

News Release

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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Seeking feedback on proposed changes to reservations, rate ranges, passes

SALEM, Oregon— Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is gathering public comments on proposed changes to the rules guiding reservations, special access passes, rate ranges and fee waivers.

Public comments on the proposed rule change will be accepted through 5 p.m. Jan. 15, 2026, and can be submitted:

- Online: <https://www.oregon.gov/opr.d/prp/pages/prp-division%2015.aspx>
- Mail: OPRD Department, attn: Katie Gauthier, 725 Summer St NE, Suite C, Salem OR 97301
- Email: OPRD.Publiccomment@opr.d.oregon.gov

A public hearing will be held for the public to provide comments.

- Virtual Hearing: 5:30 p.m. December 15, 2025. Register to attend the hearing at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_civm2LvcQx-R0ZKCwHCwww

Most of the proposed changes are designed to improve the long-term financial sustainability of the state park system. The proposed changes to reservations are meant to maximize the availability of campsites for visitors.

OPRD faces a projected operational budget shortfall of \$8 million for this biennium based on forecasts through November. The projected shortfall is down from the \$14 million estimate due to a combination of revenue-generating strategies, including an increase in parking fee parks and overnight camping fee adjustments.

The shortfall is due to increasing costs, the impact of higher visitation and a decrease in projected Oregon Lottery funds for operations. Visitor fees do not cover the cost of operations, and Oregon State Parks does not receive general fund tax revenue for operations.

Proposed Cancellation Policy

The proposed changes to the reservation policy discourage late cancellations and no-shows by incentivizing early cancellations. Refunds will no longer be provided for those who fail to

cancel, which will help reduce unused reservations and open more opportunities for visitors to enjoy parks. The changes include:

- No refunds on the **day of arrival**.
- **No-show** reservations will not be refunded
- Refunds vary based on how long reservation is held, how close to arrival it is canceled.

Proposed Changes to Special Access Pass

Future Special Access Passes (SAP) for Veterans and foster families will be exclusively for those who live in Oregon, according to proposed changes. This will help ensure that limited resources are directed toward Oregonians. That update along with limiting the number of free days to 10 per year will reduce the fees waived by \$2.2 million per biennium or 46% decrease in costs. Proposed changes include:

- Must be Oregon residents to participate.
- Waived overnight rental fees (up to 10 nights/year).
- Day-use parking permit fee waived.
- **SAP Cancellations:** Must cancel reservations to avoid losing benefit nights. Refunded nights will be based on length of time reservation is held.

Proposed Rate Ranges:

- **Day Use Parking Permit fees:** \$7-\$25 daily; \$30-\$100 (12-month); \$50-\$200 (24-month*).
- **Dynamic Pricing:** Rates may vary by **day of week, season, holidays, amenities, and demand**.
- [Proposed Rate Ranges](#)

The updated fee ranges for campsites, cabins, yurts and group facilities based on market conditions and anticipated inflation. The new rate ranges will allow for greater use of demand pricing. This proposed change is part of a broader strategy to stabilize revenue and maintain high-quality park services.

Ultimately, these proposed changes are intended to keep Oregon's parks open, well-maintained and welcoming for generations to come.

Once the public comment period ends, the proposal with any incorporated updates is slated to go to Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission in February 2026 for possible adoption. If adopted, new rules would be effective beginning March 1, 2026.