



# **Rulemaking: Hunting Rules Clarification**

**Public comments received  
Jan. 15 through Jan. 21, 2022**



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## Proposed rule change:

### Hunting Rule Clarifications

#### Commenter name (if provided):

Dwane Williams

#### Commenter email (if provided):

kermit.donna@gmail.com

#### Public comment:

To OPRD Rules Coordinator:

I am submitting a public comment in regards to proposals to amend OAR 736-010-0055 concerning updating state park resource rules to clarify hunting boundaries. My comments pertain specifically to LaPine State Park (S.P.) , which is about a 3 mile hike or bicycle ride from my residence.

The OPRD needs to reject any consideration of any hunting and trapping within the boundaries of LaPine S.P. I take issue with these specific points:

Under Chapter 736 of 736-010-6055 Park Resources

(9) discharging of firearms is prohibited in park properties EXCEPT while hunting and trapping wildlife, under the following provisions:

(f) Hunting is permitted with shotguns or bows and arrows only during ODFW authorized seasons in designated parks

(g) Hunting shall be permitted with rifles in LaPine S.P. only during ODFW authorized seasons

(ee) Hunting waterfowl is allowed in a portion of the following park boundaries- includes LaPine S.P.

My reasons for rejecting any consideration of hunting and trapping are:

(1) We and a multitude of nearby community residents and visitors to LaPine S.P. rely on hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and other forms of outdoor recreation such as fishing, within the S.P. We do these activities especially during ODFW hunting seasons for big game, and waterfowl, as a safe haven and refuge for avoiding the dangers presented by rifle and shotgun users during these hunting times. None of us had any idea that hunting would be permitted in a S.P., especially when our National Forest that surrounds our communities near LaPine S.P. provide ample opportunity for big game hunting.

(2) Our community borders the Upper Deschutes River. Many types of outdoor recreationists, including river floaters use the river corridor and trails along it between communities. Most are unaware of 2 small sections of the river corridor that allow waterfowl hunting. These hunting boundaries are directly across from residences on the opposite side of the river. These homes have

been on the receiving end of shots discharged from hunters' shotguns. Residents of these homes have been threatened by hunters, and there have been documented infractions such as illegal hunting out of bounds, trespassing on private property, trash dumping, disturbing of native trees and environment, human waste deposited, illegal hunting blinds constructed as permanent structures, and drug paraphernalia dumped. These and many other infractions have been documented by a local group of residents called the Big River Safety Committee (BRSC) through photographs, videos, calls to the Deschutes Co. Sheriff and deputies. Ballistics and graphs of distances covered by varying projectiles have been studied, which have determined that today's bullets and cartridge/ shots are propelled much further than the standard 150 yds. stated as the minimum distance one must be from a residence to discharge a shotgun. Rifles can propel lead bullets often between 1 - 3 miles, shotgun lead pellets can propel from 500 - 2500 ft., and shotgun slugs can propel from 3500 - 5000 ft.

Looking at the map of the hunting boundaries for LaPine S.P., which includes the northern aspect of the park it unfortunately includes significant portions of very popular hiking/snowshoeing/ cross-country skiing/biking loop trails going to Fall River Falls, with multiple interconnecting trails to this outer loop trail. Also noted is that portions of the Fall River Falls loop trail border not only Fall River but the Deschutes River and are easily within 1/4 - 1/2 mile where waterfowl hunters could be shooting along either river.

It is indefensible for the state parks dept. to allow rifle and shotgun hunting within this S.P. unless OPRD wants to assume full responsibility for all injuries or fatalities occurring from these activities. The closeness of human activities and residences nearby, and the abundance of alternative hunting areas within our Upper Deschutes River National Forest where hunting is allowed already, negates any reason for allowing hunting within this S.P.

(3) Media coverage (KOHD TV news) about the clarification of hunting boundaries in LaPine S.P. filmed an Interview with an OPRD agent. He stated that the campsites are 1 mile away from the hunting boundaries to north. But the ballistics charts published by the BRSC in their submission of negative effects of hunting boundaries near residences and recreationists, and submitted as part of their public record in response to the Dingell Act requirements, demonstrate that even these campsites might not be at a safe enough distance from the discharge of a rifle with a range of bullets projected 1-3 miles based on our local altitude. Visitors camping at the S.P. will most likely also hike more than a mile from their campsite and be unaware that hunting is allowed here during ODFW's big game hunting seasons with rifles or bows and arrows.

(4) Signage is often ignored by hunters who have used the 2 hunting corridors along the Upper Deschutes River. The interview with the OPRD agent indicated that upgraded signage would be posted at the entrances to the S.P. Having read the BRSC public report on the waterfowl hunting zones infractions and personally witnessing defaced signs, I can only deduce that the hunting boundary signs will be ignored here also.

In summary, I reject any hunting within the LaPine S.P. over public safety concerns. I think that any economic benefits generated by allowing hunting would be far outweighed by the negative impacts to the public in regards to safety issues and by any lawsuit claims and resulting compensation from OPRD due to injury or death related to accidental shooting cases. Under OPRD's statement clarifying hunting boundaries, " access to hunt on OPRD lands is provided in state parks where public safety is LOW RISK", I absolutely do not believe that with my above listed concerns, that LaPine S.P. is anywhere near a LOW RISK area.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dwane K. Williams**

**Date comment received:**

Tuesday, January 18, 2022



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

## Proposed rule change:

Hunting Rule Clarifications

## Commenter name (if provided):

David Rieben

## Commenter email (if provided):

david.rieben@juno.com

## Public comment:

For several years I have struggled to understand what are allowable hunting boundaries within the Willamette Greenway. I understand there is a significant effort currently underway to generate a map clearly describing what is open to hunters and what is not. This is a FANTASTIC idea and well worth the effort!

My one caution is this: Over the years it seems to me that public hunting lands are restricted, discouraged, and ultimately taken away. The attitude seems all too often to favor anyone enjoying the outdoors with a bicycle, etc while fearing anyone who may choose to harvest game with a firearm outdoors. Please do not reduce the available areas in which the public is free to spend time afield hunting. It is a fantastic tradition and we are all owners of this state and river system. Please preserve our freedoms in the process of generating a map.

## Date comment received:

Friday, January 21, 2022