

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

February 25, 2025

Agenda Item: 9c

Action

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Request to open rulemaking –736-024-0015 Ocean shore vehicle access
Manzanita

Presented by: Katie Gauthier, Government Relations Manager

Background:

Under current ocean shore vehicle restrictions in Tillamook County ([OAR 736-024-0015](#)), the portion of the beach adjacent to Manzanita permits limited vehicle access—between October 1 and April 30, from 7 AM to noon, and at any time for boat launching. These provisions originated from balancing traditional uses, such as morning fishing and boat launches, with the need to protect public safety and the beach environment. This rule has been in place since at least 1992.

Manzanita’s City Council passed Resolution No. 25-01, formally requesting that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission open rulemaking to prohibit vehicle use on this section of the beach altogether. The council feels driving on the ocean shore at any time during the year is no longer compatible with growing beach recreation, ecosystem preservation, and public safety.

The city of Manzanita has beach wheelchairs that are available for visitors to borrow free of charge. Visitors with disabilities who need driving accommodations can also apply for an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department drive on beach permit through an online application process.

According to the city, boat launching along the ocean shore is also very rare because two well-used launch sites operated by Tillamook County are located on the Nehalem River.

Prior Action by Commission: In April 2021, the Commission approved closing a section of the ocean shore in South Tillamook County, near Cape Kiwanda, to driving.

Action Requested: Approval to open rulemaking on OAR 736-024-0015 to close section of ocean shore near Manzanita to vehicles.

Attachments:

Attachment A –proposed amendments- marked copy

Attachment B- proposed amendments-clean copy

Attachment C-Manzanita City Council Resolution No. 25-01

Attachment D- maps of proposed rule change

Prepared by: Robert Ellison, Policy Coordinator