OAR 736-015-0015
Public Comments Received
December 7, 2020 Through
December 30, 2020
I want to offer a comment, but I would also like to offer some perspective before I do. Some years ago, I had a conversation with a senior manager at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Since we enjoy the outdoors and frequent numerous venues, I asked her why Oregon State Parks (OSParks) were so much better than any of the venues offered by BLM or US Forestry. Her reply was interesting. She said **OSParks operate like a business.** They focus on **satisfying customers** and invest capital when necessary. Their accounting practices even reflect a business mentality that focuses on satisfying customers. Your interest in public comment supports her assertion. Nevertheless, I do not know if this is true, but OSParks are some of the best we’ve seen, and we lived/traveled the entire country.

With that has a background, here is a copy of an email (slightly edited) that I sent to Denise Warburton on September 9, 2020, regarding the reservation system:

_To Whom It May Concern:_

**First,** my family LOVES Oregon State Parks. You folks do a great job! **Second,** we make an annual pilgrimage to Wallowa Lake State Park for a family gathering. There are typically 10 to 15 of us from all over the country. We have made this annual pilgrimage to Wallowa Lake for the last 15 years. Our grandkids look forward to this gathering every year. For some of them, it is literally the highlight of their summer.

Now, my request... **Could you please change the current reservation system so we can make plans for next summer?**

Having run large, complex organizations, I understand and certainly appreciate the challenges of operating a network of state parks in a pandemic world. Closing parks creates enormous challenges, which are complicated by reimbursing campers for prepaid reservations. The flip-side is that many people, like us, will probably not organize gatherings next year with the current reservation policy. For many of our family members, vacation schedules need to be submitted and approved months in advance.

So, here is a suggestion:

- Allow reservations up to nine months ahead of the arrival date with a non-refundable deposit plus a non-refundable administration fee (ReserveAmerica’s fee).
- Require full payment 30 days before arrival.
- If the park closes for any reason, only refund that portion paid 30 days prior to arrival. In other words, campers who reserve ahead of time take a financial risk.
- I am sure that there are other details to consider, but this change would allow families (like ours) to make our plans for next summer.

_Frankly, this is an important change for your consideration. Many families, including some extended family members, are experiencing considerable stress with the pandemic and social/political turmoil. Families need to connect and support each other even more during these difficult times. A camping trip to a place like Wallowa Lake helps fill this need._

So, please consider my request.
BTW... a picture of our family from last year's trip is attached [not attached]. It was taken by the Wallowa Lake Marina. Unfortunately, without Wallowa Lake, this gathering would not happen. For many reasons, I would like for it to happen in 2021, and I do not think it will with the current reservation policy.

In advance, thanks for your help.

Sincerely, Mark Evers

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Mark Evers
emarkevers@gmail.com
503-314-4968
From: Bree Mitchell <bree.mitchell@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 1:13 PM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: changes to reservation policy for camping

Hi - I can't find all the details for the proposed changes but I read a brief news story saying you were considering extending OR state park camping reservations to 18 months ahead. As a planner I'd be ok with that but the problem I have with even the current 9 month system is that there is no incentive for people to cancel their reservations. I've camped many times next to empty camp sites knowing friends or family would have gladly joined me if there was a site available. If people can book even further ahead I fear that the availability of camping will be limited even further to those who book ahead of time and leave many sites empty if plans change.

Thanks,
Bree
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As a lifetime user of the Oregon State Parks reservation and a frequent user of our beautiful state parks, I have pretty easily bounced with the changes made over the last 50 years of park use.

However, the proposed change of a flexible window with some sites being added or held during that window sounds like a nightmare for most people who just want to know when they can start planning their vacation.

With reservations being at a premium during almost all times of the year at this point, I think a set window anywhere from six months (such as National Forest) to one year (as Oregon state parks was at one time) makes a great deal of sense with all sites up for grabs at the same time.

One area that does need more consideration is the fee/cancellation structure that allows for reservations to be made with almost no penalty for cancelling out. Over the past several years, we have witnessed parks with "full campground" signs that we are camping in with many, many empty sites that sit open over the course of a long holiday weekend. The only conclusion being that people reserved without cancelling. However, those sites could be used by the many others who would like to be out camping at that time. One solution would be to charge more of a forfeit for those cancelling within 30 days (or maybe two weeks) of their arrival date. That way the sites could go back to the reservation system for those wanting to camp.

I would also like to express my appreciation for all that the Oregon state parks personnel do for our parks and my sympathies that this year has been so very trying. However, please consider that the current system of 9 months out for reservations has been working well and judging by all the people on social media asking for the window to open back up, perhaps rethinking changes after this one, hopefully once in a lifetime, pandemic may be a little premature.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cindy Van Drimmelen
To Whom it may concern,
It would seem that Oregon residents should have priority in camp reservations, perhaps as much as a month earlier than out of state visitors.
I think the best reservation systems are those that have a six month window or less. Longer preregistration times are very hard to make plans.
Thanks,
Bill Hull
To Whom It May Concern,

I’ve lived in Oregon since 1979. OPRD has some of the best campgrounds in the country. I’ve camped all over the US and Canada. Ours are at the top. Clean, well-managed, and beautiful.

Now, on to the proposed changes to the reservation policy. I read the article written by the Oregonian and published in the Bend Bulletin so this is where I’m getting my facts. I’ve always had a problem with the nine month window. It’s too far out. I know for a fact folks book their favorite spots out that far booking different windows because they aren’t sure what their plans are going to be. I can honestly tell you, I’m one of those - waiting to push the enter key at exactly the right time and day hoping to get “that spot.” Then, booking two weeks later to hold another spot. I’m very good at canceling early but it is obvious many don’t. That blocks enumerable sites for others. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve seen “reserved” sites sit empty. I know for a fact that some hosts don’t open these sites up after the twenty-four hour no-show window.

To be blunt. Proposing an eighteen month advance reservation window is crazy. One can get pregnant twice and have two kids before their reservation day comes! Maybe a slight exaggeration but you get my point. I book a number of sites on the federal website and six months “feels” right.

Finally, two comments. I believe out-of-staters should pay more. They don’t pay Oregon taxes. Second, I believe Oregon residents should get first dibs on site reservations - our parks. Some states, Montana and Michigan, for example, issue a sort-of resident card with an ID #. An Oregon driver’s license could serve the same purpose. You submit that ID number when you book online or register at the campground. In-staters get a cheaper rate.

I respectfully request OPRD reduces the reservation window to six months or shorter, allow Oregon residents to book earlier, and give Oregon residents a lower rate.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Happy Holidays,

Curt Rymer
Bend
651-390-0020
Thank you for all your hard work through this pandemic and in figuring out how to move forward!!
but ..... please please PLEASE do not have the reservation windows and fees etc vary across parks !!! Whatever system is decided should be customer/user friendly by being predictable for wherever a person wants to camp/reserve.
Thank you so much,
Stephanie Crowell (frequent and appreciative camper !)
From: Gene Martin <gmar53@canby.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:09 AM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Change in reservation plan

With not allowing same day reservation, what about the people that need a spot for one night when they are traveling? I also don’t think a person should be able to reserve 18 months ahead of time. You hold on to our money long enough as it is now.

Sent from my mini iPad 2
Linda Martin
Attention OPRD, I favor an increase of allowing advance reservations for SP campgrounds of more than the 30-days to at least 9 months to greatly increase the availability for campers to make a reservation of their preference (location and dates). I've been an Oregon resident for almost 70 years and been campground the OR SP since I've been 8 years old. My wife and I tried the 30-day advance reservation arrangement this year and found it almost impossible to get a desired spot unless we tried at midnight. I also, favor a max length of reservation duration of 1 week. If Covid requires a reduction of the reservation or shutdown then fine, but also, give those who had reservations cancelled a priority to reschedule of the general public. Thank you for asking for comments, Ronald Jee
I read your plan for changing the reservation process in The Oregonian this morning. Who wouldn't agree that you need flexibility in scheduling, but to extend the date to 18 months prior to a reservation would serve what purpose? I imagine people just gobbling up sites only to cancel at the last minute. 18 months is too long, yes you have a rush at 9 months to reserve sites but that is because Oregon campsites are extremely popular. I fear being frozen out if when I look all sets are taken a year and a half away.

Thank You for taking care of our parks!

Kirsten Holstein
I want to offer a comment, but I would also like to offer some perspective before I do. Some years ago, I had a conversation with a senior manager at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Since we enjoy the outdoors and frequent numerous venues, I asked her why Oregon State Parks (OSParks) were so much better than any of the venues offered by BLM or US Forestry. Her reply was interesting. She said OSParks operate like a business. They focus on satisfying customers and invest capital when necessary. Their accounting practices even reflect a business mentality that focuses on satisfying customers. I do not know if this is true, but OSParks are some of the best we've seen, and we lived/traveled the entire country. With that has a background, here is a copy of an email (slightly edited) that I sent to Denise Warburton on September 9, 2020, regarding the reservation system: To Whom It May Concern: First, my family LOVES Oregon State Parks. You folks do a great job! Second, we make an annual pilgrimage to Wallowa Lake State Park for a family gathering. There are typically 10 to 15 of us from all over the country. We have made this annual pilgrimage to Wallowa Lake for the last 15 years. Our grandkids look forward to this gathering every year. For some of them, it is literally the highlight of their summer. Now, my request... Could you please change the current reservation system so we can make plans for next summer? Having run large, complex organizations, I understand and certainly appreciate the challenges of operating a network of state parks in a pandemic world. Closing parks creates enormous challenges which are complicated by reimbursing campers for prepaid reservations. The flip-side is that many people, like us, will probably not be able to organize gatherings next year with the current reservation policy. For many of our family members, vacation schedules need to be submitted and approved months in advance. So, here is a suggestion: * Allow reservations up to nine months ahead of the arrival date with a non-refundable deposit plus a non-refundable administration fee (ReserveAmerica's fee). * Require full payment 30 days before arrival. * If the park closes for any reason, only refund that portion paid 30 days prior to arrival. In other words, campers who reserve ahead of time take a financial risk. I am sure that there are other details to consider, but this change would allow families (like ours) to make our plans for next summer. Frankly, this is an important change for your consideration. Many families, including some extended family members, are experiencing considerable stress with the pandemic and social/political turmoil. Families need to connect and support each other even more during these difficult times. A camping trip to a place like Wallowa Lake helps fill this need. So, please consider my request. BTW... a picture of our family from last year's trip is attached [not attached]. It was taken by the Wallowa Lake Marina. Unfortunately, without Wallowa Lake, this gathering would not happen. For many reasons, I would like for it to happen in 2021 and I do not think it will with the current reservation policy. In advance, thanks for your help. Sincerely, Mark Evers

| First Name | E |
| Last Name  | Evers |
| Email      | emarkevers@gmail.com |

Submission ID: fe15df13-c80a-46a7-a1de-28dfcc4b029d
Record ID: 298
First Name | Ginger
Last Name | Clausen
Email | daveclausen6@msn.com

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<td>Making reservations for our family has gotten harder. I think there should be limits placed on reservations such as no more than 1 reservation per person at one time or within 90 days. Some people can afford to reserve week after week, weekend after weekend, way in advance. They just cancel a week ahead if it doesn't work with their other plans, and can afford to lose the reservation fee. We generally reserve a site 1-3 weeks out. Cancelations a week before seem to open up spots for us, but often at an alternate park. We are flexible and budget minded, but would camp a lot more if availability opened up. We have just adopted again through DHS and would like to be able to use our free camping pass more often. The current system favors those with money to spare.</td>
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Submission ID: 274c77dd-2f75-40be-9da8-020e2ad31d01

Record ID: 297
First Name | Tona
---|---
Last Name | Brewer
Email | portlandbrewers@gmail.com

Public Comment:
These changes are very needed. I would like to see groups of sites available at different times. Currently, you need to register 6-9 months in advance for popular sites. However, it's challenging to know what you will be doing that far in advance. It would be great to have some sites at a single campground available 9 months in advance, additional sites available 3 months in advance, and additional sites available 2 to 4 weeks in advance.

Submission ID: 22cbf5c3-0348-464b-89df-bfd63d7b7e37

Record ID: 296
First Name | CHUCK
---|---
Last Name | BARNES
Email | chuckb@eotnet.net

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18 months advance registration is way too long. In line with neighboring states and Federal parks (i.e. Corp parks), 8 or 9 month lead times are plenty generous. The 15 dollar fee is way out of line with other systems. If the current 8 dollar fee does not cover costs, 10 dollar would be reasonable. All of our neighboring states discriminate against Oregon residents with fees. ABOVE ALL FOR CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE A $20 FEE PER RESERVATION FOR ALL NON-RESIDENTS. Oregon parks should be more available to Oregon residents. Out of staters should be limited to a 3 month reservation lead as well. Oregon daily fees already outstrip other parks.....don't make it worse for Oregonians.

Submission ID: 8de978d8-7e2c-4352-bc78-c06638f4f5f9

Record ID: 294
**First Name** | Bruce  
---|---
**Last Name** | Mowrey  
**Email** | mdsmowrey@comcast.net  

| **Public Comment** | Campground Reservations: In response to article in the Oregonian on December 6th, We have a few comments: 1. Changing the reservations to specific RV Sites out to 18 months is is too far out, and will only cause more cancelations that you currently have. Most people can easily deal with 9 months out. If you feel the need to make a change, they go to 12 months out. 2. W have no issues with the additional reservation fees of cancelation fees. 3. However, our biggest complaint comes from out of state reservations. I believe the parks in question are Oregon State Parks. Residents of the state of Oregon should have at least a 3 month period to make reservation in our state parks prior to opening up to anyone. Many other states require a special yearly pass for out of state residents. There is a fee for the out of state pass. Reservation fees for spots are different for residents and out of state Travelers. The parks are packed, make some additional monies from out of state travelers to help care and update the park system. We don't get special treatment when we travel to other states, we pay a bit more. |

**Submission ID:** 2043afbc-aaa5-4387-8ada-82d4201061f0  
**Record ID:** 292
I believe 18 months is an excessive period of time for advance reservations. Nine months has been a good timeframe but 12 months would be reasonable. Most people aren’t able to realistically plan out 18 months so this seems like it would allow people to randomly block out days and times so others who are actually putting together a realistic plan will be blocked out. Additionally, the out of state fee should absolutely remain in place. We use a number of the parks and in some cases the out of state users is astounding. We are fortunate to have some of the best state parks in the country so everyone wants to use them. We met several people from other states this year and they said they would absolutely continue to use Oregon parks because they were much nicer than the parks in their own state. An extra $5 - $7 a night is entirely reasonable and it would help increase the revenues to allow for needed staffing during the busy season.
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<th>First Name</th>
<th>Sharon</th>
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<td>Last Name</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharoncolburn@gmail.com">sharoncolburn@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>I strongly recommend the nine-month reservation period. It is way too hard to make your plans 18 months ahead. Too many unforeseeable plans can change in 18 months. Being charged $15 for cancellation fees can end up being a hardship on the budget. We plan a lot of camping trips during spring and summer, some State parks and some private parks and need a reasonable registration period. We would prefer State parks but sometimes have to do more private parks because of the unstable nature Covid has caused with the State parks. With that being said, we do appreciate all of the hard work that has been done by park management and staff.</td>
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**Submission ID:** 1ac0b7a5-0bff-4f9b-870a-14822110cc9e

**Record ID:** 290
I support the proposed changes. It would be helpful if the website for reservations makes it easy to sort or filter by the reservation window. For example, if I'm looking at making a reservation 6 month out, and I want to know which campgrounds are just now opening that window. Also, have you considered having several reservation windows for the busier campgrounds? For example, instead of all spots being 18 months out, have some percentage (or an entire loop) at 18 months, some at 9 months, and some at 6 months ... or some variation of that. It might make the proposal more popular. The percentages and the windows could always be adjusted. Thank you for all that you do for our parks and campgrounds! Pamela Williams
**First Name**: LeRoy  
**Last Name**: Mueller  
**Email**: twodoxies2@msn.com  
**Public Comment**: I think that this proposal is a great idea, it would make it much easier to schedule farther in advance vacations to state parks. I also believe that the added reservation fees are acceptable and necessary to maintain the great state parks that we all enjoy, also I am happy to see that out of state reservations are paying more for the use of our resources.

**Submission ID**: a9133e80-2cb3-4af9-a9de-217359199da7  
**Record ID**: 286
First Name          Dodi
Last Name           Davies
Email               Dodibd@yahoo.com
Public Comment      I would like the 30% extra daily camping fee for out of state residents to be permanent.

Submission ID: b85dd84c-bae5-4f0f-92ba-2b56af33e8c6
Record ID: 283
First Name       Kitrina
Last Name        Kennedy
Email            kitrinakennedy@hotmail.com

Public Comment
Please DO NOT extend the open reservation on tent camp sites to 18 months. PLEASE KEEP IT ALL AT THE NEW 1 MONTH!! The 1 month window from this summer was so much better than the previous 9 month window. As the parents of a school age children with school and sports activities, we can't plan 9 months out, so we were basically discriminated against. As some popular camp grounds, all the summer weekends would be booked by February, before most families are even thinking about summer plans. Opening the booking windows really far in advance also creates unnecessary work for the parks dept. with all the cancellations and movement. The 1-month out booking window on tent sites was way, way, way better this summer. Please keep this going. Thanks, Kitrina Kennedy

Submission ID: 6928c0b7-95fb-4b92-82e8-18d791d9f576
Record ID: 282
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com  
Sent: Sunday, December 6, 2020 9:47 AM  
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD  
Subject: Reservations Rulemaking Public Comment  
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
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<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hevlandro@gmail.com">hevlandro@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>Please try to keep the reservation fee as low as possible in order to allow camping fees to be reasonable and still maintain the campgrounds in good shape.</td>
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Submission ID: b6fac26b-207a-4c53-8916-a128604e7b81

Record ID: 281
I am opposed to these changes. I use state parks for camping and currently 2-year day park pass. There is no real reason given as to how the pandemic makes it necessary for flexibility, especially the 18-month change which seems an arbitrary doubling of the current period. Obviously people with reservations should have their money fully refunded when parks close for a reason beyond their control. But the change in fees from $0 to $15 and the doubling of the period is a transparent attempt to funnel more money into state parks. I don’t see any analysis of the impact of these changes and its impact on users and the park system itself. Don’t sneak these changes in.
First Name    | ron
---|---
Last Name    | young
Email        | scorelo@hotmail.com
Public Comment | I think the reservation cancellation fee should not exceed $10, because you need to make a res. so far out for popular campgrounds. Thanks ROn

Submission ID: 24dac115-a488-465a-8ea5-871ad552f0df

Record ID: 279
First Name | Mark
---|---
Last Name | Long
Email | Mlong@schwabe.com

Public Comment | I would strongly suggest that most of not all of the campground fees be refunded if a cancellation is timely made. Because there are no or only modest refunds for cancellations, people are not motivated to cancel, and simply don’t show up, leaving empty spaces when the campgrounds are in very high demand.

Submission ID: 87df95c6-89d0-4a05-b43d-919bd4408945

Record ID: 278
First Name | charles
---|---
Last Name | sypher
Email | Chucksypher@gmail.com

Public Comment:

regarding proposal giving flexibility in campground reservations and fees. All oregon state campgrounds under the online reservation system should be handled the same. To change some campgrounds so the reservation can be made later or some campgrounds would charge more makes no sense. It works just fine now. everyone knows when they can make a reservation and how much it will be. to use the excuse that this is needed for covid-19 is a excuse. Covid has been with us for almost a year and some changes that were necessary were made. It worked. Leave it alone. The public will be pissed if this change takes place as they will be used to knowing when to make a reservation for one campground. Then they make a reservation for another campground only to find out its already full because those early reservation dates are different and were earlier. No Change

Submission ID: 9fae476a-f120-4271-9e45-affc84ad79aa

Record ID: 274
First Name  Dave
Last Name  Klegg
Email  dmc@starstream.net

Public Comment  I feel the 9 month reservation window is fair to campers, and a proposed 18 month reservation window is too long. If a 18 month window is implemented, it would allow campers to make reservations that they may never use, thus tying-up any sites that could be reserved by others. A lot can happen over 18 months (change mind, medical change, camping equipment change, moved from area, etc) and that reservation wouldn’t be cancelled until reminded of the upcoming camping date. That’s 18 months someone else couldn’t make plans. Multiply that reservation by 1000’s, and no one is going to be able to use OSP facilities, unless planning 18 months in advance. If 9 months is too short per OSP, make it 12 months max, but 18 months is too far in the future.

Submission ID: 516c69e8-ae68-4972-899f-2219059fb97a
Record ID: 273
First Name | James  
Last Name | Whitney  
Email | jim@hpicylinders.com  

Every year for over 35 years we have enjoyed a week long Family Camp that is attended by more than 40 families. Our group books as many sites in C loop at Honeyman State Park as we can get so that we can all be together. To be sure we can be near each other and to coordinate our process for reserving the week of summer vacation for the families that want to attend we MUST be able to make our site reservations far in advance. The 9 month window has worked reasonably well for this. If the reservation window remains at the current 30 days, having our Family Camp for 2021 is all but impossible. Not knowing how many, if any, sites we will be able to reserve until only 30 days in advance of arrival will mean families will have scheduled vacation time with their employers, but may be disappointed at the last minute if we cannot get enough sites (or any) leaving them with very short notice to find something else to do for their vacation and significantly reducing the number of families who will be able to attend. A short reservation window is very inconvenient to all campers who are trying to plan their summer schedule, but it is particularly impactful to groups. The Oregon Parks should offer an extended reservation window for groups that need 5 or more sites for their planned activity. A minimum of 2 weeks sooner than campers who only need a single site and are able to settle for any open site would help a lot. The longer the reservation window can be, the better. 9 months worked okay. 1 year might be even better. Thank you for all you do to keep Oregon State Parks such wonderful places for families to enjoy!

Submission ID: f1417c28-fe1e-40eb-8244-1cb06ba0c28a

Record ID: 272
We often use the reservation system to go to multiple parks while traveling through the state but sometimes will go with a private provider because the $8 reservation fee is charged for each reservation, even if you are making multiple at the same time. So if we stay at one location for a night and travel to another the next night we are charged $16 in fees for 2 nights camping. When added to the site fee it brings the cost close to what a private RV company charges. I would not mind paying a little more, perhaps $10 to make up to 3 location reservations, but feel just raising the fee for each reservation is greedy and discourages people from using the state system. Maybe possible to use in house system or go back to first come, first serve and eliminate reservations.

Submission ID: 6232e8e7-27a9-4e03-8af7-404f603204d9

Record ID: 270
I have been asking for this for years. Now more than ever this practice should go into law. When booking windows are established Oregonians should have at least a 24 hour earlier booking window than non residents, I could go on and on why this is the fair and correct thing to do but I won’t. It’s laughable to think that the State of Oregon would lose any revenue do to this. Also can’t you start the booking window time frame from midnight to say 7:00 AM like the state of Washington has done. Gee just think no more up at midnight trying to compete and make a reservation. Thank you for your smart considerations.
In favor of 18 month reservation window – 30 days has made it basically impossible to get a reservation. (every day is a race) Standard $8 fee per transaction is acceptable. $15 is ridiculous, and $0 would be preferred. It is already expensive to get out and enjoy the Oregon State Parks without increases in $$ and limited reservation times. Thank you
This email was sent after reading an article in the Bend Bulletin asking for comments. The online site that was referenced in the article was not recognized.

Submission ID: e5841150-dc8b-458d-9810-b48c6fa60deb

Record ID: 267
First Name | Jared  
---|---  
Last Name | Considine  
Email | Greenpwr@gmail.com  
Public Comment | Thank you to all the park rangers that worked so hard and w so little usual temp staff this past summer. Do not charge disabled veterans any money to make a reservation. If they cancel charge them $8. Allow every campground to have a permanent disabled veteran campsite along w the same day sites you already have. Alow all veterans in Oregon to reserve on the same day if there is a no show or if there is an unreserved site. Please also keep the showers and bathrooms open for campers. Thank you, Jared  
Submission ID: b4ae3994-d4e4-4ff7-a203-6a093620b521  
Record ID: 266
From: randypage3@comcast.net <randypage3@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:32 AM
To: MARSHALL Janelle * OPRD <Janelle.Marshall@oregon.gov>
Subject: Re: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s Interested Parties List

Hopefully close consideration is given to not just me but a lot of Oregonians I have spoken with by allowing Oregonians a 24 hour earlier booking window then non Oregonians for campground reservations. This would sure be a nice gesture and a gift to all Oregonians after a troubling year like 2020.

Thank You

On 12/08/2020 4:26 PM MARSHALL Janelle * OPRD <janelle.marshall@oregon.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your participation with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s Interested Parties List. You have successfully added your contact information to the list.

Respectfully,

She, Her, Hers
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Currently Teleworking: M 9am-1pm, T-F 7am-4:30pm

Work Cell: 503-428-2905
To Whom It May Concern:

We are Oregon residents and have been state campground users for 30 plus years. We all know a good deal more about Covid transmission than we did in the spring. Therefore I have several comments on this subject.

1. $15, please do NOT do that. $8 is already excessive for a single night reservation. As I recall, when this reservation system was put in place, we were promised that prices would go down to offset fees...that did not happen. They have risen. $8 is fine if you are making a two week reservation, but not for a day or two. How about a sliding scale, less $$ for fewer nights? Topping out at $8-10 if you stay the full 14 days? Cancelling reservations in a timely manner should not be punished.

2. 18 month ahead? Again, that is only going to punish Oregon residents. We would like more consideration given to keeping some space for OR taxpayers. What does that have to do with Covid? Please don’t use Covid as an excuse for something that doesn’t apply.

3. Please open the non-reservation parks. We now know that “touching” envelopes is not the primary mode of transmission. Inside air is the main problem. Rubber gloves are inexpensive if you are concerned. Or automate the check in process.

4. Same day Reservations: This summer many of us were drawn to the coast to escape extreme smoke conditions in our home towns. Even though there were often empty spaces, we were not allowed to stay and had to go home to unsafe air. Please return to a system where same day “reservations” are allowed..or better yet, with no reservation, have a mechanism for people to stay extra days in a campground when there is space. And, of course, the fact that you’d closed the non-reservation parks only exacerbated the problem.

5. We’ve heard that parks would be charging out of state users extra fees. I don’t know if that happened, but yes, please do. Other states do it. Oregon has lovely parks and we pay taxes to keep them. Other states do not have parks anywhere near as nice and they charge us extra anyway. We are getting to a point where we can’t use our own parks because they are full of out-of-staters (think Astoria)...let’s at least get some extra cash from them.

We need our outdoor, safe spaces. Please work with us to find ways for Oregon campers to safely enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Joan Carey and John Scoon
Bend, OR
Jcarey@bendbroadband.com
Jscoon@bendbroadband.com
The proposed permanent changes appear to be the result of a temporary problem. Covid will eventually end. It's uncommon to reserve camp sites 1-1/2 years in advance, campers with unlimited time and resources could tie up the best sites way into the future. Plus, a $15 transaction fee, that's nearly half the cost of a nightly fee. I say leave the reservation system as is.

Sincerely, Don Stelma
First Name | Tara  
---|---  
Last Name | Zomerdyk  
Email | tzomerdyk@yahoo.com  
Public Comment | I disagree with the proposal to extend the booking window to 18 months for several reasons: - Variations between booking windows depending on which Oregon State Park you want to book will lead to frustration. There should be consistency throughout the park system. - I fail to see or understand the benefits of opening the booking window to 18 months or the benefit to having variability within the park system. - I don't know anyone that plans a camping trip 18 months in advance (this will inevitable lead to more cancelations & prevent groups that want to camp together from being able to do so within a reasonable booking timeframe i.e. 9 months in advance).
First Name: Larry
Last Name: Jacobs
Email: 3jacobs@comcast.net

Public Comment: I don't see any justification for the proposed rule changes. Yes the past year was hectic but will straighten out. What is the sliding reservation rate change suppose to accomplish? Other than more money. This year was unique in making reservations. However it should be one window, nothing wrong with the 9 months now. The reason it should be one window is many people plan on a multi-park vacation. One window for all parks lets you plan your whole trip and make reservations for various parks. I do that all the time and know others that make multi-park vacations.
**First Name**: Linda  
**Last Name**: Hill  
**Email**: linda.louise.hill@gmail.com

**Public Comment**

I enjoy using Oregon’s state parks, particularly the ones located in NE Oregon near where I live. I feel strongly that the $8 fee to make, change or cancel a reservation is adequate and should not be increased. Increasing this fee will only serve to shut out those people with lower or fixed incomes. I also strongly oppose increasing the reservation window to more than 9 months. The type of flexibility that could improve the reservation system would be the use of short-term and long-term reservation windows. This system could have a 30-day reservation window for 50% of the sites (both tent and trailer) and a 9-month window for the remaining 50%. For popular parks, a two-tier system such as this would serve Oregonians the best, including local communities. The system that has been in place is especially favorable to the segment of users that are "glamping". These are the users that have large RVs and motor coaches and have the time and resources to plan their stay at multiple parks many months ahead. Being on a fixed income, I often try to find a camping spot in a state park near my home, but that has proved difficult in recent years. People in local communities have simply been pushed out by the reservation system. I would also like to point out that I have a modest tent trailer, but pay the same fee as large RVs that gobble up far more electricity. Thank you for considering this comment.

**Submission ID**: b835efb2-ffe1-4d8b-b80c-335e55ee5c5d

**Record ID**: 455
To Whom it may concern,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on your proposed changes to Chapter 736 of the Parks and Recreation Department. As a lifelong citizen of Oregon and an avid user of Oregon parks, the health and vitality of our park system is important to me. Here are my comments for your consideration:

**Section 736-015-0015: 1** "Director may designate specific park facilities to offer for reservation". In the fiscal and economic impact statement of this proposal it is stated that "...neither the maximum or the minimum ends of the range will necessarily be made available by the Director at any given time".

Comment: It is desirable from a citizen perspective to have parks that accept reservations use the same reservation period to the greatest extent possible.

**Section 736-015-0015: 2( b).** "a person may make a reservation a maximum of eighteen months prior to the arrival date."

Comment: The existing (Pre-Covid-19) reservation window of nine (9) months provides adequate time for users to reliably make plans and reservations; an 18 month window is too large. If parks have an 18 month booking window it is highly likely that campers, not knowing specifically what their plans may or may not be a year and a half in advance, will reserve campsites "just in case". This will increase pressure on highly desirable summer months in particular. In addition, there is likely to be an increase in cancellations as plans made 18 months in advance are highly likely to change. This change will put unnecessary strain on what already can be limited camping capacity.

**Section 736-015-0015: 5 (f )"A person may not cancel their reservation more than eight month in advance of the arrival date"."

Comment: Currently no change is proposed to this section, however, change should be considered. If an individual makes a reservation by mistake or realizes they are not going to be able to use a reservation then they should be able to cancel immediately so that the site becomes available to others. This is an issue under the current nine (9) month booking window and it certainly would be of concern for parks that had up to an 18 month window.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Regards,
Shelly Lomax
To Whom it may concern

The am seeing much talk about changing reservations procedures due to Covid-19. Please understand that no one believes long term changes are necessary. Government agencies routinely use emergencies and disasters to tighten their hold on the tax payers. This is not appreciated.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on your proposed changes to Chapter 736 of the Parks and Recreation Department. As a lifelong 70 year old citizen of Oregon and an avid user of Oregon parks, the availability, health and vitality of our park system is important to me. Here are my comments for your consideration:

Section 736-015-0015: 1. "Director may designate specific park facilities to offer for reservation". In the fiscal and economic impact statement of this proposal it is stated that "...neither the maximum or the minimum ends of the range will necessarily be made available by the Director at any given time".

Comment: It is desirable from a citizen perspective to have parks that accept reservations use the same reservation period to the greatest extent possible within construction/maintenance limits.

Section 736-015-0015: 2( b). "a person may make a reservation a maximum of eighteen months prior to the arrival date."

Comment: The existing (Pre-Covid-19) reservation window of nine (9) months provides adequate time for users to reliably make plans and reservations; an 18 month window is too large. If parks have an 18 month booking window it is highly likely that campers, not knowing specifically what their plans may or may not be a year and a half in advance, will reserve campsites "just in case". This will increase pressure on highly desirable summer months in particular. In addition, there is likely to be an increase in cancellations as plans made 18 months in advance are highly likely to change. This change will put unnecessary strain on what already is a very limited camping capacity.

Section 736-015-0015: 5 (f ) "A person may not cancel their reservation more than eight month in advance of the arrival date".

Comment: Currently no change is proposed to this section, however, change should be considered. This is a restrictive limitation that serves no rational purpose. If an individual makes a reservation by mistake or realizes they are not going to be able to use a reservation then they should be able to cancel immediately so that the site becomes available to others. In the current technological/internet environment any reservation that is canceled would be re-reserved in minutes due to the high demand for Oregon’s outdoors resources. As a lifelong resident and camper in Oregon I have seen availability of campsites shrink dramatically due to increased usage by Oregonians and out of state citizens. Any draconian restrictions or penalties are simply not justified. This is an issue under the current nine (9) month booking window and it would certainly be of greater concern if parks had up to an 18 month window.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.
Best Regards,
Richard Albeck
To Oregon Parks and Rec:
I have been an Oregon resident since 1974 and raised my two sons camping all around the state. State parks are precious to us and many people we know.

1. $8 is already excessive for a single night reservation. $15 is just way too much, especially for single mothers, as I was, and low income people for whom state park visits are the only travel they are ever going to have. When this reservation system was put in place, we were promised that prices would go down to offset fees...that did not happen. They have risen. $8 is fine if you are making a two week reservation, but not for a day or two. How about a sliding scale, less $$ for fewer nights? Topping out at $8-10 if you stay the full 14 days? And, cancelling reservations in a timely manner should not be punished.

2. 18 months ahead? Ridiculous! Keep some space for OR taxpayers. What does a lengthy reservation lead time have to do with Covid? Please don’t use Covid as an excuse for something that doesn’t apply. This struck me as nonsensical as soon as I heard it. Even demanding two months ahead of time is too much, and has nothing whatsoever to do with COVID levels! And a lengthy lead time just leads to no shows and cancellations because people’s schedules change so quickly. Who knows where or what they will be doing in 18th months?

3. Please open the non-reservation parks. Inside, contained spaces with aerosol virus molecules is the primary vehicle for contagion. Fomites, picking up the virus by touch, has been shown to not be the primary mode of transmission. Rubber gloves are inexpensive if you are concerned that touching a surface will make you sick. Slick your hands often with sanitizer while opening envelopes if staff is fearful.

4. Same day Reservations: This summer many of us were drawn to the coast to escape extreme smoke conditions in our home towns. Even though there were often empty spaces, we were not allowed to stay and had to go home to unsafe air. Please return to a system where same day “reservations” are allowed - or better yet, let people to stay extra days in a campground when there is space. And, of course, the fact that you’d closed the non-reservation parks only exacerbated the problem. Outdoor air with lots of ventilation has been shown in studies to be very safe.

5. We’ve heard that parks would be charging out of state users extra fees. I don’t know if that has happened yet, but yes, please do. Other states do it. Oregon has lovely parks and we pay taxes to keep them. Other states do not have parks anywhere near as nice and they charge us extra anyway. We are getting to a point where we can’t use our own parks because they are full of out-of-state campers (think Fort Stevens and Honeyman)...let’s at least get some extra cash from them.

We need our outdoor, safe spaces. Please work with Oregon campers to safely enjoy them without burdening us with greater bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

Mary Webster
Bend, Oregon
First Name | Cathy
---|---
Last Name | Crandall
Email | cesc.outdoors@gmail.com

Public Comment

It would be wonderful if, when suggesting changes such as those proposed here, more information were given so that more informed comments could be made. Simply stating that the fee structure will be provided on the state parks' website is really not helpful. It is impossible to understand how these fees will really work based on the information I have seen. Additionally, Covid and wildfires seem like merely a pretext for some of the proposed changes. Hopefully, Covid and all the associated closures are a once-in-a-lifetime situation. Wildfires would not affect the entire state park system. While flexibility is a reasonable request, it is difficult to see how the proposed 18-month reservation window helps the state parks' system flexibility. Meanwhile, it greatly decreases the user's flexibility. It appears that the only effect of requiring people to guess when they want to go camping 18 months in advance is to increase the possibility of collecting cancellation fees. And where are all these additional fees going? To the state parks, or to reserveamerica.com, a private company? I am in favor of the state parks remaining in the black, but I do object to having a state-run agency making a profit, or acting as a profit center for a private company when we have no choice but to use that company to access state services. I am against extending the reservation window to 18 months, and also against the proposed fee changes on the basis of lack of transparency about how the changes will work and where the money is going.

Submission ID: 5086aa72-4869-4319-be6d-a9a4614b24b9

Record ID: 521
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 12:49 PM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Reservations Rulemaking Public Comment
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

First Name | Travis
Last Name | Wilhoite
Email | Travis.wilhoite@gmail.com

I agree with a flexible fee range to make, change or cancel a reservation that makes sense. Forest service does it. However, I would argue that 18 months is way too far in advance for a reservation window to open up. Even 9 months is quite long when you consider the type of planning and coordination with work and holiday schedules that it requires. Families who work odd jobs, seasonal positions and don’t have flexible work arrangements or generous vacation time (typically lower income families) are inevitably not going to be able to plan that far in advance. This will effectively insure that these marginalized groups do not have access to the best facilities, as they will be booked 18 months out. And while maintaining a portion of sites as first come first served can provide some relief, they are typically full well before Saturday morning when most full time workers (low wage earners without generous time off benefits) would be able to make it to a campground. First come first served, I would argue, mostly benefits those with the most resources and / or available vacation days. If a campground is an hour or two from a persons home it wouldn’t be worth the risk to pack up camping gear, food and supplies for, let’s say, a family of four on the off chance a spot is open on a Saturday afternoon. In my opinion six months is more than enough of a reservation window, definitely no longer than nine months. This will give people the opportunity to sure up summer plans and schedule time off with work, without completely closing the door to those members of our community who aren’t fortunate enough to be able to plan 18 months ahead, due to various factors out of their control. Perhaps the best (though more of an administrative / IT burden) answer would be to release clusters of campgrounds at different intervals. For example if a campground has three loops, A, B and C. You could release the sites on loop A at the 18 month window, loop B at the 9 month window, and C at the 30 day window. This helps to ensure that people with a wide range of family and / or employment circumstances have access and the ability to enjoy these resources and facilities.

Submission ID: f5691859-434e-4c3e-a518-37bfe2c14a0f

Record ID: 535
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
From: oregon-gov-web-services@egov.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 11:46 AM
To: PUBLICCOMMENT * OPRD
Subject: Reservations Rulemaking Public Comment
Attachments: formsubmission.csv

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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
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<td>Hello This proposal means that campers will have less time to plan vacations with less time to adjust plans if you don't get what you want. Additionally, some employers require several weeks / months notice for paid-time off requests and this proposal doesn't lineup with that. This proposal will make trip planning less predictable for OPRD campers and I don't think is in the best interest of campers.</td>
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Submission ID: a4088bb2-cdb5-4f63-b70b-3920bb4aa62

Record ID: 542
My wife and I were new to RV-ing this year. I wasn't aware of the 9 month in advance rule until I tried booking a site for February 2020. I found the campgrounds booked. Personally, I prefer the 30 day or perhaps a 60 day advance reservation window. It gives me a chance to compete for a site. I understand the desire to be able to plan for vacation far in advance or those full time RVers that travel the country needing an itinerary, but I believe most camping is done by week-enders so to speak. That being said, it seems a bit unfair to be booking even 9 months in advance which can effectively lock-out others just trying to get away. I know there is no perfect solution to everyone's satisfaction but, just wanted to give my 2 cents worth.
I strongly disagree with the idea of letting each individual park determine its own reservation window and set their own reservation fees. These parks are all run by the same organization, and having different rules for each will get very confusing and problematic.

Many people camp a lot and go to a number of different parks across the state. It would be impossible to keep track of what the reservation requirements are for all the different locations in order to know when you could make your reservations where. I understand the issues that covid-19 closures have caused, but it isn't going to last forever. I can understand shortening the reservation window from 9 months, but I think it's imperative that it be consistent across all of the parks. Same with the reservation fee. It's understandable that nightly fees may be different for different parks, as they each may have different amenities - but the fee to make it change a reservation (and all the rules associated with making, changing, and canceling them) should be the same across the board.

Thank you.
Kim Carey
To the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

I **strongly disagree** with your proposal to change the nine-month window for making campground reservations.

The flexibility you are requesting is already creating chaos for Oregon individuals and families. Your arbitrary decision this past summer to only accept reservations from one to thirty days in advance does not allow for any future planning. Most citizens must plan ahead to schedule time off and coordinate plans with families. Policies should not be established to accommodate people who cannot plan ahead.

You cannot blame this proposed change on COVID-19, as we were able to socially distance and camp last summer without incurring an identifiable spike in the number of cases. I'm not aware of "contact tracing" identifying people who were camping as a major contributor to the number of COVID-19 cases. The spike in cases did not occur until after the summer, and after people were spending more time inside due to the resumption of school and the fall weather.

Oregon State parks should be managed for the maximum enjoyment of citizens, not managed for the convenience of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and its employees.

**Do not approve this proposed change. I urge you to return immediately to the nine-month reservation window.**

Bruce A. Hall  
20968 SW Siletz Ct.  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
bacihall@frontier.com  
(Note: I am a native Oregonian who has lived and camped in the state for over 60 years.)
First Name | Dave  
---|---  
Last Name | Klark  
Email | dmc@starstream.net  
Public Comment | I am opposed to the 18-month window for new reservations. Allowing a 18-month window, will tie-up reservations to the popular parks, and not allow other users to make reservations. If a reservation is made, and circumstances change for the reservation maker, and the reservation is not cancelled, that EIGHTEEN MONTHS that plans for other users are on hold to make a reservation at the site. When 18 months is allowed for all sites, that’s a year and a half that all the preferred sites are taken, thus forcing others to make other plans for other parks.....and starts a 18 month ripple effect. Please leave the reservation window at 9 months, or at the most, a year.

Submission ID: ef48ce17-6398-49d9-b07e-ec69256f5537  
Record ID: 557
December 26, 2020

Re: Proposed OSPR Rule Change re Reservations OAR 736-015-0015

Greetings,

We represent the Cascades Presbyterian Family Camp. Our group (typically 25 - 65 families) started camping in the Oregon State Parks in 1982. We have camped every summer at Honeyman State Park since 1984, and have followed a variety of reservation procedures over time.

On our own, as individual campers, we understand how the current 30-day window accommodates campers who decide “last minute” to go camping. For groups like ours, this is a deal breaker. Our process involves hours of volunteer time to collect registrations, organize programs, plan staffing, purchase materials and supplies, assigned campsites, and communicate with our campers and the park through special use permits. We begin accepting commitments for the following year while still at camp, in order to ensure this necessary coordination.

Many of our families have attended our Family Camp for years, even decades, and most center their summer plans around our week at Honeyman. This week provides FAMILIES a supported opportunity to gather from across Oregon to share time and fellowship. This includes parents and college students who arrange for time off work, and kids taking time off school commitments. Most of our working adults have to request their vacation time months in advance in order to ensure they can attend camp. All of these arrangements would or could not be made with uncertainty in our reservation dates. In addition, it is unclear how the rule change will accommodate special events that the special use permit was designed for since all these events would need to plan more than 30 days in advance and notify the Park.

Part of this coordination is the location of individual campsites. In a larger park like Honeyman, it is critical to the success of our experience and safety of our kids that our campsites be located in proximity to one another. By coordinating the reservations, we are able to create a community of families centered in certain loops in the campground. Were we to make our reservations without this coordination, one family may be located in the H loop, hundreds of yards away from another family in the B loop. This distance and separation would inevitably lead to reduced participation and eventual discontinuance of our program.

We know we are not the only organized group who enjoys and treasures our state parks. We ask that you consider making accommodations for larger groups in the reservation procedures. Please allow groups reserving multiple campsites to use the existing reservation nine-month time frame, or at the very least some extended window to complete our reservations and coordinate with the Park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meg Lewis-Price, President   Jim Whitney, Wagonmaster   Cathy Lambeth, Camp Dean
on behalf of Cascades Presbyterian Family Camp (c/o jim@hpicylinders.com)
We make our vacation plans with our employer months in advance so we also need the state campgrounds reservation system to go back to the 9 month advance system. We cannot go camping without advanced reservations. We have a trailer that requires a certain length campsite. We love camping at state campgrounds but we would be forced to only go to private campgrounds that allow advanced reservations. The system right now only benefits those that are retired and can go at anytime. Please bring back the 9 month advanced reservation system. Thank you.
You might want to add more first come first serve sites at more campgrounds whether or not you extend the 9 month period to 18 months. As for reservations going unused, I have seen that as well as people who simply arrive late. Some years back, there was a county park in Charleston that had a rule, if you reserved a site for multiple nights and you show up that first night, you lose your remaining reservation and the site is open to first come first serve for the duration. Seems like someone who has been a no show more than once would lose their right to make a reservation for a period of time. If a reservation is made on a credit card, you could have a written policy where you charge a much higher fee for a no show fee as you would an advance cancelation fee. Calling ahead to tell the State Park you’re running late, that’s got to allow for some deviation; but, if someone were to do so habitually, that has to have some blowback as well. Final word, I understand it; but, this 30 day window and no showers is a pain!
December 26, 2020 Re: Proposed OSPR Rule Change re Reservations OAR 736-015-0015

Greetings,

We represent the Cascades Presbyterian Family Camp. Our group (typically 25 - 65 families) started camping in the Oregon State Parks in 1982. We have camped every summer at Honeyman State Park since 1984, and have followed a variety of reservation procedures over time. On our own, as individual campers, we understand how the current 30-day window accommodates campers who decide "last minute" to go camping. For groups like ours, this is a deal breaker. Our process involves hours of volunteer time to collect registrations, organize programs, plan staffing, purchase materials and supplies, assigned campsites, and communicate with our campers and the park through special use permits. We begin accepting commitments for the following year while still at camp, in order to ensure this necessary coordination. Many of our families have attended our Family Camp for years, even decades, and most center their summer plans around our week at Honeyman. This week provides FAMILIES a supported opportunity to gather from across Oregon to share time and fellowship. This includes parents and college students who arrange for time off work, and kids taking time off school commitments. Most of our working adults have to request their vacation time months in advance in order to ensure they can attend camp. All of these arrangements would or could not be made with uncertainty in our reservation dates. In addition, it is unclear how the rule change will accommodate special events that the special use permit was designed for since all these events would need to plan more than 30 days in advance and notify the Park. Part of this coordination is the location of individual campsites. In a larger park like Honeyman, it is critical to the success of our experience and safety of our kids that our campsites be located in proximity to one another. By coordinating the reservations, we are able to create a community of families centered in certain loops in the campground. Were we to make our reservations without this coordination, one family may be located in the H loop, hundreds of yards away from another family in the B loop. This distance and separation would inevitably lead to reduced participation and eventual discontinuance of our program. We know we are not the only organized group who enjoys and treasures our state parks. We ask that you consider making accommodations for larger groups in the reservation procedures. Please allow groups reserving multiple campsites to use the existing reservation nine-month time frame, or at the very least some extended window to complete our reservations and coordinate with the Park. Thank you for your consideration, Meg Lewis-Price, President Jim Whitney, Wagonmaster Cathy Lambeth, Camp Dean on behalf of Cascades Presbyterian Family Camp (c/o jim@hpicylinders.com)
Based on the information and explanations presented, the objective and benefits of moving the reservation window to 18 months from 9 months is extremely unclear. I am against such a change. Reasons: -Will simply move the rush to reserve a spot so far into the future i.e. from 9 months to 18 months, not sure what process improvement is gained here. Its hard enough to get that spot 9 months ahead based on other campers demand for that same spot. What changes 18 months ahead? -Will push campers to reserve spots just to reserve spots with unclear intent to use. Hold the spot just in case mentality Not many people know what they will be doing 9 months ahead let alone 18 months ahead of time. -By campers reserving 18 months ahead, the spots will be held in limbo pending the campers decision to go or not go with little time for an alternate camper to plan a trip should the original reservation be cancelled. -Cancellation fees will increase in volume as people come to realize its easier to reserve that favorite spot just in case and then pay a small cancellation fee to get out of it. Perhaps a positive for the Dept as revenue enhancement opportunity. -This appears to be a solution hastily prepared due to a Pandemic that has turned everything up side down. I recommend no changes, let the Pandemic work its way through. Let the dust settle then make a decision to improve, but only if it improves the process for the camping public. Because right now, this proposal does nothing to improve the camper experience.
First Name | Jill  
--- | ---  
Last Name | Calamar  
Email | djcdjc@charter.net  

| Public Comment | Please do not extend the reservation window beyond 9 mos. It is hard enough to get a campsite with that window. 18 mos would be impossible. Wealthy people just book lots and lots just in case and then cancel later, making it hard for regular people to get a site. A shorter window 1-3 mos seems more fair to everyone. |

**Submission ID:** c8e06cd3-b9e4-42a4-ab6a-37338cbe27af  
**Record ID:** 571