several times a year. It is always a scramble to book 3 or 4 nights in the cabins as they are completely sold out 6 months in advance. When we are fortunate enough to get a site, we often see that one or two other sites are not occupied, but are booked. We like all the changes you are proposing including limiting the free stays currently offered for Vets, disabled persons and foster families. While we appreciate their contributions and situations, having a limit helps prevent abuse of privileges which we have also observed and opens up the sites for others to access. Finally, a word about the license plate registration process: Please allow the flexibility to be able to either go with the electronic only registration or self-print a parking pass. Also, allow last minute updates of the vehicle and license plate number as again, this can change from the time a site is booked (6 months in advance) to when one actually arrives.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Gabe Long

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 06:22 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

cgabriellong@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Limiting the SAP to only 10 days per year is too restrictive. We are an adoptive foster family and we have greatly enjoyed this benefit. It is already difficult and cost-prohibitive to get campsites at the coast in the summer, please don't further limit our ability to enjoy this great Oregon resource with our entire family.

Best,

Gabe Long



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Pamela Huston

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 06:23 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

hustonpam@aol.com

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

**Public comment:**

Low income families would have to pay more around holidays and prime weekends to camp. That's when most people have time/vacation to camp.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Bruce Huston

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 06:31 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ahuston4590@aol.com

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

**Public comment:**

Disabled Veterans should be given more than one 10 day period a year. I think disability could also mean the possibility of a lower income. Help our Vets more.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kent McCarty

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 11:29 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

coachmccartyk@comcast.net

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

**Public comment:**

The biggest rule that NEEDS to be considered is basing at least PART of the reservation allotment to a LOTTERY based system. The current system is so unfair. Not only do people with more financial resources book multi site and no show, but getting sites at parks and times is almost impossible with out 7 computers and two friends working with you. it sucks for the rest of us. I avoid Oregon parks much of the time due to an inability to plan for work 6 months in advance and lose out to people over booking and dropping days. its a terrible system. allot many sites to a lottery. those without means can not afford to sit online working to book a site. also dynamic pricing favors those with more money. no just no...it only makes the state more it does nothing to bring equity to a messed up system.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commenter name (if provided):**

ALBERT LEPAGE

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 12:13 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

al.lepage@coasttrails.org

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

**Public comment:**

RE: Annual State Park Passes . . . First, an AI Overview

AI Overview

⋮

AI Overview

⋮

There's no single national average, as state park passes vary widely, but expect to budget roughly **\$50 to \$250 annually**, with many popular state park passes falling in the **\$40 to \$80 range**, plus potentially more for camping, while federal "America the Beautiful" passes are separate but often considered alongside state access. For example, New Mexico offers \$40 for day use/basic camping, Washington's Discover Pass is \$45, and Nevada's top-tier pass is \$250.

#### **Examples of State Pass Costs:**

- **New Mexico:** ~\$40 (Day Use Pass, includes primitive camping).
- **Washington (Discover Pass):** \$45 (Annual pass for state parks).
- **Nevada:** ~\$250 (All Access Permit for all state parks).
- **General Range:** Many states fall into the \$50 - \$100+ range depending on amenities.

#### **National Park Pass (for comparison):**

- The federal "America the Beautiful" pass is \$80 for the general public and covers National Parks, Forests, etc., but is separate from state parks.

#### **Key Takeaway:**

Costs depend heavily on the state and what the pass covers (just entry vs. camping), so check your specific state's park system website for precise pricing.

So, in the end, I am thinking that increasing the annual day use pass fee makes sense, obviously, and maybe a higher tier like in Nevada, would also provide a 10% discount on campground fees (just throwing out a number) as an example of an incentive to get a higher tier fee. I think looking at what the annual day use fee is now, and increasing it slowly over time might be better accepted by the public, so, it's your call where to go from here in that regard. All else looks pretty good.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Bryon Moyer

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 02:38 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

bryon@bryonmoyer.com

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

**Public comment:**

I understand the need for the cancellation/change stuff, but the dynamic pricing seems like the state is trying to do what greedy corporations are trying to do, making it harder to know before booking what the actual price will be. Budgeting in the future is a thing, and if you have no idea what the price will be, that's hard to do. You might assume the high end of the range, but that might also mean people who might otherwise book decide not to if the high end is too high (and higher than they might have to pay but they don't know).

Add to that: it just feels creepy. Don't know if that's the vibe Oregon is going for...



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Sheena Raab

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 07:35 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

sheenaraab@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

ALLOW A FULL REFUND TO OREGON FAMILIES WHO CANCEL WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL.

Every year we book the same camping trip 6 months in advance. We are a local family and not a wealthy family. If you change the rules to decrease the refund is we cannot go due to a sick kid, or if the weather changes, it really hurts our ability to rebook the trip and provide experiences for our family. It's hard enough having to plan 6 months in advance, but we are grateful to have something we can plan and look forward to.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Sheena Raab

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 07:38 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

sheenaraab@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

NO DYNAMIC PRICING! This truly not equitable for working families. Due normal M-F work schedules and set school breaks/holidays, families can only take children when dynamic pricing is unfavorable. Don't do that. It places a financial burden on those who have to work vs. those who do not.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Elizabeth Clawson

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 01:30 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

clawsonsnurse@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

November 7, 2025, four days before the day set aside specifically to honor our United States Veterans, it came to my attention that Oregon Parks and Recreation Division (OPRD) was attempting to quietly (in my opinion) propose changes to Division 15 rules which will negatively impact Oregon's Disabled Veterans; my husband is one of those qualifying Veterans and we are Oregon residents.

As a registered nurse of 20+ years, my husband's ezer, and advocate, I implore the board act to prevent these proposed OPRD changes specifically to the Special Access Pass (day-use access and 10 days/month camping). Please do not allow this positive psychological and physical health benefit for our Oregon Disabled Veterans to diminish, resulting in another negative impact upon them. Please use your discernment and resources to support OPRD Disabled Veterans' special access pass benefits for Oregon Veterans remaining fully funded, intact, and unchanged.

My husband grew up on the Oregon coast. His mom, grandma, and great grandma, all residents of Oregon their entire lives. My husband's dad served in the United States Air Force, his last station was Mt. Hebo Air Force Station, Oregon. My husband grew up camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, and enjoying outdoor life in Oregon. Oregon remained his home of record throughout

his service to the United States Army and, ultimately, the state of Oregon. His wartime service deployed him to the Middle East where he served, protecting our nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom & Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). During his time in service, he sustained permanent injuries/disabilities that will forever impact his health and quality of life.

One of the few things my husband finds solace in is extended time in nature, away from many things exacerbating some symptoms he experiences related to his service-related disabilities. Oregon State Parks (OSP) special access pass allows my husband a 10-year (renewable) day-use parking permit (fee waived) and up to 10 nights/month waived facility deposit and overnight rental fees to OSP campsites. Earlier this year, we purchased a recreational vehicle (RV), allowing us to meet some of my husband's special care needs while traveling and camping. As a family (and always with my husband) we have utilized OSP special access pass and camping benefit monthly since obtaining said special access pass; we have been able to enjoy the calming, restorative benefits being in nature for extended periods affords. Without this special access pass benefit, we are unable to financially afford camping and spending needed time in nature while having access to disability-related amenities.

Numerous healthcare studies demonstrate the importance and positive impact of extended time in nature on mental and physical health; who deserves these benefits more than our Oregon Disabled Veterans who have paid, and continue to pay, such a high price for our freedom? Again, I implore you, as board members, use your discernment and resources to support OPRD Disabled Veterans' special access pass benefits remaining fully funded, intact, and unchanged for qualifying Oregon Veterans.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Clawson



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kat Bonham

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:39 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

bonhamkat@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

As a resource parent in Oregon for the last 12 years, our family has been immensely grateful for the Special Access Pass, offered as a benefit to foster and adoptive families. We have visited many State Parks with children in our care, as well as one of our favorite traditions, camping each summer with 6-10 other foster and adoptive families. Having the Special Access Pass has made it not only accessible for all the families involved, but also has allowed all of us to bring whichever children or teens are part of our families at that given moment through foster care. Please know that this SAP is one of the few ongoing benefits to foster and adoptive parents through the state and it is widely used.

I am in support of the proposed changes, reducing the number of days of free camping to ten and also still allowing free parking for day use at State Parks.

Thank you for your attention and your creativity in trying to find ways to sustain our public parks and green spaces for all Oregonians, now and into the future.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ogintheplace2be@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

When is it really gonna stop? At what point are you guys not gonna stop adding new fees, raising prices, and draining the pockets of Oregonians? There's already a battle going on to remove the new paddle board fee that this wonderful state has already started at the starting of the year. That would've slipped through if they wouldn't have mentioned tying to inner tubes together as needing to be registered. Once the public heard that there was major backlash. So now you OSP are telling us that our parking fees are going to be doubled just to go visit the parks that we pay for already with lottery funds. There's always some type of short fall or always some type of excuse why you OSP demands more money from the public that employees you. Public comment!!! What is this supposed to do? Is this going to sway any of the opinions that are just one giant Uni brain? Nope my words are not going to matter. You're OSP just making it look like you guys care and actually want to hear other people's opinions. When obviously the decisions are already made. I think the best thing to do is start looking at the people that are working at Oregon state parks. Lets look at the people that are costing us more money. Doubling something like that is absolute insanity. Don't even wanna get into the other things that you guys are planning on doing. This will not continue things need to change.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

ian williams

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:44 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ianwilliams123456@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing again regarding the proposed changes to the Special Access Pass, specifically the proposal to reduce the camping benefit from 10 nights per month to 10 nights per calendar year.

My concern is not simply that the change reduces a benefit, but that it does so in a way that is disproportionate to the stated goals of the program and inconsistent with the original intent behind the Special Access Pass.

The current structure of the pass supports frequent, short-duration use of state parks. This is particularly important for disabled veterans, many of whom are unable to take extended trips due to physical limitations, medical schedules, or mobility concerns. Monthly availability allows veterans to plan around those constraints and engage with parks in a way that is realistic and sustainable.

Reducing access to a total of 10 nights per year does not merely “tighten” the program—it fundamentally changes its character. A benefit designed for recurring access becomes one that can realistically be used only once, and often not at all. This is not an incremental adjustment; it is an approximately 90% reduction in availability, which effectively nullifies

the program for many intended users.

If the underlying concern is overuse or strain on park resources, it is difficult to see how such an extreme reduction is the most appropriate or targeted response. A broad annual cap applies equally to all pass holders regardless of residency, disability severity, or usage pattern, and therefore fails to distinguish between occasional use and systemic overuse.

By contrast, other states have addressed similar concerns by focusing on eligibility criteria, not by rendering the benefit functionally unusable. Limiting access to state residents and establishing a minimum service-connected disability threshold (such as 30%) would directly address equity and resource concerns while preserving meaningful access for the veterans most affected by their disabilities.

The Special Access Pass has existed for many years as a practical, humane accommodation—not a symbolic one. Any revision should preserve that core purpose. Adjustments that eliminate the ability to use the benefit in a meaningful way risk undermining both the effectiveness of the program and public confidence in its intent.

I respectfully urge OPRD to reconsider the scale and structure of the proposed change and to pursue solutions that are proportional, targeted, and consistent with the original goals of the Special Access Pass.

Thank you for your continued consideration.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

mike and kathy halverson

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:45 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mkhalverson@msn.com

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

**Public comment:**

I

am writing to object to the proposed changes to the Oregon State Park's policy for disabled veterans. It's my understanding that the proposed change will reduce the number of days permitted to camp from 10 free nights per month to 10 free nights per year. In addition, there will be no free day-use passes for disabled veterans.

My

husband is a disabled Oregon veteran, and our primary source of vacations is camping at our Oregon State Parks. We enjoy traveling the state and staying for 5 or more days throughout the year at different parks. Limiting overnight stays to 10 per year would limit recreational opportunities for us and create a financial hardship. Many of Oregon's disabled veterans are elderly with limited incomes and Oregon's camping policy for disabled veterans is a wonderful opportunity for us to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Please reconsider these proposed changes on behalf of your Oregon disabled veterans. Thank you.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Nathalie Kwiesielewicz

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:47 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

nquick33@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Dear Oregon State Parks,

I'm writing in response to an article I read in the Oregonian where you're considering potential changes to various policies in order to account for a budget shortfall projected at more than \$8 million for the upcoming biennium. I am a Disabled Veteran who has an access pass through Oregon State Parks system and am a huge supporter of the parks even prior to having the pass.

I am very opposed to the proposed changes to the disabled veteran access and offer/implore you to consider other pathways to closing your budget shortfall. Please consider the following: Making disabled veteran access available just to Oregon residents. You mention this as a potential change to the current policy, which I support. I am not able to obtain an access pass to the states of Washington or California so the Oregon pass being limited to just residents makes a lot of sense. The cuts to the disabled veterans pass you're proposing are VERY significant. To go from 10 days a month, to just 10 days per year is a HUGE change. Your proposed changes to Veterans is more severe than the changes you're proposing for the Foster Families benefits, which doesn't make sense. Your proposed changes overall affect the poorest and most vulnerable of visitors- so acts as a Regressive Tax, which I'm sure isn't the intention. I propose you concentrate larger efforts on some of the other options like even more graduated dynamic pricing. In addition to completely eliminating refunds for cancellations, the tiered refund cancellation system should include NO refunds for any cancellations made within 30 days of the reservation. You would then have plenty of time to rebook the site- thereby gaining revenue from 2 sources for one site. Consider raising the rates for an annual parking pass. The difference between a day pass and an annual pass isn't far enough apart and I think an annual pass at \$150 or \$200 would still offer value. I see there are concerns about dynamic pricing having an impact on lower income families but maybe the dynamic pricing doesn't take effect until 30 days prior- much like booking a hotel last minute can become more expensive. Make the

most popular parks the most expensive to reserveAdd a booking fee above and beyond the \$8 reservation fee that goes directly to the parksIn short, PLEASE don't enact the changes to the disabled veterans number of days available to participate in the parks. The article in the Oregonian even states "most of whom don't take advantage of the full benefits", which means it wouldn't even generate very much additional revenue if Veterans aren't taking up significant free spots.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mike Malone

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:48 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mikemalone1951@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello,

I submitted my comments (through the OPRD portal) against the proposal to reduce the number of nights that Oregon disabled veterans can camp for free in State Parks. I would like to add this comment:

The proposal to reduce benefits for disabled Oregon veterans using Oregon State Parks has NOT been well publicised - at least in ways that reach veterans. I only learned of it today by chance, by reading about it on an online fishing forum. Oregon State Parks needs to do a much better job of publicising this disgraceful proposal. Any disabled Oregon Oregon veteran who already has the Oregon State Parks disabled veterans pass should be notified by mail. Oregon State Parks already has the addresses of pass holders.

Also,

Oregon State Parks should do outreach to veterans groups so that more veterans will know about the proposal and have the chance to comment. Groups such as the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, should be notified.

Sincerely,



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Bob Bessy

**Date comment received:**

December 29, 2025 04:50 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

2happiecampers@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The following comments address the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission's plan to revise the Park's Department's rates for camping and other uses.

I understand the need to substantially increase daily rates for RVs, tents, yurts and cabins. For many years I've been amazed at how inexpensive it's been to stay in our state parks compared to motels whose prices are now outrageously high. It's been a good run. But raising camping rates is the best way to narrow down that expected \$8 million deficit.

It's my understanding that the Commission would like to use a tiered refund system for those who cancel reservations. The refund rate would be based on two factors: (1) how soon a camper cancels before the reservation date and (2) how long a person has held the reservation. The longer a person delays cancelling their reservation once they know they can't use it, the longer their campsite remains unavailable to someone else. People should cancel as soon as it's apparent that the planned arrival date won't work, given extenuating circumstances. So I agree with Parks using Factor 1 when considering how much of a refund to issue.

I don't think that Factor 2 is relevant. The Parks Department's analysis of park use data apparently found that a higher percentage of

longterm reservation holders cancel than do short-term holders . That's not surprising because short-termers have less time to encounter a reason that would cause them to cancel a reservation. I'm sure there are some persons who make long-term camping reservation with no clear plan but to hold onto the reservation just in case they decide to use it. But I don't believe that this attitude is typical of most people who use the Park's reservation website. My wife and I have camped at our state's parks dozens of times during the past 40 years. And during that time we've met many really nice people, who like us often reserve campsites well ahead of their desired arrival date. They have a particular campsite or loop in mind because it's their favorite for a variety of reasons. As you know reserving a specific campsite can be very competitive. The early bird gets the worm. So if people want a particular site they have to reserve it as soon as park rules allow them to.

Everyone makes camping plans and reservations based on the best information they have at the time. Believe it or not, cancelling is often done with regret and people shouldn't be penalized for circumstances that are often beyond their control. Extenuating circumstances, including emergencies, arise unexpectedly for everyone regardless of how long they've held a reservation. Please be fair about why a certain funding approach (like penalizing longterm reservation holders) is justified. Absolutely, facing a huge funding shortfall is difficult to deal with so I'm sure that it's tempting to refund less to a long time (e.g. 6 months) reservation holder than to a 1-month holder just because you can, even though it may not be justified.

I totally agree that there should be no refund for no-show campers. No-shows are being inconsiderate and unfair to persons who are trying to find a campsite at the last moment. These days nearly everyone has a cell phone. And every cell phone has a "reminder" app. And important dates can be circled on a wall calendar. Again, there's no excuse for not cancelling ahead of time, even if it's less than 3 days before planned arrival. It's just the polite thing to do. I think that implementing a no-refund for no-shows will more than any other action get people's attention and result in more campsite availability every day.

Thank you for recently allowing same day reservations. Long overdue.

I agree with the department's proposal to reduce the overly generous number of annual free camping nights for disabled veterans and foster families.

I totally support the department's decision to charge out of state campers 25% more than residents.

Current

reservation rules allow for a full refund to an individual if he/she cancels a campsite reservation no less than 3 days before arrival date. That should be ample time for someone else to reserve the site. I've found that an unreserved campsite doesn't stay that way for long (a few minutes to a few hours) between May and September. Based on my experience three days seems reasonable but increasing the time to one week may help display more unreserved campsites on the website on any given day. Maybe.

Day Use parking fees shouldn't change so that visiting for a day remains affordable to low income families. Especially since the parks department recently raised the Day Use rate. And it should remain low because camping rates will inevitably continue to increase.

I'm sure that the parks department is familiar with state of Washington's approach for dealing with cancelled camping reservations. I think its draconian. Don't become another Washington parks department. Use a thoughtful approach, common sense, fairness and understanding that there are many reasons why individuals may need to cancel camping reservations. We love the outdoors and the great job that the state and its many volunteers are doing to provide everyone with a quality visit, nice enough for us to want to return again and again. Let's keep our park department's friendly attitude about serving its customers. Don't resort to unfair and draconian measures to balance the budget like our neighbor to the north.