Rulemaking OAR 736-024-0015
Public comments received
December 18, 2020 through
December 30, 2020
From: Lynnae Ruttledge <lynnae.ruttledge@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:39 AM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Cc: tierradelmarcommunity@gmail.com; Michael Comcast; Candace Churchley; Mary Voboril; Cathy & Dave Colburn; lisa macy; Kurt Leipzig; Ron Bourke; lyndasteiner@aol.com; Gail Saxton; Gary Mier
Subject: Support change in administrative rule to an driving year round north of Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area

Thank you for inviting comments. It should be just common sense that we would not allow driving on the beach, especially in the proposed area from the mouth of Sand Lake estuary south to the northern border of Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area. This area encompasses two distinct recreation areas, both should be wildlife/visitor/family friendly, not vehicle friendly.

The first is the area at the north edge of the proposed area, adjacent to Sitka Sedge State Natural Area. Sitka Sedge State Natural Area is distinguished by its remote nature and that it is also a protected nesting habitat for snowy plovers. Sadly, we see vehicles that routinely cruise up the beach, leave tire tracks up into the dune area and drive at speed just because they can.

The second is the area adjacent to the unincorporated community of Tierra Del Mar. Prohibiting vehicles from driving on the beach adjacent to a quiet residential area should just be common sense. Presently, vehicles routinely ignore the posted signage and set up for the day with their coolers, beach chairs, dogs and kids. They drive at speed and leave tire tracks boldly around the sign that says vehicles are prohibited.

For the past few months, Tierra Del Mar community volunteers have been monitoring the area, contacting the Sheriff’s office and OPRD for enforcement, approaching vehicles to point out the signage, pleading with Tillamook County Commissioners to reclose the beach to vehicle driving, all to no avail. For the limited numbers of times there has been an enforcement response, we have seen no evidence that any citations have been issued.

When/if the rules are changed, there needs to be a concomitant commitment to education of enforcement officials and short-term rental property owners/managers, strict enforcement with citations, clear unambiguous and conspicuous signage on the beach and routine presence of enforcement officials.

Attached are photos that capture a tiny slice of the violations our community has endured.

Kind regards,
Lynnae Ruttledge
5885 Austin Ave.
member of the Tierra Del Mar since 1992
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Kind regards,
Lynnae Rutledge
5885 Austin Ave.
member of the Tierra Del Mar since 1992

<image2.jpeg>

<image1.jpeg>

<image0.jpeg>
From: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department <park.info@oregon.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 10:13 AM
To: GAUTHIER Katie * OPRD <Katie.Gauthier@oregon.gov>; PARKER Justin * OPRD <Justin.Parker@oregon.gov>
Subject: Fwd: A couple of comments

Hello ~

Would you please respond to this customer with a cc to park.info@oregon.gov.

Thank you for your help.

Mary Vaughn | Communications Division
725 Summer St. NE Suite C
Salem, OR 97301
Information: 800-551-6949//Reservations 800-452-5687
https://stateparks.oregon.gov/

On Tue, 15 Dec at 3:37 PM, Chris & Ann Pierce <capierce@hevanet.com> wrote:
Hello,

Here are the comments I’d like to register:

1) After camping at Ft. Stevens State Park this summer, I have a suggestion: there should be a whole section of the campground where pets are not allowed. It doesn’t seem fair that those of us without dogs, especially, should have to camp next to people who bring one, two, three...dogs to the campground. Give those of us without dogs an area where we don’t have to be around them.

2) I saw in the paper that you are taking comments on driving restrictions on some beaches in Tillamook County. I don’t think cars should be allowed on ANY beaches in Oregon. I noticed this summer at Ft. Stevens that people are able to drive around on the beach south of the South Jetty, and I think it’s ridiculous. There should be a small area at a few entrances where people with Disabled Licenses could drive onto the beach to get a view and enjoy the ocean, but everyone else should not be allowed to drive on the beaches anywhere, anytime.

Thanks for considering my comments. I’d appreciate your thoughts.
—Chris Pierce
Dear Commissioners,

Please understand there will be increased congestion at the Pacific Avenue beach access point. Vehicles cannot see pedestrians walking up the sand hill whether they are entering the beach or leaving the beach. It will be very easy to be hit in that area as a pedestrian. Please close all vehicle access to the beach unless the vehicle is being used for launching a boat.

Sincerely

Wendy Ackley
Rueppell Avenue
Pacific City, OR

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing comments to be made about driving on beaches in Tillamook County!

My wife and I were born in Tillamook County. I was born in 1949, and my wife was born in 1952. We each went out of county to university and college. We married in 1973 and made the decision in 1977 to move back to Tillamook County from Washington County to raise our children in South Tillamook County. I taught middle school-aged students for 32 years with 13 of those years being in the Tillamook School District and 13 in South Tillamook County. I also planned and led Tillamook County Outdoor School for all of the 6th graders and many high schoolers in the county for 36 years. I was also fortunate to substitute in the Tillamook School District for 14 years after retiring and also work for Tillamook Estuaries Partnership for 11 years with all of the 3rd and 4th graders in the county involved in natural resource education.

We love the beach in South County and visit it often! As kids we had picnics and walks on the beaches each with our parents and friends of our parents. And one of the draws of moving back to Tillamook County was the opportunity to spend time more often on the beaches.

Over the many years our favorite two beaches to walk/play on have been the beach at Tierra del Mar and McPhillips Beach. Yes, we used to also sometimes go to the beach at Pacific City, but with the recent years of development near the cape we rarely visit that beach anymore knowing also that most “locals” who have lived in South Tillamook County for any length of time also avoid the hoards of people and activity at that beach. (We DO sometimes walk trails in PC and watch a few storms from the parking lot at Cape Kiwanda when there aren’t many tourists there.) Note that one of those days last year when we went to the parking lot at Cape Kiwanda to see the wild waves, etc., there were huge trees coming on shore and moving around as water continued to come onshore around the trees. The Stupids, people who have no sense around the ocean, were going onto the beach to walk near the trees and water. Thankfully an Oregon State Parks ranger began stationing herself at the entrance to the beach advising people to stay off of the beach, etc.

We have often walked from the northern-most access trails from Sandlake Road onto the Tierra del Mar beach walking to Cape Kiwanda and back and we have often, in past years, been the only people on the beach or among very few others. Those have been incredible times!

But the most enjoyable beach for us to be on as a couple or as an extended family with grandchildren is McPhillips Beach. Because we have a pickup we have been able to drive onto McPhillips Beach and south on the beach to one of the very many small creeks that flow from the hillside to the ocean. We have always been able to find a creek that has no people by it so that we can unload our children and now our grandchildren and their toys . . . and our beach chairs to enjoy the sounds of the ocean, the joy of playing in the sand and water, etc. In recent years as my wife and I have aged we have driven onto the beach again to one of the vacant creek areas so that we can unload our beach chairs, magazines, firewood, etc., and spend several hours in the splendor of the beach area also walking on the beach and walking in the surf.

In all the years of using this beach we have always been able to find a place for us to be “alone” in the sense that we can easily be in our own world in our spot on the beach. And we can tell you now at the ages we are at that being able to
drive onto this beach that is not easily accessible to people who can’t walk a long distance carrying chairs, etc., is wonderful!

In the past several years it has been a treat to see couples who seem to have great trouble walking drive onto the beach, get out chairs and sit close to their vehicles still being able to enjoy the sounds, the sunset, the peace, etc.

McPhillips Beach is mostly hidden from Sandlake Road which adds to its draw whereas sitting on the beach at Tierra del Mar or Pacific City is in the open in front of much traffic and the view of others. If anyone reading this has the time, you should go onto McPhillips Beach and experience it as we have. It’s night and day different from the beach at Pacific City with the hoards of people and activity there.

And as to driving on the beach at Pacific City other than supporting the dory boat traffic we see no value in allowing people to drive on that beach. The beach is often narrow enough that vehicles have to drive through groups of people. To us it seems to have become very dangerous, and we simply have not driven on that beach . . . ever and don’t see the need other than the dory boat operators.

Yes, there are the Stupids, as I refer to them, who sometimes show up on the Tierra del Mar and McPhillips beach driving their cars/pick-ups recklessly on the beach. (Why does it so often look like people have borrowed their daddy’s and mommy’s new car to go squirreling on the beach!) And I become on high alert if any kids are on the beach to make sure that the Stupids don’t go near them. But for the most part most of the people driving on McPhillips beach are responsible and are there to relax and enjoy time with their families. Most drive to “their” creek on the beach "stopping the world to get off” and relax.

Without the blessing on driving on McPhillips Beach my wife and I and our children and grandchildren won’t be able to walk from the very tiny parking area above McPhillips Beach onto the beach with chairs, etc., finding our alone place. And this is very distressing for us.

We hope that you will recognize the need especially for families and senior citizens to have open access to driving on McPhillips Beach for years to come.

Thank you for reading these comments!

Sincerely yours,

Dean (and Laurie) Bones
PO Box 4
Cloverdale, OR 97112

Dean’s cell #: 503-812-3279
AManWhoHasHope@yahoo.com

" 'Apart from me you can do nothing,' says Jesus. This verse is explosive. I need to be reminded of it daily. People who don’t follow Christ still live good lives, pursue careers, have families and leave legacies. But we were made to become more and more like Jesus, and that’s utterly impossible without leaning into God.”

Ross McCall
From: Julie Copley <jcoley1504@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 12:18 PM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Driving on beaches near pacific city and tiers del mar

My husband and I are residents of Tillamook county and we both feel strongly that we should ban driving on these stretches of the public beach except to allow the dories to launch and retrieve. It has gotten so popular a place that it’s becomes risk to walkers, surfers and all the children who play at the beach. Vehicles get stuck, risk spilling noxious fluids, pollute the air with exhaust and ad to litter left from the big gatherings that driving and parking there encourage. We support changing the laws to limit driving on these areas and think it will enhance the open beach experience of our beaches. Julie and john copley

Sent from my iPhone
**First Name** | Randell  
---|---
**Last Name** | Mifflin  
**Email** | rmifflin@msn.com  
**Public Comment** | I am in support of the beach driving and parking ban in South Tillamook County. With the exception of launching dory boats, I believe that cars should be completely banned from all Oregon beaches. The environmental impact and dangers posed by having vehicles on our beaches outweighs the benefits and convenience these vehicles may provide for recreation.

**Submission ID:** d311ae10-bb48-4656-b16d-09224f8e2868  
**Record ID:** 539
OPRD should not permit any driving anywhere on the beach from the mouth of Sand Lake south to the base of Cape Kiwanda unless it can demonstrate any limited or unlimited access will be effectively managed through a comprehensive combination of conspicuous signage/notification, ubiquitous monitoring, and meaningful enforcement, including fines and impounding of vehicles. Further, until OPRD demonstrates such a commitment to monitoring and enforcement, it should demand immediate and material cooperation from the Tillamook County Commission and Tillamook County Sheriff by having the County close off the vehicle access located along Sand Lake Road just south of Tierra Del Mar. This past summer and fall activity on the beach from the mouth of Sand Lake south to the base of Cape Kiwanda has been a sad comedy of serial failures by OPRD and the County. Motorists have ignored posted notifications, driven recklessly on beach area crowded with small children, engaged in obvious DUI, obstructed the narrow access/egress with stuck or malfunctioning vehicles, illegally camped on the beach, left trash and human waste on the beach. Enforcement was so lax from OPRD and the County, residents of Tierra Del Mar started their own volunteer “Beach Watch” program documenting multiple abuses. See: https://eruttledge.zenfolio.com/p212129082 It has been obvious and clear – OPRD and Tillamook County do not have either the resources or the interest to make open motor vehicle access to the beach safe, sanitary and protective of the natural resource of the shoreline. Close the beach access. Keep it closed year round. Motor vehicles do not belong on the beach.

Submission ID: 948d6d4d-5d01-45f2-8f6f-af81b313ed66

Record ID: 540
Hello, I've driven on the beach and find it to be very easy to lose track of the tide, misjudge the depth of tidal pools, get stuck in the sand, get trapped between the tide and a cliff with no exit and then require emergency response, etc. I've also jogged/walked on the beach and with the surf/wind noise it's almost impossible to hear an approaching vehicle and anticipate driver behavior. I just don't see a reason for anyone to drive on the beach.
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com  
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 1:04 PM  
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD  
Subject: Restrict Beach Driving in South Tillamook County  
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Rhonda</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Piasecki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Coyotevibe@yahoo.com">Coyotevibe@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>I realize driving on a beach is a novelty thing, but people are loving Oregon’s open spaces to death. I think it’s time to stop this practice of letting vehicles drive on our beaches. The beach is more than a bunch of wet sand, it’s a living ecosystem, and driving on it causes as much disruption as driving in a meadow. Let’s stop being selfish and preserve our beautiful beaches for generations to come.</td>
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Submission ID: 8c133f43-7b6d-4a65-b5e5-093663926c1a

Record ID: 544
I am in full support of the addition of these new restriction to driving on the beach in South Tillamook County. As a visitor to the area, this change will make the area more attractive for visiting and I believe would be beneficial to the local businesses who rely on tourism dollars.
I respectfully and emphatically support the removal of vehicles from our beaches!! We are so out of balance with cars vs. nature---do we really need to sully the beach experience by having cars whiz by as you are walking? It is unsafe for humans and critters. I support a handicapped exemption so people with mobility issues can get access to the beach experience. I also want to voice a concern about Bob Straub State Park beach. If the Pacific City beach is closed, will a flood of cars now be on the beach at our beautiful Bob Straub beach? I am hopeful that vehicle access will be restricted here, too. There is just too much wildlife and sensitive habitat to accept an increase in car traffic. Cars on the beach should be banned. We need our wild places protected from the human-inundated world.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Mark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Englund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Englundm@gene.com">Englundm@gene.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>I am against this proposal. It makes no consideration for kayakers and surfers that want to use the ocean and need immediate access from the beach. I believe this is focused on the special interest of a few Dory Boat captains and does represent the general population of those that use this area.</td>
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**Submission ID:** 43cc769d-3151-4a08-9684-b66013c9766c

**Record ID:** 549
This proposal is long overdue. As a fourth generation Oregonian and former resident of the Oregon Coast I fully support banning motor vehicles from driving on the beach in Pacific City. My hope is that motor vehicles will be banned from driving on every beach on the Oregon Coast. Motor vehicles on the beach are a safety hazard that threaten birds and other marine life along the shore and are an environmental hazard. Only emergency vehicles and vehicles that tow the fishing dory’s should be allowed. Permits could be given for vehicles towing dory’s that give reduced parking fees.
MARSHALL Janelle * OPRD

From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2020 7:54 PM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Restrict Beach Driving in South Tillamook County
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

<table>
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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Mike</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Mathrole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Iammikem01@gmail.com">Iammikem01@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>Please leave the beach open to vehicle travel. That is the whole reason we always stay at Tierra Del Mar. We do not abuse the privilege nor do we see others doing that. We just like to park on the beach where we can be sure no one is stealing from our car. We watch the ocean and let our dogs play. Good clean family fun. We need more things like this, not less. I remember when we could drive all along the Oregon coast. A freedom long lost, that once gone will never return. This is one of the few places that still allow that wonderful piece of freedom! If you close it my friends and family will have to spend our time and money on the Washington coast where it is allowed. Please keep it open! Washington is not as nice. Thank you for your time.</td>
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Submission ID: d4856b52-6e31-47ed-a035-4864c884314a

Record ID: 551
First Name | Victoria  
---|---  
Last Name | Stoppiello  
Email | stoppiello@nehalemtel.net  
Public Comment | There are lots of places for people to drive; the beaches of Oregon should not be part of them. Unfortunately, beach drivers often speed, chase down birds & other wildlife, and put kids and others who walk the beaches at risk...there's no opportunity to just relax. This is particularly irritating for coastal residents who cannot safely walk the beach a few blocks from their homes. People who want to drive on the beach can go to the BLM vehicle area on the north side of Sand Lake.
Hi.
I want to see your birth certificate.
My father was a grande WW2 gunners mate serving in the Pacific Theater.
He built his own fishing Dory’s in the garage @ the age of 9.
He lived just shy of, 0904, 94.
My entire childhood & his childhood took place on the PC beach.
While they were fishing, we would have beach bbq’s & family time...
...we most likely would have been surfers like my children, except surfing didn’t really exist...
...w/ @ few exceptions.
Then my native, Oregon born & raised children enjoy’d surfing PC & parking/bonfires W/ their friends on the PC beach.
That was back when PC was a Pacific Wilderness...
...long before the great Californication & Mormon Plagues of coastal strip malls...
...now Pacific City is a strip mall plague of Californication.
To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of Pacific City and I am very happy to hear about the proposed ban on driving on the beach at Cape Kiwanda. There have been plenty of times that I have witnessed cars on the beach nearly hitting pedestrians. In addition, the numerous instances of cars getting stuck in the sand and, at times, engulfed in the ocean. It is ridiculous that it is allowable to have cars on any beach, but at least we are making, what I hope to be, initial steps to end this. It causes negative environmental consequences and creates human laziness. So, many thanks from my family and me to stopping cars being allowed on the beach.

Sincerely,

Janine Bulgrin
I’m extremely against banning parking on the beach at Cape Kiwanda. I’m a regular user of this beach for recreation including kayaking, surfing, and just enjoying the beach with the family. Being able to drive and park on the beach here is a great experience and allows many families to enjoy access to this public resource. As we saw this summer when this parking was temporarily restricted, there is not nearly enough parking available at Cape Kiwanda, public or private, and the local community has taken efforts to even further restrict what little parking was available by blocking parking on the main street and in other areas. There simply is not enough parking available to allow for families to have reasonable access to this resource, as you saw that this summer with countless families having to turn away from this vast public resource because the one small parking lot was full. Please do not ban driving and parking on the beach here.
I would love to see a vehicle ban on the beaches of Cape Kiwanda. Last time we were there, I was saddened to see the continued destruction of a treasured coastal area, including the amazing tidepools, which are continually degraded. I believe limiting vehicles would also limit the numbers of people, and help restore some of the nature to this amazing location.
My family and I have hiked there several times and enjoy the peaceful nature of the park. I oppose beach driving at Sitka Sedge State Park, it should be reserved for walking and beach combing only.

Tom Carter
15035 SE Monner Road
Happy Valley, OR 97086
Please ban vehicle travel around Sand Lake, at Cape Kiwanda, and the surrounding areas. This is a much loved place for wildlife and for people. It is dangerous to all to have vehicles on the beach in this area.

Thank you,

Micky Ryan
2817 NE 20th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212
We are concerned about your proposed changes, specifically not allowing beach parking. If you are going to enact this proposal then you need to add additional parking. There is so little parking currently and this further negatively impacts the problem. I hate to see this beach become like Silver Falls where people drive down to see a lovely site and are forced to leave because there is so little parking. If your goal is to decrease attendance you will be able to accomplish it.

We would welcome improvement to the restroom facilities. I have never seen them clean and with soap and paper towels. It would be great if there was staff available to service them more frequently.

Charging a fee is tolerable if you make improvements, but if it is more of a hassle we will go to other beaches where you can park and have more choice of restaurants etc.

We love going to the Dory Boat Festival but without a parking place it won’t be a possibility. I don’t want to waste time driving somewhere that we wont be able to leave the car and enjoy the beauty of the area.

Sincerely

Linda and Ross Morgan.
Dear Ms. Gauthier and Commissioner Bell,

I am writing to STRONGLY SUPPORT the proposal to permanently remove access for vehicles onto the beaches at Cape Kiwanda and Tierra Del Mar. The impacts to the environment and coastal wildlife, as well as the safety of people and pets make a closure sorely needed. Over my many years going to local beaches, I have seen more than a handful of "close calls" that potentially could have resulted in major injuries or death to children, adults and pets on the beach.

I am pleased to see that McKillip Beach and the area by Sitka Sedge are included in the sections where vehicular access is to be closed.

It is critical that access at the end of Beachy Bridge at Cape Kiawanda Drive also be closed. At this location I have witnessed trucks and cars driving blindly at a high rate of speech to get over this dune to access the beach. Then the same thing happens on their return trip to the turn-around parking lot. It is just a matter of time before someone is critically injured or killed by a moving vehicle at this location, if this hasn't occurred already.

In order for the fee parking to be effective, the County will need to consider daily parking enforcement staff. Otherwise, visitor vehicles will spill over into all of the residential areas in Pacific City. Those of us who live nearby experienced a "parking nightmare" earlier this year when the County Parking lot was closed due to the covid pandemic.

As a local resident runner/walker on this beach, my perception is that the majority of visitors who "park and party" on the beach at Cape Kiwanda are "day trippers" who often do not pack out their trash. I have been removing trash from these beaches for years now. Most trash is found in the areas that cars have parked on the beach.

It is my opinion that the removal of parking on our local beaches is not likely to significantly impact local businesses in Pacific City. In years past, driving and parking on the beach was more of a "local thing". This is no longer the case.

I applaud Oregon Parks and Tillamook County for taking these critical steps to improve the quality of life in our community, as well as the beach experience for visitors and residents alike.
Sincerely,

Nancy Burgi-Oleson  
PO Box 833 (34525 Williams)  
Pacific City, OR 97112  

--  
Nancy Burgi-Oleson  
503.434.3172  
olesonn@gmail.com
I inadvertently emailed the comments below on 12/24/20 from the TillcoDems email account. Please remove them from the record, and replace with comments below from my personal email account sonyakazen@gmail.com Thank you. - Sonya

Dear Ms. Gauthier and Commissioner Bell,

I am writing to STRONGLY SUPPORT the proposal to permanently remove access for vehicles onto the beaches at Cape Kiwanda and Tierra Del Mar. Cars and trucks on the beach are a vestige of former times when the beaches served a transportation need for coastal communities. This is no longer the case. The impacts to the environment and coastal wildlife, as well as the safety of people and pets make closure sorely needed. Personally, I never go to these beaches because the scenic beauty and experience is marred parked cars, big rigs cutting didos in the sand, and the trash they leave behind. Providing a safe and contained space for dory boat drop-off will address the only valid need for vehicles on the beach.

I am glad to see that McKillip Beach and the area by Sitka Sedge are included in the sections where vehicular access is to be closed.

It is critical that access at the end of the Nestucca River Bridge at Cape Kiawanda Drive also be closed. If it were to remain open, beach drivers would flock to this access and cram into the small remaining open beach area as well as into areas where vehicles are prohibited. Most importantly, there is ZERO RIGHT DISTANCE for vehicles driving over the sand dune to access the beach at this location. I narrowly avoided being hit last year while walking over the dune. It is just a matter of time before a person or child is run over at this location, if this hasn’t occurred already.

I urge the County to designate the parking spaces directly adjacent to the beach at Cape Kiwanda “Handicapped Only”, and to build a wheel-chair accessible viewing platform.

There is an existing kiosk located in the Cape Kiwanda parking lot which could be improved with more interpretive and informational signs.
**Bob Straub State Beach is very under-utilized.** The beach can only be reached by hiking over a steep dune. To expand accessibility for those less able, the state could look into developing another trail from the parking area where the dune is lower. I do support the idea of expanding the Bob Straub parking lot if demand increases with the closure of vehicular access at Cape Kiwanda.

I hope the County and State Parks put together a comprehensive media plan to announce the removal of parking on these beaches, and the implementation of a parking fee at Cape Kiwanda. In order for the fee parking to be effective, the County will need to provide daily parking enforcement staff. Otherwise, visitor vehicles will spill over into all of the residential areas in Pacific City. There is another fee parking area available on Cape Kiwanda Drive at the site of a future park - signage at the Cape Kiwanda fee lot and public information should include info and maps showing the location of this lot. The County might consider improving this lot as a permanent fee parking facility and installing fee machines (currently, it only has “honor system” fee box).

As a local resident, my perception is that the majority of visitors who park and and party on the beach at Cape Kiwanda are “day trippers”, and the removal of parking on the beach is not likely to significantly impact local businesses in Pacific City.

I applaud Oregon Parks and Tillamook County for taking these critical steps to improve the quality of life in our community as well as the beach experience for visitors and residents alike.

Sincerely,

Sonya Kazen
PO Box 26
Cloverdale, OR 97112

(503) 812-653
Ms Beattie,
Thank you for sharing your comments. I have included them with our public comments for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to consider when making a final decision on adoption of the rule.

Thank you,
Katie

From: Barbara Beattie <beattieb55@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 1:00 PM
To: GAUTHIER Katie * OPRD <Katie.Gauthier@oregon.gov>
Cc: HENRY Randy H * OSMB <Randy.H.HENRY@oregon.gov>; PARKER Justin * OPRD <Justin.Parker@oregon.gov>
Subject: Proposed Rule Making Beach Driving at Pacific City

December 22, 2020
For public comment re:
Beach Driving Restrictions in South Tillamook County

I have been a part time resident of Pacific City since 1962. I grew up at the beach. I walked the beach as a kid with Bob Straub. My family built a small cabin and we have continued to enjoy the beach introducing our children and grand children to the pleasures of the shore. I have seen many changes and hope the OPRD can change beach driving rules to accommodate and be a benefit to visitors in the future.

I applaud the decision to close private vehicle access at Cape Kiwanda. I support allowing launching of boats at the cape.

I support closure of vehicle access at Tierra Del Mar north of the beach access point.

I support allowing vehicle access south of the Tierra Del Mar access including McPhillips beach to the north end of the cape.

However I believe it is also time to permanently close vehicle beach access at the Turn a Round and prohibit vehicles on the beach for the entire length of the beach at Pacific City. The huge increase in visitors over the years shows we can not keep doing the same old thing.
Tillamook County’s decision to resume vehicle access to the beach at the Turn a Round in Pacific City shows poor governance for the safety and health of citizens and the environment. This access point combines a mix of users ascending the dune to access the beach. This includes horses, families with small children, senior citizens, people carrying coolers and chairs and strollers. Add to this parade powerful 4 wheel drive vehicles charging up the dune attempting to cross over without getting stuck. This an accident waiting to happen and the county officials have acknowledged this in the past.

By removing private vehicle access at the cape the problem is being kicked down the road to this location. The county is making a very poor decision based on their internet survey that was limited in scope and in accountability. The internet survey they used is not an accurate representation of the users nor does it show good governance when it comes to public safety.

Vehicles trying to reach the top of the dune have to accelerate, follow any path they can and hopefully not run over a family having a picnic just on the other side, not visible to the vehicle trying to make the ascent. After vehicles gain the hill they continue to race down to the wet sand and either make a bunch of doughnuts in the sand, or proceed southbound and make more doughnuts and often travel at high speed.

I have walked this beach for years. Before the Covid-19 closure the amount of vehicle traffic had significantly increased over the years. The amount of vehicles driving in the dunes of Bob Straub park had increased. I was just down at the mouth two weeks ago and the car tracks in the dunes are clearly evident. In summer I have witnessed vehicles travel on the river side of the sand spit and into the wetlands, the estuary and clam beds. This activity has significantly increased over the years. A sign was placed at the mouth indicating closure to vehicles but tracks often continue past the sign. The sign now is in the river as the erosion has significantly changed the area.

The amount of garbage left by vehicle campers had increased pre COVID closure. There were piles of garbage often in fire pits in an attempt to burn bottles, diapers, plastic and cans. Day campers and overnight campers were frequently seen. Many vehicles have been consumed by the ocean leaving oil, car parts and more garbage strewn along the shore.
This recent photo was taken with a park ranger present.

Since the COVID closure the beach has seen increased wildlife. Birds are not being chased and flushed by cars. There are no garbage piles, beer cans, bottles and picnic remains. The vehicle closure has created a park like experience where visitors can enjoy the natural world of the shore.

The park rangers ability to patrol this remote area is limited due to the few rangers available and it’s isolated location. When a call is made it is not likely a response will happen in time to catch the violator. By closing this beach to vehicles the need to patrol this area will decrease.

I have walked this beach frequently post COVID and have found very little garbage, no vehicle tracks anywhere, have seen increased wildlife, and enjoyed the peace and quiet that parks usually offer. I have witnessed increased pedestrian visitation using ideal social distancing, have seen families playing with their children on the beach and not having to worry that a car will come racing over a dune or up the beach at them. With the current closure it feels like a park instead of an ATV park. As visitation has notably increased and parking facilities are being created for these visitors OPRD should not create a situation that repeats the problem at Cape Kiwanda. This beach needs to stay closed to vehicle access so that many more people can enjoy the safety and pleasures of a natural beach.

By Tillamook county allowing beach access across their property it dumps the cost of monitoring and policing on Oregon Parks. Tillamook does not have the capacity or finances to pay for a park ranger to manage the traffic on the ocean shore nor to police for illegal driving, or garbage removal. OPRD needs to consider the very near future as increased vehicles on the beach will combine with increased visitors. As the problems of vehicles on the beach were identified at Cape Kiwanda closing the entire beach to vehicles supports human safety, enhances wildlife environment, enhances visitors experience to the natural world. That seems to align with OPRD goals.

Allowing vehicles on the beach north of the cape provides access for disabled people to drive on the beach, provides access for surfers, skidoo drivers, para gliders and any other vehicle assisted activity. This area is safer for beach driving as it is frequently flat and has wet stable sand. Visibility is not an issue, getting stuck in sand is less likely to occur. It is shorter so emergency vehicles and tow trucks would have easier access. It is also not next to a state park, so motorized activity would not be unexpected.

At a PC Woods Citizen Advisory Committee meeting on November 14, 2020 I asked Commissioner Yamamoto if any thought was given to allowing commercial vehicle tour operators access to the beach via the Turn a Round. He said they hadn’t thought of that. Currently there is a horse ride concession using county property to access the beach at this location. They operate on Sunset and Pacific Ave and use the same beach access that the vehicles and pedestrians use. During summer the rides include 10-15 horses every few hours leaving manure (that they do not pick up) and eroding the dunes in the park that they cross over. That Tillamook county has done little to correct this issue and that they appear unaware or blind to the additional commercial exploitation of Bob Straub park is very disturbing. In addition there is a large vehicle parked in Pacific City with signs attached about beach rides. (See attached photo). A brochure was printed a few years ago by this company advertising beach rides up the river and into the estuary and park area. I am unaware how successful they were in getting this business going but it is of concern to me for the potential commercial activity of beach driving and the unawareness of our county commissioners.
On one of my walks I counted 14 of these vehicles driving north from the mouth on the beach in the dry sand near the dunes.

I request you consider changing 736-024-0015, line (2)l. To read:

(i) Motor vehicle travel is prohibited from Y 582, 843 southerly to the Tillamook County/Lincoln County line, Y 521, 960.

And delete entirely (j) and (k)

This creates a safe, equitable and environmentally appropriate change for all users in Tillamook county

Thank you for your thoughtful review and consideration,

Barbara Beattie
35545 Sunset Dr, Pacific City (family home owned since 1962)

Mailing address: 102 Alta Vista Rd, White Salmon, WA 98672

Phone: 425-417-3697

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Barbara Beattie

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Barbara Beattie
ATTN
KATIE GAUTHIER

I am 82 years old and love to walk on the beaches of Oregon. Thank you for keeping the beach at Tillamook open for vehicular use.

Besides my health, I need to drive an electric car, but because of too many people like in Pacific City, it was closed. Please leave every third man open for older people like me, not quite yet in wheelchairs.

 Dale E. Anderson

11265 Evergreen Way Nehalem OR 97131

503 368-5447 503 812-7625

Land

Mr. Dale E. Anderson
1265 Evergreen Way
Nehalem, OR 97131
From: PRICE Theresa * OPRD
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 11:56 AM
To: GAUTHIER Katie * OPRD <Katie.Gauthier@oregon.gov>
Subject: Mail

Hi Katie,

Attached are the three responses you’ve received by mail regarding the driving on the beach issue at hand.

Thanks! 😊

Theresa Price | Receptionist
Communications Division
Desk: 503.986.0758
Keep people's cars off the beach in Tillamook County. Thanks.
KATU News, Dec. 11, 2020

SALEM, Ore. – Oregon Parks & Recreation is looking at a proposal that would restrict drivers from two parts of the Oregon beach in Southern Tillamook County, and they are asking for the public to weigh in.

The first proposed change would ban driving year-round from the mouth of Sand Lake to the northern border of the Cape Kiwanda State Natural Area.

Driving that stretch of the coast is already banned between May 1 and September 30. That limit could also start in March to protect shorebirds during nesting season. There are also restrictions from sunrise to sunset on legal holidays, and on weekends between October 1 and April 30.

The second change would bar motor vehicles from a Tillamook County boat ramp in Pacific City, stretching south for about a quarter mile. Boaters would still be allowed to park on the beach north of the boat ramp to the foot of Cape Kiwanda, and they could still sometimes launch or land south of the ramp when the beach is unsafe to the north of the ramp.

This area is normally open year-round, but the state said it was temporarily closed to vehicles (excluding boaters) in 2020 because of staffing shortages and safety concerns from mixing beach visitors and vehicles.

“We’re proposing these changes in cooperation with the county as we both try to improve the quality of the beach experience and keep people and vehicles from mixing on a busy beach,” says OPRD spokesperson Chris Havel. “The tricky part is striking a balance between those concerns and easy, fair access to the tremendous gift that is the Oregon ocean shore.”

People can submit their comments online, by emailing, at a virtual public hearing scheduled for January 28, or by mailing:

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Attn.: Katie Gauthier
725 Summer St NE, Suite C
Salem OR 97301

The deadline for comments is 5 p.m. on February 12, 2021.
Ellen and Pete Steen
5355 3rd St. NW
Tillamook, OR 97141

503-842-5608
4petesteen@gmail.com
ellensteenz@gmail.com

12/11/20

To: OR Parks & Rec

We do not believe driving should be permitted on any Oregon beach with the sole exception of clay fishers men at Pacific City.

Ellen & Pete Steen, Tillamook
From: GAUTHIER Katie * OPRD  
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 3:27 PM  
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD  
Subject: FW: Driving on the beach at Tierra Del Mar  
Attachments: tillamook beach driving voboril.pdf

From: HAVEL Chris * OPRD  
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2020 2:39 PM  
To: GAUTHIER Katie * OPRD <Katie.Gauthier@oregon.gov>  
Subject: FW: Driving on the beach at Tierra Del Mar

Please add the attached to the public comment stack for Tillamook. Thanks.

- -

Chris Havel, Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., (d) 503-986-0722, (c) 503-931-2590, chris.havel@oregon.gov
Please close the vehicle beach access at Tierra Del Mar.

I live full-time on the beach at Irish Avenue. In summer and on weekends, I witness infractions almost every day — often multiple times a day — and into the evening. This includes times of low visibility and even no visibility, as at night or during dense fog. (I see their headlights.)

It’s abundantly clear that the “Motor Vehicles Prohibited” rule is unenforceable.

Please close the access at Tierra Del Mar. And please don’t wait to act until there’s an accident, an injury or even a fatality.

The inconvenient truth is that the open beach north of the no-go sign attracts numerous motorists. Some, fueled by alcohol or testosterone or a combination thereof, race, spin “donuts,” target seagulls, litter, crush dunes and dune grass and otherwise misuse the beach. They have built beach fires and driven off without extinguishing them.

Worst of all, their careless driving imperils innocent beachgoers, including children of tender years.

Neither the sheriff’s office nor OPRD has sufficient personnel for adequate enforcement. With increasing beach use, the problem is likely to get worse. That being the case, please close the access.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Voboril
5800 Irish Avenue
Tierra Del Mar, Oregon 97112
First Name | Ann
Last Name | Morgan
Email | morgnann1950@gmail.com
Public Comment | I support the Parks Dept. and Tillamook County's proposed plan to restrict beach driving in south Tillamook County.

Submission ID: a38c1cee-471c-4b53-a911-75a19871cbb0
Record ID: 558
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2020 1:51 PM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Restrict Beach Driving in South Tillamook County
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

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<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pslichter@frontier.com">pslichter@frontier.com</a></td>
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Public Comment
Please move to prohibit beach driving year round on the beach from Cape Kiwanda north to Sand Lake. We encountered one quad yesterday speeding closely past beach walkers without slowing down or alerting people when coming up behind. There were about half a dozen other tire tracks (different tire treads) just from that morning. Some of the days old tracks are high up on the beach (evidently to avoid high tides) where there would be a potential for endangered snowy plovers to be encountered (and potentially killed). Thank you.

Submission ID: 5b38dec8-a4e4-4f14-b74b-7a5b782e2344
Record ID: 559
First Name | Mark
---|---
Last Name | Egger
Email | m.egger@comcast.net
Public Comment | I strongly support the proposed motorized vehicle closures and restrictions in their entirety. I think they are well-justified and long overdue. Such vehicles cause air and sound pollution, severely degrade the beach experience, and inhibit the use of the area by wildlife, particularly by shorebirds. Please approve and finalize these restrictions as soon as possible. Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

Submission ID: 40a5685e-047f-4fac-acb9-70814be90969

Record ID: 560
Sitka sedge is too unique and special an area to allow vehicles on the beach. although I would like to see Vehicles banned in the whole of the proposed area, for sure they should be banned from Sitka sedge.
**First Name** | Susan  
---|---  
**Last Name** | Saul  
**Email** | susan103saul@gmail.com  

**Public Comment**  
I strongly support the proposal to ban driving year-round from the mouth of Sand Lake south to the northern border of the Cape Kiwanda State Natural area, roughly in line with the southern edge of the unincorporated community of Tierra del Mar. I have been visiting Sitka Sedge State Natural Area since it opened. It is my favorite state park on the north Oregon Coast. I had no idea that the ocean beach fronting the park was not already closed to beach driving until my visit to Sitka Sedge yesterday, December 23, 2020, when we encountered people driving on the beach. I researched the beach driving rules when I got home and discovered this proposal. I support this ban for several reasons: 1. Sitka Sedge is a State Natural Area. Park trails are only open to pedestrians; even horses and bicycles are banned. The State Parks guide says "expect more nature and fewer developed facilities: and notes the "secluded beach" as a visitor attraction. Beach driving in front of the park is inconsistent with the park's management designation and marketing. 2. The proposed closure makes the rules consistent so no one can plead confusion or ignorance, especially regarding the Snowy Plover seasonal closure at the mouth of Sand Lake. 3. The proposed closure supports the designation of the South Sand Lake Snowy Plover Management Area, including the investment in restoring nesting habitat, which I observed several years ago. The Snowy Plover Management Plan calls for reducing human disturbance in designated management areas, even outside of nesting season since plovers may be using the beach year round. 4. The proposed closure makes the beach fronting Sitka Sedge State Natural Area safer for pedestrians. I like to walk on beaches for wildlife viewing, photography and beachcombing without having to keep looking out for approaching vehicles. I avoid going to beaches that are open to beach driving due to the hazards for pedestrians. The proposed closure would improve the quality of my beach experience.

**Submission ID:** 90e5d938-4fde-44da-a37d-ff378ae1f405  
**Record ID:** 562
First Name | Tom  
--- | ---  
Last Name | Knappenberger  
Email | tknappy@gmail.com  
Public Comment | I support the proposed driving restrictions. The glory of the beautiful Oregon beaches is the openness, the solitude, the ability to lose oneself on a long walk. Vehicles rumbling up and down those precious lands detract from that unique experience. The disabled and otherwise infirm should be given vehicular access in small, limited access points, of course. But open driving on this wondrous resource should not be permitted. Thank you to those proposing it. Keep Oregon a Pacific Wonderland!
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Friday, December 25, 2020 9:21 AM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Restrict Beach Driving in South Tillamook County
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

First Name | Cindy
Last Name   | Haverkate
Email       | Cinbob1985@yahoo.com
Public Comment | Get vehicles OFF our beaches!

Submission ID: 73f4aa65-67ff-4c1a-8796-6bd000acf271
Record ID: 564
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:samuelbrooks@lifetime.oregonstate.edu">samuelbrooks@lifetime.oregonstate.edu</a></td>
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<td>I oppose restricting vehicle access (year round) to the PC boat ramp area. Restricting access during weekend summer months when traffic is high is reasonable for safety but during the weekdays or non-summer months, vehicles use should continue to be allowed as it allows Oregonians to freely enjoy this unique area. As someone with children, parking on the beach provides a way to accommodate the extra gear (chairs, bbq grill, coolers, kid toys) to enjoy the beach. I have been coming to Cape Kiwanda for 3 decades. There is not a legitimate need to completely end vehicle use year round at this location if safety is the reason. If needed for safety, only restrict high use dates. If it requires state park staff funding, have a fee permit to park vehicles on the beach. Also, it is inequitable to allow one user group (boat users) access but restrict other ocean recreational users. There is not a need to add overly restrictive measures to Oregonians from enjoying this unique area.</td>
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<th>Elizabeth</th>
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<td>Last Name</td>
<td>Fleishman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:efleish@msn.com">efleish@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>I welcome a NO driving rule on our Oregon coast beaches. When cars are present it disrupts the serenity of the coast experience. I am a native Oregonian and have always avoided all parts of coast where cars can drive on the shore. It is smelly and some leave residue on sand. Please restrict all wheeled (human except peddling) vehicles/driving on beaches in AND on the coast shoreline. Thank you</td>
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**Submission ID:** fdb8fbd6-0dbc-4e5f-8cc9-aa1518827c16

**Record ID:** 569