

News Release

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

December 22, 2025



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OPRD seeks public input on proposed rules for UAS use in Oregon State Parks

SALEM, Oregon— Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is seeking public feedback on proposed rules governing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) takeoff and landing in Oregon's state parks and along the ocean shore.

The proposed rules establish where and how UAS may take off and land on state park property, to balance recreational opportunities with protection of natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources.

Public comments on the proposed rule changes will be accepted beginning January 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and can be submitted:

- Online:
 - <https://www-auth.oregon.gov/opr/PRP/Pages/PRP-Rule-2025-Drones-Take-off-and-Landing.aspx>
- By email:
 - OPRD.PublicComment@opr.d.oregon.gov
- By mail:
 - Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Attn: Robert Ellison
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

A public hearing will be held to allow members of the public to provide testimony.

- Virtual hearing
January 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X3ChSIJkTE-Y3FRh3Wly-Q

The draft rules focus on regulating takeoff and landing locations, which are within the department's authority, while recognizing that UAS flight is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Under the proposal, UAS use would generally be limited to designated areas for drone operations, with additional requirements for commercial or research purposes.

The proposed rules were developed in response to Senate Bill 109 (2021), which directed OPRD to create a regulatory framework that provides recreational UAS access while protecting sensitive park resources and minimizing conflicts with other visitors.

OPRD convened a Rule Advisory Committee made up of recreation user groups, conservation organizations, natural resource specialists, commercial operators and other stakeholders. The committee reviewed draft rules and provided recommendations that helped shape the proposal now open for public comment.

Once the public comment period closes, OPRD staff will review all feedback, revise the draft rules as appropriate, and present a final proposal to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration later in 2026.

If adopted, the rules would be implemented in phases, allowing the department to adapt management strategies over time, based on resource conditions, visitor use and operational experience.

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