



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Sandy Wood

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:36 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

columbiagrove@msn.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

Thank you for listening to the public regarding vehicles on the beach.

Many  
of us have written letters to the City of Manzanita City Council, and  
have not received a response until including you in the address line.

The  
vehicles continue, with the drivers knowing their presence is not  
wanted, sometimes because of that, according to members of the public  
talking with them.

An example:

On  
March 1, when the high tide was predicted for 1:30 pm, the sneaker  
waves were already up to the dunes by 9 am; walking south on the beach  
was impossible, except on the dunes.

Walking north was not much better, with one lady already knocked flat by a sneaker wave by 9 am,  
fortunately OK.

Many  
of us were on the beach, warning visitors about how dangerous the waves  
were, and were increasing. Most were grateful, since they had no

idea.

By 10:30, people were leaving for higher ground, to watch the waves from a safe distance.

But,  
the driver of a pickup with one headlight decided that he'd drive down  
the Treasure Cove ramp, and head north, even though the sand was covered  
in water with each surge, and people were trying to stay out of his  
way.

He backed into an alcove in the dunes and turned off his engine, effectively blocking safe exit by the walkers  
at that point.

Two ladies I had been talking to were very angry and questioning why vehicles were on the beach.

I encouraged them to write their opinions to you. Their comments to me were

"colorful" with nicest word "entitled."

Someone  
watching the ocean from the safety of Ocean Road told me that right  
after I left, the ocean came in with large waves, covering the pickup;  
the driver got out and ran.

The person watching thought the vehicle had to be towed, but maybe the driver learned a lesson...

The damage done by vehicles getting stuck or breaking down, or dripping gas or oil, etc. is also unacceptable.

Those  
of us who walk the beach daily (weather and waves determining when, and  
in which direction) try to keep visitors informed when necessary.

We carry large trash bags and clean up trash, both from visitors and the ocean.

Friendships are forged in common love of the beach and the ocean.

The beach is a place of tranquility and nature and joy and beauty belonging to all of us.

Families play on the beach with their children, teaching them about the ocean, not thinking about having to watch for traffic.

People and their dogs walk and play together.

Animals and birds are protected, and proper agencies are notified if a problem is discovered. (eg dead or injured)

Park

rangers are informed about campfires left to burn overnight, hoping to prevent large fires, or damage to children or dogs running into the campfire.

None of us should be having to look out for traffic.

There are people with disabilities who use wheelchairs from the visitor's center.

The smiles of the people and their families are absolutely magic.

They should not be watching for traffic either.

Oregon Beaches are protected from private ownership of the beach for homes or businesses.

Using a loophole to claim that the beach can be used by vehicles is wrong.

We do not recreate, or animals and birds. live on a highway.

Highways have solid surfaces, not sand that protects living creatures.

Please change the present policy to allowing only emergency vehicles and park rangers vehicles on the beach.

We are tired of being endangered.

Saturday, March 22, at least 3 personal vehicles were being driven on the beach, even with all the woody debris on the beach.

Lots of walkers were already on the beach, so vehicles were definitely not safe or needed.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mandy W

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:39 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mandy@oregonshores.org

**Location (if provided):** , OR**Public comment:**

March 26, 2025

To: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

RE: Ocean Shore Vehicle Restrictions, Resolution No. 52-01

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural shoreline and ensuring equal access to it. We strongly support the proposed rule change to prohibit vehicle access on the beach adjacent to Manzanita of the beach year-round.

The existing limited vehicle access, intended to balance traditional uses and environmental protections, is no longer viable given the growing pressures of beach recreation, ecosystem preservation, and public safety. In particular, vehicles disrupt sensitive ecosystems home to sand fleas, sand crabs, and worms, which are integral to beach health. Additionally, the endangered snowy plover, reported by citizen scientists on this section of the beach in the past year, is especially vulnerable to vehicle traffic. Snowy plovers seek shelter in the tracks on sand created by vehicle tires and are extremely susceptible to being run over as other vehicles follow the same route. We believe that eliminating vehicle access is a necessary step to protect these species and the integrity of the beach ecosystem.

We support enhancing beach access for people with disabilities and thank you for ensuring that David Chairs and/or Mobi mats are available. We prefer these methods to keep vehicles off the beach while promoting equitable access, however, we support ADA vehicle access permits if these methods are deemed insufficient by the people that utilize these accommodations.

Thank you for proposing this rule change to protect the safety of ecosystems, endangered species, and beachgoers.

Sincerely,

Mandy Watson

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Sue Gillian

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:40 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jsgillilan53@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule regarding all classes of e-bikes on Oregon State Parks Trails. I am an equestrian and hiker who uses the trail for enjoyment and its relaxing atmosphere. These are my reasons for opposing allowing all classes of e-bikes on the trails:

1. The potential speed of those e-bikes endangers me, my horse and the bicyclists themselves. Given enough space and time, most horses become accustomed to non-motorized bicycles and all riders (equestrians and cyclists) have time to make accommodations on the trail to meet and safely pass. The speed of the e-bikes decreases the time and a wreck is not only just possible, it is very likely.
2. The safe trails for equestrians in parks are limited as it is. We are not on the roadways, trails not appropriate for horses or in congested areas. The e-bikes are seen on roadways and going at similar speeds as the traffic. Allowing the motorized traffic on nature trails will further decrease the quiet trails for equestrians and hikers traveling at slower speeds.
3. I believe that allowing all classes of e-bikes should be limited to Mt. Bike Trails and trails at least 8' wide. The development of these machines has created a slimmed down version of a motorcycle. Are they legal on public sidewalks? No. For very good reasons. The idea that the average park user won't know exactly how fast they can potentially travel is not a valid reason to allow them on the trails with users traveling at a slower pace.

I am requesting that you hold firm on the words in your mission statement: "...to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic ...recreational sites..."



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Rob Yungen

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:42 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rubeyun@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

Keep Manzanita Beach Open to driving. Photo is the access point to the beach entrance at Treasure Cove St. As you can see it is very lightly used. The City did very little outreach to the public and passed the resolution without much input except from a resident named Sandy Wood who has been very critical of counsel in the past. I believe counsel passed it to appease Sandy and a select few Residents who have criticized them publicly in the past. Decisions to close the Beach to driving need to be made by all stakeholders.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Dee Dee and Robb Rihala

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:43 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rihalad@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

Things

have changed in the last several years in Manzanita. We no longer doze the dunes. We shut down 3 miles of beach for 6 months to dogs, bikes, etc to protect our fragile snowy plover. We've seen more dramatic weather conditions with the changing climate. And we have more people on our beach.

Now it's time to close the beach to motorized vehicles year round.

The

culture of our community is to protect and preserve that natural resource. On any given day people can be seen filling bags with beach garbage that washes in on the tide. I'm certain my husband and I have hauled in enough styrofoam pieces and blocks to float the boat dock at the bay. We work in a partnership with the park rangers and the cleanliness and natural beauty of the beach reflects our commitment. Cars are no longer a good fit for this beach, they are not safe, not clean and need to go.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

steve Rammer

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:45 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

tidepools51@msn.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR**Public comment:**

My wife Jennifer and I have been homeowners in Manzanita since 2001. We are full timers since 2014. When we lived in Puyallup WA, most every summer we would visit and stay for a week, usually in Ne-ah-kah-nie. Our kids grew up on these clean, uncluttered no car traffic beaches.

Our whole family values the beach and its marine environment. The dunes are home to a variety of birds making their nests as well as other small animals who live there. The beach itself harbors endless marine creatures just below the wet sand. From sand crabs, to sea worms to the variety of birds that scour the surf line for meals.

Allowing cars into this environment, besides not being needed for any reason other than safety and rescue is just wrong. Cars leak fluids, from antifreeze, various oils and exhaust. People do NOT travel to enjoy the beach, year round to compete with vehicles on our beaches. We visit for their beauty, scenery and peace. Cars are not part of this equation. Cars crush the creatures in the wet sand. They disturb both birds and people who would have to compete with them.

Once you allow cars, whats to stop quad runners and other motorized vehicles? We cant discriminate, so let's allow RV's too. Many beaches have gone this route, Pismo Beach in California comes to mind

among others. The beach becomes a parking lot for a wide variety of vehicles and their Trash. I cleaned up literally hundreds of pounds of trash after July 4th for a number of years. Yes, there will be less cars in winter, but they still will leave a footprint on our pristine beaches!!!

So, my "question" is; What value to the city of Manzanita and its Full Time residents does allowing cars on our beaches bring? I see very little and many negatives.

Years ago, smoking was allowed in planes to please the minority of travelers. Those days are, thankfully long gone. Vehicles on beaches should follow the same path here. The majority of us appreciate our beaches vehicle free year round.

Note, I included my brother who is a retired fisheries biologist, marine educator for Wa state and understands beach life better than most anyone!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kathey Cline Bjork

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:46 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

katheymbjork@comcast.net

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

I recently read that the Manzanita city council had received concerns about traffic on the beach. Were these verifiable incidents of misuses of the beach traffic rules? If so I would hope the proper authorities were notified.

The limited amount of days and hours, plus tide hours and daylight hours seem to limit yearly access considerably already.

My grandfather built a cabin in Manzanita in 1928. And our family has had a presence there ever since. Family members have and still do cut firewood from the driftwood washed up in the winter. No one has ever had a problem or been a problem with their vehicle on the beach. Often my brother clears away the logs blocking the emergency access to the beach. Several times people who have little history or knowledge of what is permitted have felt it necessary to offer their OPINIONS.

My daughter now has a home at the intersection of Treasure Cove and Beach streets.

Having spent time looking out the window I have a safety concern about people, especially children coming off the beach with no signage on Beach St to stop,slow or yield to pedestrians.

I sincerely hope you will not change the beach access rules!

Thank you for your consideration



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Lindsay Bjork

**Date comment received:**

March 26, 2025 03:47 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

lindsaybjork@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR**Public comment:**

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide public feedback and comment.

On surface level, I understand the desire to restrict Vehicle access on the beach. I don't altogether think it's a bad idea, but I don't think it needs to be at neither yes or no answer.

First, I'm curious as to the data around the negative impacts of having vehicles on the beach. Is there increased cost to taxpayers that are a result of allowing public vehicles on the beach during those restricted times? Have there been an increase in public safety accidents or near misses as a result a vehicles being on the beach? Do we actually have account of how many vehicles are accessing the beach during these restricted times?

Second, are there advantages to allowing public access onto the beach? I know people that go down and cut up driftwood and remove it. Is that considered an advantage or a disadvantage around maintenance upkeep and cost? As vehicles have been allowed to have restricted access to the beach for a number of years, what was the reasoning or justification for allowing it to begin with and are those reasons still relevant today?

Third, have there been other compromises or solutions that have been discussed? I can see not wanting to have tourists or inexperienced drivers having access to driving on the beach. I'm sure some vehicles have been stuck and have needed assistance in getting out. I'm sure some have driven what would be considered recklessly if the public is in the area. Are there additional options, like limiting the time from 7 AM to 10 AM a possibility? Shortening the time frame so it ends prior to

spring break.? Only allowing vehicles with paid permits to have access to the beach? I believe there are many local and longtime residence that access the beach during these restricted times that would prefer tourists and visitors not be allowed, for safety reasons. Allowing residence the options to pay a fee to have a permit to have beach access seems like a reasonable option. Even have them take a test on how to properly handle your vehicle in the sand and certain weather conditions. This would encourage a small revenue stream from a permitting fee and would increase investment and buy in and responsible use of vehicles on the beach by residence and those living year-round.

Changing the signage and regulations to state vehicle access restricted to permitted vehicles only could be a reasonable compromise. The vehicles have to pay a fee to park at state parks, then asking residence to pay a permit fee to have access to the beach would again limit the number of people and would provide screening criteria for those that would be allowed to have access in vehicles.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to ask for clarifying questions and to explore alternate options that protect our tourists, visitors and residence, but allow for local community members the option to continue having restricted use access.