



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

John Smith

**Date comment received:**

March 11, 2025 02:13 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

amm\_Rc@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

As a long term visitor of over 40 years and now a part time resident since 2018. I can only recall maybe a handful of times I've seen private vehicles on Manzanita Beach. As an OHV enthusiast who understands a Tread Lightly approach I ask that access continue to be allowed without change.

Has the city or others opposing this provided any factual information as how many vehicles Actually go on the beach? Does anybody have factual information on how many people are on the beach during time vehicles are allowed.

I don't see how you can close it just because a few residents think it's a good idea.

In response to the beach being heavily populated during the time access is allowed please review Counsel Work Session On 2/25/25 Minute Mark 16:18 Counselor Spegman states the city is well below capacity many nights of the year.

During Counsel Regular Session on 1/8/25 Minute Mark 43:47 Counselor Spegman states the city has no true off-season and makes claims that a lot of people is the beach year round.

My point is without factual information regarding how the beach is used, closing it based on personnel preference and not facts is an injustice to all.

I would also like to see enforcement to take place for the residents and visitors who allow their dogs off leash on the beach. I have had unsupervised animals running full speed approach me In an aggressive manner which is unnerving. I have also seen these unleashed animals attack The bird population. Dog poop being left on the beach is a common problem and is bad for the environment.

Also enforcement needs to take place for E Bikes. I have seen Social media posts about residents riding their E-bikes during time of the Snowy Plover nesting season justifying this by saying they only ride in the wet sand.





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## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Yvana Iovino

**Date comment received:**

March 11, 2025 06:51 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

yvanai@charter.net

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

**Public comment:**

I am a fulltime resident of Manzanita, Oregon. Daily, I walk my dog on the beach at all hours of the day. Manzanita beach is a beautiful expanse of beach enjoyed by people walking and children playing in the sand and water. So when I saw three jeeps driving through the beach narrowly missing children and dogs, my first concern was safety. The jeeps then parked at the northernmost end of the beach which has been designated as part of the southernmost tip of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. My concern then extended to how driving on the beach impacts our environment.

Scientific literature consistently reveals the negative effects of vehicles on the beach.

The noise scares wildlife: birds feeding and sheltering.

The wheel tracks alter water flow leading to erosion.

The weight of the vehicle can compact the sand affecting its structure and reducing its ability to support vegetation again leading to erosion as well as crushing tiny isopods and gastropods essential to the life cycle of sea life.

The tires can not only bring in invasive species but they also release chemicals and microplastics into the environment posing risks to aquatic life, the beach and potentially human health. One of the most studied is 6 PPD. It is released into the environment as the tires wear down and several studies have shown it to be toxic to aquatic species. Recently this chemical caused a mass mortality event in coho salmon. (Winkless, Forbes: 12/18/2024).

And then there is the pollution from the oil and fuel that cars emit.

Our town survives due to tourism. People flock here, now at all times of the year, for the untouched beauty of the beach, Neahkahnie mountain and the Nehalem Bay State Park.

Visitors with mobility issues can obtain beach wheelchairs from our visitors center free of charge. Manzanita even has a Path to the Pacific ramp for wheelchairs and visitors with mobility concerns. There is no need for anyone to have to drive on the beach. I personally have never seen dorymen launch their boats from

Manzanita, but I support their need to do so and this can be solved with a special permit.

In conclusion, driving on the beach at any time of the year is no longer compatible with growing beach recreation, ecosystem preservation and public safety. Please restrict vehicles onto Manzanita beach.

Thank you,



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Stephen Lucia

**Date comment received:**

March 12, 2025 09:32 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

stephenlucias@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Please keep the vehicle access open for boat launching and retrieval this is a necessity to keep Dorman safe by being able to launch and land close to the fishing grounds.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Michelle Schwegmann

**Date comment received:**

March 12, 2025 02:34 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

michelle.herbivore@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am writing to express my support of the proposed ban on motorized vehicles on Manzanita Beach. Indeed, cars rule the roads, but beaches are dynamic natural areas and in Oregon, the beaches belong to us all! There are many activities or traditions once treasured that over time, we learn are damaging to our environment and our natural areas. Allowing people to drive on the beach in Manzanita falls into that category, I believe. Why?

**Safety:** Manzanita Beach is very popular throughout the year. Walkers, runners, dog walkers, kids - so many people sitting, walking, napping, just enjoying the beach. Vehicles change the scene from serene to danger very quickly. When my daughter was young we taught her to ride a bicycle safely by loudly calling out "car front!" or "car back!". It's a relief to not have to use that technique on the beach. I have also read reports of people chasing sea birds with vehicles where driving on the beach is allowed. This is an illegal and cruel behavior I would be sad to see in Manzanita.

**Access Concerns:** Our visitors center has FREE wheelchairs one can borrow. This allows access for most people. There are many beaches that do allow driving - Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, further north here at DeLaura Beach, too. We don't need to drive on ALL beaches. There are also many places to put boats in, too. In my years in Manzanita I have **never** seen a boat launched from our beach, so I do not see that as a consideration. I understand people like to fish and launch boats, but off the beach in Manzanita is not a popular place for that activity.

**Scenic & Recreation Values:** Autos ruin the scene. When I am on the beach with my dog and see a vehicle, it is always alarming. A person standing on the beach is no match for a moving vehicle, much less a small dog. A vehicle doesn't need to stop to chat, as a people do when we cross paths on the beach. Walkers shouldn't have to be concerned a car is going to approach suddenly, we should be able to know that we are in a car-free area that is safe for folks on foot or bike or kite surfing, etc.

**Natural Resources:** Our beaches and our ocean are under threat. From pollution, development, and climate change and more. Vehicle emissions, oil leaks, driving over wildlife... so many negative impacts due to cars. Let's leave those impacts on the roads as much as possible! The north end of

Manzanita abuts the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve which is exposed at low tides. CFMR does not allow fishing or the take of any wildlife, so driving on the sand in the reserve is literally driving through a protected area. There are crabs, sea stars, nudibranchs, seaweed and other plant life and more in the intertidal area. Just last summer 14 Sunflower Sea Stars were found in the reserve at low tide! This is an animal that is almost extinct! The thought of people mistakenly driving over an endangered animal is terrible. Nehalem Bay State Park is also a nesting place for the federally protected Snowy Plovers. While the park has rules and regulations that are different from Manzanita, wildlife don't mind borders. These tiny, protected shorebirds do not stand a chance against a vehicle.

**Beach Management:** Our police, parks employees, beach rangers, emergency workers... these people are busy and often short staffed. Allowing vehicles on the beach only adds to their workload. Different laws at different times of year, in different places on our beach, creates confusion and frustration. One simple law - no driving on Manzanita Beach - simplifies rule enforcement.

Thank you for your work and time on this matter.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kristi Roberts

**Date comment received:**

March 12, 2025 07:39 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

kriserts@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I oppose allowing automobiles on the beach in and around Manzanita, in the area being discussed (the south line of Oswald West State Park southerly to the north boundary of Nehalem Bay State Park). Overall, as a nation, we have allowed motor vehicles to encroach on almost every area of public space, and natural areas such as the beach should be a place where people can go to escape and enjoy nature without vehicle noise, pollution, and the threat of danger caused by drivers. I believe that the lack of cars on Oregon beaches makes them vastly superior to Washington States', which does allow car access. In addition, cars create a hazard to wildlife. Even in what may be considered off-season, October--April, a contemplative walk on the beach should not be marred by the presence of traffic! Automobile access is antithetical to the spirit of our beautiful beach, and I support the requested rule change.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Jeff Luedloff

**Date comment received:**

March 12, 2025 07:47 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jeff@brittanyhomesinc.com

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

**Public comment:**

Please tell us why you think it's a bad thing to launch a fishing Dory on any Oregon beach.  
Who is behind this nonsense ?  
What are their motives?



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Paul Robertson

**Date comment received:**

March 14, 2025 02:47 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

paul@robertsonenvironmental.com

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

**Public comment:**

2025-03-14

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Attn: Katie Gauthier

725 Summer St NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301

[OPRD.Publiccomment@oprd.oregon.gov](mailto:OPRD.Publiccomment@oprd.oregon.gov)

**Subject: Public Comment in Support of Closing Manzanita Beach to Vehicles**

Dear Ms. Gauthier,

I strongly support the City of Manzanita's request to prohibit vehicle use on Manzanita Beach, as outlined in Resolution No. 25-01. The current seasonal access rules, which allow vehicles on the beach between October 1 and April 30 from 7 AM to noon and at any time for boat launching, are outdated and no longer align with the growing need to protect public safety, preserve fragile ecosystems, and maintain the long-term health of this coastline.

Vehicle traffic degrades the beach environment by compacting sand, disrupting dune formation, and destroying critical habitat for shorebirds and marine life. Tire ruts trap small organisms, alter natural sediment movement, and accelerate erosion. Additionally, cars introduce pollutants such as oil, exhaust residue, and heavy metals, further harming water quality and beach ecosystems. With increasing recreational use, allowing vehicles is no longer compatible with the responsible management of this natural space.

The City of Manzanita has recognized these concerns and formally requested that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission initiate rulemaking to prohibit vehicle use on this section of the beach altogether. Many other Oregon beaches have successfully eliminated vehicle traffic, leading to safer conditions, healthier ecosystems, and improved visitor experiences. Those needing vehicle access for mobility reasons already have a permitting process available, ensuring inclusivity while still prioritizing environmental and public safety concerns.

As an Environmental Scientist and owner of Robertson Environmental LLC, I urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to take action on this request and permanently close Manzanita Beach to vehicles. The long-term health of this coastline depends on responsible management.

Sincerely,

Paul Robertson

Robertson Environmental LLC



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Tom Knappenberger

**Date comment received:**

March 15, 2025 11:28 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

tknappy@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I strongly support restricting vehicle traffic on the Manzanita Beach as requested by the Manzanita City Council (Resolution No. 25-01).

Since my childhood in the '50s and '60s, my parents took us to the Oregon beaches where I was raised to appreciate the quiet walks, the beach combing, the serenity and grandeur of nature that few places can provide.

We purchased our home at 562 North Avenue in Manzanita to be on such a beach. We have strolled countless miles up and down that seven-mile stretch. The thought of vehicles on our beach is anathema.

I realize there are current restrictions, but they open the beach to vehicular access seven months a year, five hours a day. I see no need for this, especially given increased recreational use and possible ecological damage to our beloved beach.

Persons with disabilities may be accommodated as noted in the Council's resolution. And I've never seen a boat launched on our beach. There is, of course, the state boat launch near the State Park Day-use area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I look forward to a positive outcome.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Carolyn Ableman

**Date comment received:**

March 16, 2025 10:31 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ablewmanc@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

We are homeowners in Manzanita and love the fact that there are few if any cars allowed on the beaches, so please restrict car access. The Oregon Coast beaches are unique nationally for their unfettered human access and beauty and allowing cars would severely change that.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Laurie Slater

**Date comment received:**

March 16, 2025 10:37 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

lauriebslater@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am a resident of Manzanita. I oppose the exception allowing vehicle traffic "Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, October 1 through April 30." Park rangers need to drive on the beach to take care of various issues, but driving on the beach causes environmental disturbance and potential degradation and should not be allowed by the general public.

The types of degradation that have been documented by vehicles driving on the beach are compaction of sand, which can interfere with native plant and animal life, disturbance of shore birds,, transportation of seeds and other invasive species on tires to the beach. and the leakage of oil, fuel, and other pollutants as well as air pollution into the water, sand and air. All of these things can harm marine and plant life and the environment.

In addition, it is unpleasant to be outside enjoying the fresh air and be forced to move out of the way of large noisy vehicles. Thank you.

Laurie Slater



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Craig Soper

**Date comment received:**

March 16, 2025 10:37 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

craig.soper1910@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** Seattle, WA

**Public comment:**

As an owner of a vacation property in Manzanita, I am strongly in favor of banning driving on the beach in Manzanita. Thank you.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

susan tone

**Date comment received:**

March 17, 2025 03:35 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

sgtone@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

There should be no recreational use of vehicles on the beach at Manzanita, from the jetty to the base of Neahkahnie Mt. It is absolutely unnecessary. Vehicles on the beach are a hazard to all other beach users and it encourages other unwanted behavior such as dumping of trash, building of over-sized bonfires, noise for area residents, erosion and pollution if/when vehicles get stuck in the surf.

MOST IMPORTANT; the southern section of this beach is not only a Snowy Plover Management Area with annual restrictions, there is also a Habitat Restoration project and study site located on this beach. The use of vehicles is in direct conflict with the goals of the Snowy Plover projects and should be ended entirely so that we volunteers & your Beach Rangers don't have to police the area during Plover season when the restrictions are in place. Your Beach Rangers already more than enough to do during this time and throughout the year. Again, I am opposed to any recreational use of vehicles on the beach at Manzanita.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Susan Tone

Nehalem Resident & Plover Patrol Volunteer





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Theodore Chu

**Date comment received:**

March 17, 2025 04:05 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

yuiqwe1@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am opposed to allowing moter vehicle access on the Manzanita to the Nehalem Jetty stretch of beach. In the 15 years I have lived in Nehalem I have never seen or heard of anyone launching a dory in this area. The approaches to this beach make such activity unfeasible.