



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bill Keenan

Date comment received:

February 6, 2026 04:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Crashmo22@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing to address a serious error in the wording for the proposed rules regarding The Take-off and Landing of Drones in Oregon State Parks.

The idea is probably to maintain the peace and quiet of the Parks or privacy concerns by prohibiting loud, buzzing, motorized drones. These usually have 4 or more small rotor blades, turning at a high RPM creating a loud buzzing sound. They are flown remotely, sometimes even beyond the sight of the operator or pilot.

Please simply insert the word "motorized" into the new rule language. As written, without the word "motorized" you will ban the flying of kites, balloons, model gliders, Frisbees, and other forms of silent flying objects.

One issue that may affect this comment by the public is that the FAA, the public, OPRD and law enforcement all have different definitions of the term "drone".

Please amend the Rule by inserting the word "MOTORIZED" in the definition of "Drone" to solve this obvious problem!

Thank you for considering,

Bill Keenan



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janie Thomas

Date comment received:

February 6, 2026 09:17 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To whom it may concern:

I am most concerned about drone use on Oregon's beaches and state parks. I have copied these suggestions and concerns but they express quite well our own thoughts.

-
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed**

land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Janie Thomas

Jonathan Lévy



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peter Reagan

Date comment received:

February 6, 2026 11:22 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

gliderpete@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am a paraglider pilot as well as a hiker and general outdoor type person and have certainly shared the air with drones and interacted in various pleasant but also annoying ways. It is very understandable that people want to use drones in scenic spots and also around recreational activities they participate in. I think the “where” is less important than the “how” and I think drone pilot behavior should be evaluated, regulated, maybe even training and license requiring. For example I’ve watched a drone intentionally harass a flock of turkey vultures. Ugly; there need to be big fines. (One of the birds attacked back but couldn't stop the behavior)



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Aoi Mizushima

Date comment received:

February 6, 2026 11:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mizushim2004@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I have had the experience of being at a state park while on vacation and a drone continued hovering over my teenage daughter and myself, while we were laying on towels reading books- both of us in our bathing suits. There was no person around that we could see who was connected to the drone so there was no accountability to having our privacy and "relaxing" time completely ruined.

No matter how much we tried to wave away the drone or shout loudly for it to leave us alone, it continued hovering over us.

Even when we got up and packed our bags to leave in frustration, it followed us off the sandy beach. It took several hours for us to try to rid ourselves of the feeling of being harassed and having our privacy violated.

Even now, thinking back to that experience, I feel upset. I still have no idea if photos of my teenage daughter are floating out there on the internet somewhere, without any form of consent.

No one who is trying to enjoy state parks and take a "breather" from the stressors of this world, should have to be chased away by a robot attached to an unnamed perpetrator.

Please protect state parks from drones. Drones are not only an invasion of privacy, but a potentially dangerous tool for monitoring private citizens. Please keep state parks as spaces which everyone can enjoy equally and not subject visitors to open drone harassment without accountability. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brule Lehman

Date comment received:

February 7, 2026 01:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

superchargedhj@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Please cancel the current draft rules and encourage responsible drone photography in the great lands you manage. You should copy policies from the National Forests and FAA, legitimate concerns are already covered with existing rules.

- 1.) Drone photography, unlike other recreational activities, is protected under the First Amendment. Free speech does not stop at the park border — the draft rules miss this point and may not be enforceable.
- 2.) Park directors are openly discriminatory towards drone photography, while at the same time welcoming camp fires, rock climbers, horses, motor boats, civil aviation, domestic dogs and other activities with worse impacts. Drone photographers are not lowest tier recreationalists, we make content that capture outdoor stories for generations to come. Drones get smaller, safer and quieter every year.
- 3.) Activist groups say drones disturb wildlife, yet meta analysis of peer-reviewed studies show when best practices are followed, drones may be less disruptive than hikers, even to nesting birds. See <https://doi.org/10.5751/JFO-00259-940203>. No study has actually shown a decrease in wildlife population because of recreational drones, the damage is always assumed by folks offended by any motorized device. Freedom does not start where irrational fear ends. Instead of trying to regulate airspace, which OPRD cannot do, use your influence to encourage best practices.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Keith Guise

Date comment received:

February 7, 2026 02:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Keith@dronepilotsnw.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Most State Parks usually adopt the rule of "of no launching or recovering" drones within the park boundaries" while allowing for special permitted circumstances. The desire to protect park visitors from a nuisance or irresponsible drone operator is understandable but only the FAA can regulate and control the airspace over a park.

The above rule tends to work well because legally drone operators can only fly their drones 'line of sight' no farther and with a tiny drone that usually is not far. Also allowing permits gives the commercial operators much needed options and affords the park a certain degree of control over when and where permitted use will take place.

I hope this helps.

Keith

Drone Pilots Northwest



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Leann Bennett

Date comment received:

February 7, 2026 07:01 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

LeannRBennett@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I agree that Drone use should be prohibited on beaches in Oregon. As an Oceanside resident I see drone flight over the protected 3 arch rocks disturbing the endangered wildlife and waterfowl, drone flight conflicting with Paragliding, zooming in on bikini clad girls on the beach and drones peering into my windows. As a citizen I have a right to privacy. Please curb drone use and develop TEETH to penalize those that disregard those rules.

I do agree that permits should be available for some specific uses.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jenny Helms

Date comment received:

February 7, 2026 08:38 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jihelms@outlook.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I live on the coast where there's a small and struggling snowy plover population. Drones are one more hazard that's impacting chick survival. Drones can fly almost anywhere impacting people and animals. Some limitations are overdue. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Kroll

Date comment received:

February 8, 2026 09:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

RAKNeuro@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD:

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and experiences as related to drone use in state parks and along the coast.

I am a full-time resident of Cannon Beach and have not only witnessed the harassment and negative impact that drone's flying over the beach and especially around near shore rocks where "at risk" bird species are nesting, but I myself have been harassed by a drone - buzzing my and circling around my head - before and after which the drone buzzed a bald eagle perched on the nearby sea stack and then tormented gulls and oyster catchers. I wished that I had a tennis racket or a net as the drone circled around me. And, unfortunately, I could not even tell where the operator was standing in order to have a chance to report them to the local police.

I am a bird and wildlife photographer and would love to be able to capture the images that a drone can when it is near the birds; however, I want the birds to survive and thrive and live as close to a normal, wild life without human interference as possible.

I urge you to restrict drone use in Oregon State Parks and along the coast to better protect our wildlife, including nesting seabirds and shorebirds, and to help allow citizens (like me) in search of enjoyment in our natural environment to avoid the buzzing sound (and potentially even being dive-bombed) of drones.

Respectfully submitted.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Vicki Graham

Date comment received:

February 9, 2026 08:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

grahamv@morris.umn.edu

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

I am writing to request that you ban drones in Oregon State Parks to conserve what makes our parks so special, including the opportunity to enjoy quiet recreation and wildlife viewing.

I have been buzzed by drones twice in the last year and it was not just an unpleasant experience, but also frightening. The first time was on a public beach along the southern coast of Oregon, and the second on my own private land. Both times, the drones seemed to come out of nowhere and swooped low over me.

Other states, such as Texas, Colorado, Florida, and Arizona have banned drone use in their State Parks, as does the National Park Service, to avoid conflicts and degradation of park visitors' experiences. I believe that Oregon should ban drones in its State Parks too, with exemptions, when necessary, for public safety, scientific research, and specially permitted projects.

Drone users make up a very small portion of park visitors, but the noise and annoyance of drones can wreck the experience of all other visitors who come for beauty, wildlife watching, and quiet reflection. Allowing drones in our State Parks is a misuse of park land because it favors one extremely small group over the combined rights of all others. Responsible park management should protect the interests of the vast majority of park users.

Please, when considering comments about drone use, give greater weight to input from Oregonians rather than out-of-state respondents organized by the drone-user groups. Oregonians own, pay for, and use these parks every day. It's not fair that out-of-state, special interest groups get equal say.

Again, I am requesting that OPRD ban all drone use in our State Parks, unless absolutely

necessary for public safety.

Thank you for your attention.

Vicki Graham
Port Orford, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Carrie Ebling

Date comment received:

February 9, 2026 09:11 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect

wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alenna Sebben

Date comment received:

February 9, 2026 09:11 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Greetings.

Thank you for working on the adoption of new rules regarding drones. I would like to submit feedback on proposed rules that will allow regulation of drone take-offs and landings within State Parks and along the ocean shore. Out of our millions of visitors, most of us are not using a drone. However, those who do create noise, disruption to enjoyment, intrusion upon scenic views, wildlife habitat and the more serious issue of encouraging nest abandonment.

State Park managers having tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks is essential, most especially to prevent unintentional harassment of wildlife and disruption to the enjoyment of all visitors to these areas. Because drones are perceived to be predators by most creatures and they have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds, please take a conservative, preventative approach to these regulations. Regulations that are overcautious at the start can be just as easily be modified as those which are too lax; however, laxity can harm already compromised bird populations, which we do not want.

Human visitors and resident wildlife need the quiet in our parks. Quiet is rare and beautiful, and this is the reason we so appreciate it. I am relieved to know that State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. However, to be proactive and cautious about doing no harm to wildlife, rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

I agree with Bird Alliance and other groups' requirement that OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you for your time and effort in this work.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristin Schjaerve

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 02:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

samtakano@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Because puffins aren't federally protected, their future is quite fragile, already. After the issue with the swifts annual roost nesting area was affected in Portland last year over a suspected drone incident, let's learn from others mistakes. The number of this species is already quickly dwindling, let's protect this amazing bird so that we can continue to appreciate it from a safe distance.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jonathan Nelson

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 03:33 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hi@byjonnelson.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I stand with and support Bird Alliance of Oregon's stance on this:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jackie Johnson

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 04:00 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jackiejjj@hotmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I'm very uncomfortable when drones are flying near me. There's no way to know if the flier is a competent operator. I would like to see most of State land closed to drones.

In addition, drones disturb wildlife too. Birds are especially affected, sometimes leading to nest failures.

Please provide strong rules to allow very limited areas where drones are permitted, with meaningful penalties for violations.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brianna Hooker

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 04:25 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

briannamhooker@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Bird Alliance of Oregon explained the issues perfectly:

We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ryan E

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 04:31 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ryan.evans992@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Drones disturb the behaviors of endangered species that call Oregon natural spaces home. A small number of drones should only be allowed in certain areas where endangered birds do not reside. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well. I encourage adoption of no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Susan Schen

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 04:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

susanrschen@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I appreciate that, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks. Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, I urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize and prioritize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** -- ones that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife. Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

I appreciate that State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should also prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas.** I recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lenore Fleck

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 05:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lenfle@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I support restrictions and prohibitions of use of drones in park managed lands to protect birds and other wildlife.

While visitors may enjoy their drone photos and videos, these souvenirs are not an essential to their lives --- however, the interruptions to seabird lives can be lethal.

We have many rules in public lands to protect the resources. Healthy bird populations are as important as background scenery. Please STOP THE DRONES from interfering with wildlife.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Samantha Mathews

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 05:50 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

samanthajanebryant@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please protect nesting seabirds and other vulnerable species by severely limiting or preventing drone use in critical habitat areas. There are plenty of places to play and have fun with drones, but our seabirds are in decline and need protection from disturbances. I am very much in favor of a strong rollout of rules that limit drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Noel O'Donnell

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Noel5242@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I want to add my comment on drone in wildlife areas. Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, I urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use. There are already so many human-caused disruptions to bird and wildlife. We can prevent yet another being added to the list.

Please restrict drone usage near bird and Wildlife areas.

Thank you,
Noel



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alex Crawford

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:05 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Zenziliebe3@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

The protection of the Oregon state parks is vital to everything Oregon is. Me and my family have done our best to travel to a state park every couple of weeks. We are currently trying to visit as many as we can, and without the parks I don't know what we would do. They are beautiful and well maintained. This is one of the few states with expansive forests and diverse ecosystems. Do your job and protect the parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Karyn Harmon

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

calafia@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Let's please have some spaces in this state where we can go without having surveillance technologies in our faces.

Who is using a drone in a state park with good intentions, knowing how it disrupts wildlife and even human peace and quiet?

If I'm paying parks fees on top of my taxes for a space intended to be a sanctuary, let's make it actually that.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Susan Weedall

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

weedallfamily@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

It has been well documented that drones disturb wildlife, and have contributed to the death of birds. Drones do not have a place in our state parks, unless they are regulated and approved by park managers for positive environmental uses such as survey monitoring. Please enhance regulation of drone use in State Parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alyson Berman

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

emmash@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

First, thank you so much to State Parks for taking steps to regulate drone use. It's critically important, as irresponsible drone use reeks havoc on birds and other wildlife, as they are seen as predators. Many nesting sea birds are struggling right now, and drones are a known cause of nest failures. I'm thankful the draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. I'm urging you to also prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well. I also urge OPRD to adopt no take off and landing rules in a half mile buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats. These areas are hotspots for nesting birds, like black oystercatchers, peregrine falcons common murre, and marine mammals like Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion. Having these new rules is so important. Now let's strengthen them so they can really do what we need them to do. Protect our wildlife, and honestly, also avoid disturbing the tourists who visit our coastline specifically to see our incredible wildlife and habitat. Businesses benefit greatly from our incredible wildlife. By protecting wildlife, you're helping businesses on the coast thrive.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

jess tuft

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:39 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jesstuft@hotmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Drones over sensitive wildlife areas cause extra harm to already struggling creatures. They are an unnecessary risk and we should ban ALL of them over any zone where we know wildlife to be nesting or even just existing.

A quote I like, "Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use."



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pamela Slaughter

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pamelas@pdxpocoutdoors.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I love our birds and other wildlife, and watch YouTube videos when I have time, to check out trail cameras located in places I'm familiar with. I have also seen other videos where animals were being harassed by drones to the point that one animal may have fallen to its death on a cliff trying to get away from a drone. I've seen drones frighten parents away from their young, and cause predators to abandon their prey in the middle of a meal. It's disgusting and concerning, and will only get worse as new drone operators seek to monetize sensational recordings.

Thank you for restricting the use of drones in natural areas. It is the only hope that wildlife has, and they need protection from drones.

Pamela Slaughter



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sheri Smith

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 06:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sheri.r.smith@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am writing to comment on the Unmanned Aircraft System Operation Areas Ruling Considerations.

I would like to urge State Parks to Restrict Drone Use to Protect Wildlife and maintain peace and quiet in Oregon's last remaining and threatened wild public recreation spaces.

I'm hoping that with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will have the tools they need to regulate drone use in state parks. Not only are drones loud and disruptive to park visitors, drones also disturb and flush birds and wildlife, increasing their stress and limiting their ability to breed and feel safe in resting spaces. As an avid hiker, if I so much as move too quickly on the trail I have accidentally disturbed wildlife. Wildlife perceive drones to be predators and this drone induced stress can cause red harm to already threatened nesting birds. Please, please, please OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals

including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

I appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

We recommend OPRD adopt no take-off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Please adopt these rules and protect our threatened state and public parks. Please increase awareness of the damage caused by drones and limit their use to special permits and scientific research. Do not allow these loud, dangerous devices to overtake the skies of our beloved state parks.

Thank you for allowing public comments on this. I'm grateful for all the work you do.

-Sheri Smith



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nora Polk

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 07:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nora.mattek@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon’s amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon’s newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller’s Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other**

federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathryn Williams

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 07:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kwill2be@pm.me

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To those who will be making a decision on this issue,

Drones, while enjoyable and useful in many ways, also can have substantial negative impact on the environment, wildlife, and human-nature experiences. I appreciate that adopting new rules allows the State Park Managers tools to actually regulate drone use in the parks.

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have shown to cause significant negative impact on the success of nesting birds. With this in mind, I urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use. Please include effects on all sentient beings. We share this planet with all life.

By far, of the millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors that visit state parks are not drone users. the vast majority of visitors enjoy landscapes, wildlife, and quiet time away from the intensity of daily life. Only a small fraction use drones, yet their noise and intrusion effect wildlife and scenic habitat cherished by nature-lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like Black Oystercatchers, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals like Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion

I appreciate that State Park draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas, and in line with these rules drone use should also be prohibited in all Rocky Habitate Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well. To be

consistent and considerate of the reasons for protecting Snowy Plover habitat, it is important that OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5 mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federal lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you for receiving and considering my comments as you make your decision on an issue that has such wide-ranging negative impact on our environment, wildlife and quality of life.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

SARAH SWANSON

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 07:34 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sarahlovesbirds@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD,

I appreciate that OPRD recognizes the significant negative effects that drones can have on both visitor experience and the survival and nesting success of sensitive wildlife species. Because of these negative effects, drone use should be restricted to a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

I am pleased to see that State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should also prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. I support Bird Alliance of Oregon's recommendation that OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you for helping to keep our treasured state parks the special places for people and wildlife that I have enjoyed my whole life here in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Swanson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Veronica Poklemba

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 07:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ronnie717@comcast.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please strengthen the rules involving drone use and include a strong “roll out” plan to help best protect nesting birds, marine mammals, and other wildlife from drone disturbances.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peggy Nolan

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:07 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

peggynolan@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.
- I recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you
Peggy Nolan
Portland,OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Dehnert

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jessicadehnert018@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment regarding drone use in Oregon State Parks. I appreciate the work OPRD does to protect wildlife and preserve these special places for future generations.

I am a responsible, part-time recreational drone pilot who frequently visits the Oregon Coast. Before flying, I always research the area in advance, including checking seasonal nesting schedules and confirming that there are no nesting birds or other sensitive wildlife present. I make a point to avoid flying in locations or during times where wildlife could be disturbed.

I fully understand and support OPRD's goal of protecting bird populations and other wildlife. The health and safety of wildlife should always come before recreational activities, including my own interest in capturing aerial footage. If seasonal or temporary no-fly zones during nesting periods are necessary to achieve that goal, I support those measures.

My concern is with the possibility of broad, permanent restrictions that affect all drone pilots, including those who take the time to follow regulations and conduct proper research. I believe it would be beneficial for OPRD to focus enforcement and accountability on individuals who are actively harassing wildlife with drones, rather than applying blanket restrictions to all operators.

That said, if establishing no-fly zones is the only effective way to protect wildlife, I will respect and support those decisions. Ideally, I hope there is a path forward that allows responsible drone use while holding those who misuse drones accountable for their actions.

Thank you again for your dedication to protecting Oregon's wildlife and for considering public

input on this issue.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maia Mares

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mmares2014@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello,

I am a Washington State resident who visits Oregon parks many times each year, paying day use fees and campsite registrations every time. I often come to Oregon parks and other natural areas specifically for birding, and have been increasingly concerned about the impacts of drone use on wild birds.

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

I appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

I recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you,
Maia Mares



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kari Jacobs

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kjacobsshop@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am pleased to know that the Oregon Parks Department is considering limitations to the use of drones in sensitive habitat areas. I am writing to urge you to provide the maximum protections possible.

Wildlife has sustained so many negative impacts from humans over the years, many when people didn't realize what would happen. Now we do know, we can count the birds. We can observe their nesting, and we can see the successes and failures of those reproductive attempts.

It is our duty as humans to do all we can to protect the biodiversity that exists for future generations. This means limiting all types of human interference with wildlife. Particularly, **the rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well. OPRD should adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally protected lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Please act as stewards of these lands and the wildlife within them above all else.

Sincerely,
Kari Jacobs
Oregon City, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Becky Chinn

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bchinn@lkafundraising.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello,

I write in favor of heavily restricting drone use in Oregon's state parks. Not only for protection of wildlife through safe and stress-free habitats, but also for all the humans who go to these treasured spaces to be in nature, not to be accosted by the buzz of electronic devices.

Thank you.

Becky Chinn
Tigard, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rachel Day

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rachelday9391@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to express appreciation for the adoption of new rules that will finally give State Park managers the authority and tools needed to regulate drone use in Oregon's state parks. This is an important and necessary step toward balancing recreation with the protection of wildlife and the park experience so many people value.

Scientific research and on-the-ground observations make it clear that drones can significantly disturb birds and other wildlife. Many species perceive drones as aerial predators, triggering stress responses, nest abandonment, and disruption during critical breeding and resting periods. In light of these well-documented impacts, I strongly urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach in determining where and when drone use is allowed within state parks.

Oregon's state parks are treasured by millions of residents and out-of-state visitors each year. However, only a small fraction of these visitors operate drones. Despite their limited use, drones can have an outsized impact through noise, visual intrusion, and disturbance to wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to state parks seeking natural beauty, opportunities to view wildlife, and quiet time away from the noise and pressures of daily life. OPRD should recognize this primary visitor use pattern and limit drone activity to a very small number of carefully selected areas, locations that are not heavily used by visitors seeking natural soundscapes and solitude, and that are not important habitat for sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Oregon's newly updated State Wildlife Action Plan identifies more than 70 at-risk species of

birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively affected by drone disturbance. These include species such as the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, and Peregrine Falcon, as well as marine mammals like Harbor Seals and Steller's Sea Lions. For these vulnerable species, minimizing disturbance is not just beneficial, it is essential for their survival and recovery.

I appreciate that the draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. This precaution should be extended further. Drone use should also be prohibited in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas, where wildlife sensitivity and conservation priorities are especially high.

In addition, I recommend that OPRD adopt no-takeoff and no-landing buffer zones of at least half a mile on OPRD-managed lands adjacent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federally designated lands intended to protect wildlife populations and habitats. Such buffers would help prevent disturbance from drones launched just outside protected boundaries but flown over sensitive areas.

Thank you for your leadership and for the opportunity to provide input. By taking a careful, science-based, and precautionary approach to drone use, OPRD can protect Oregon's remarkable wildlife while preserving the peaceful, nature-centered experiences that visitors cherish.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Julie Dugger

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:11 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

juliemdugger@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

ear Oregon Parks and Recreation:

I write as a Washingtonian who lived in the Portland metro area for eight years and continues to visit Oregon beaches regularly. From my perspective across the state line, Oregon's public beaches are an enviable treasure and a gift to humans and wildlife both. It's for this reason that I ask you to restrict drone use on public lands to protect the well-stewarded treasure that is Oregon beaches.

I am especially concerned about the impact of drones on wildlife. I am glad the proposed State Park rules prevent drone use in Snowy Plover areas, but there are many other birds and wild inhabitants of the beaches that are also harassed and endangered by drones. It has not been my observational experience that drone operators have any sensitivity to wildlife at all when they have a chance of getting a shot to put on the internet for their socials. I've personally watched a drone operator repeatedly buzz a seal until it went under and didn't come back. The beach should be for wildlife, not for somebody's #vanlife monetizing.

As a human visitor to the beaches, I also find drones offensive. I guess there is a time and place for public drones--football stadiums, outdoor rock concerts--but it's not Oregon's beautiful wild coast. People do not travel to the ocean to be harassed by loud and intrusive machines.

Please restrict drone use as much as possible in Oregon parks to protect the human spirit and our wild neighbors.

Sincerely,
Julie Dugger



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Suzanne Thorson

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

whfch14@icloud.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I agree with this draft. Protection is needed.

- UAS operation is prohibited unless specifically designated. Operating UAS from a park property is only allowed within designated UAS operation areas.
- Adaptive management is built into the proposed rules. UAS operation areas may be added, modified, or removed over time based on resource protection, visitor safety, and user conflict.
- A permit pathway remains available. UAS operation outside designated areas may still be authorized through an existing permit process for special uses like commercial or research.
- Certain areas remain permanently closed. Sensitive locations such as overnight facilities and areas closed by statute or rule are not eligible for UAS operation areas.
- Proposed rules create a UAS pass system for future use. The rules allow OPRD to implement a UAS pass system if needed to manage use levels, timing, or sensitive locations



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nora Polk

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

nora.mattek@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Sincerely,
Nora Polk



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Wood

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

machjuan@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I'm sure you will take my comment seriously. Nobody expresses my opinion better than this quote:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats**.
The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.
OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small

number of limited areas

that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan**

includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas.

The

rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Forwood

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 08:59 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

m4wood@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please place more restrictions on drone usage in our state natural areas. They are hurting our wildlife and are generally disliked by the majority of people visiting these locations. Noise and environmental impact are restricted in so many other ways that are actually popular. Do not make an exception for drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

WENDY SHUEY

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 09:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

wshuey@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

greetings! I oppose drones over state parks in Oregon and ocean shore because:

- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Carole Miles

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 10:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

milesca9@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

OPRD,

I'm writing to urge you to strengthened the proposed rules allowing drone take-offs and landings within State Parks and along the ocean shore. Drones have been shown to cause significant negative impacts on nesting birds. Drone use should be prohibited in sensitive areas, including all Rocky Habitat Management areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine protected areas. Additionally, there should be a 0.5 mile buffer for take-offs and landings in OPRD managed lands adjacent to all Fish & Wildlife Service refuge and other federal lands designated to protect wildlife.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf on threatened wildlife!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brodie Cass Talbott

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 10:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

brodiecasstalbott@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I appreciate that State Park Managers now have the ability to regulate drones in our state parks. As a bird lover and nature lover, I believe the rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas, so that the imperiled wildlife we share these natural areas with are not impacted, and so that we can better enjoy the pristine natural beauty of these areas.

Respectfully,
Brodie Cass Talbott
NE Portland



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

S.C. Ames

Date comment received:

February 10, 2026 11:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

scames@aol.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I recently saw an advertisement on Oregon Public Television for recreating on the Tillamook, Oregon Coast. It promised an escape from the increasing stresses of urbanized life to experience the peace and tranquility of nature that has become so rare in our world, not only for birds and wildlife but for humans.

This opportunity is one of the hallmarks of Oregon, a legacy made possible by our state's beach bill and related initiatives over the years to not only protect Oregon's Coast from intrusive development, but from other forms of encroachment on the seabirds and wildlife that depend on our coastal ecosystem. We humans, too, can be part of that ecosystem — if we make the right choices. As Chief Seattle once said, "If the ocean can calm itself, so can you. We are both seawater mixed with air."

There are many places where people can fly their drones. Our state's coastal parks, shorelines, and estuaries should not be among them.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathryn Comer

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 12:01 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

comer.lindemann@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

This are a good place to start but would benefit from stronger rules and a clear plan for implementation. Drones cause immediate and last harm to wildlife, as well as the human users of their habitats. These rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas, and prohibit take-off and landing within .5 miles of USFWS refuges and other protected federal lands.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Petersen

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 12:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bookjedimike@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Thank you for allowing us to submit comments on drone usage in Oregon State parks.

Whenever technology is changing or being introduced into an environment, we really need to consider the impact to birds and wildlife...and I believe drone usage is likely to disrupt animal behavior and nesting habitats. It is likely that drones will be perceived as predators and it could drastically alter the behavior, safety and ultimately the population of many species.

Drone usage should be banned across the parks (and especially bird/wildlife habitats) because it is so disruptive and dangerous to wildlife populations.

Personally, I believe drones are also disruptive to human visitors. It's not what we want in our parks. Just imagine walking in one of the parks and a drone is hovering 100 feet above you...or worse buzzes you because it's tryin to film a trail or get a closer look at an animal. Someone literally did this at my local park in early January. It's unpleasant and disruptive behavior—that disturbs both humans and wildlife. Please do not allow this in our parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Emily Wilcox

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 12:11 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

wilcoxem24@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I, Emily Wilcox, am a Portland resident and agree with all rules proposed, especially "UAS operation is prohibited unless specifically designated." I have seen several small UAS being operated by individuals without permits at local parks including Washington Park in NW Portland. Although these UAS were small, they contributed to the noise pollution, and were being flown very close to individuals who were walking, reading, or sunbathing within the amphitheater and it made several individuals so uncomfortable that they had to leave.

Annoyances aside, the UAS devices were disturbing the humming birds in the area. Humming birds seemingly perceived these UAS as a threat. They began chasing the two UAS throughout the park and attempted to attack and or deter them from the humming bird natural habitat. It was very upsetting and disturbing to watch the humming birds desperately chase down several UAS knowing that it may cause them physical harm from exhaustion, and stress from chasing a perceived predator (UAS).

As a resident of Oregon for 30 years, I understand how UAS can be used with permits to document and support the conservation of nature. However, the use of UAS devices within any nature area, let alone parks and the coast, by unpermitted individuals is a threat to our delicate ecosystem and disturb and harm our wildlife.

Please implement rules to prevent the use of UAS within our parks and nature conservation areas and only allow permitted use for individuals who have demonstrated their dedication to preventing harm to our ecosystem.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Esri Allbritten

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 12:47 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

esri_a@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please restrict drone use over these wildlands. Not only are they disturbing to the wildlife in general, but they fall out of the sky occasionally. What if they took out a nest, or a breeding pair? PR nightmare. Thanks!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

DeVida Johnson

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 12:51 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

vidadealma@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to restrict drone use to protect wildlife - to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use. I appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks. There are many reasons why I urge you to restrict drone use, several which are detailed below.

From a personal perspective, I find drones intrusive, noisy, disruptive, and unpleasant. When I or anyone chooses to spend time in a state park, they are choosing to surround themselves with nature and all the beautiful sounds found there – birds singing, dragonfly wings humming, ducks quacking, deer and elk breathing, water babbling, breezes blowing, tree frogs peeping, and the splash or whoosh of a bird’s wing as they take off or land on water. Drones are NOT a sound or presence I or most anyone who is enjoying a State Park wants.

From an environmental perspective and through the lens of the wildlife State Parks

are meant to help protect, drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds – nesting birds whose populations have been declining.

Additionally:

- Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion. We know, for example, the population of Puffins at Haystack Rock has been declining.
- While the State Parks' draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas, **the rules should prohibit drone use in ALL Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **OPRD should adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Millions

of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks.

Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.

The

vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

OPRD

should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas

² that are not visited by people seeking natural

qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Thank
you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Megan Mandel

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 01:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

meganmandel6@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rafael Moore

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 01:58 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

rancelora@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please restrict drones as much as possible. They are so obnoxious, unsightly and invasive. It's so hard to reach places where there is no noise or light pollution, and drones being allowed in places like national parks instantly brings those disturbances to what should be a soothing and peaceful place, plus the uncomfortable voyeuristic nature of them filming everything. Trying to get out of the view of a drone is like trying not to be seen by the Eye of Sauron when the tower its on can move in every direction.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Suzanne Geraci

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 02:34 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

InfiniteAwareness@comcast.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown

Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

E Collins

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 02:42 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

circle2square@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Drones disturb the many for the enjoyment of the very few. We don't allow many activities in protected areas because they disrupt wildlife and human activities. Imagine hearing and seeing fireworks in the areas where people and animals are enjoying nature. It's not allowed because a single instance of it causes a cascade of disruption. Even if drones were silent, which they certainly are not, they will cause a disturbance. Drones should be banned in native areas, with no exceptions other than state and federal wildlife agencies.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Charles1 Johnson

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 03:27 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

crj53@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Flying drones has no place in Oregon State Parks. The drones are noisy, intrusive and virtually impossible for park staff to police once they are allowed in some areas. The range of modern drones is well beyond being able to track where they are being flown.

With the vast majority of the of lands being outside of Oregon State Parks - there's no reason drones need to be allowed within the parks. This creates conflicts with the high number of other users concentrated within the boundaries.

Follow the lead of the National Parks and ban all use of drones without special permits. It's the only way it can be controlled without confusion and illegal use.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 03:55 AM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Drones have no place where birds are and more so, during the breeding, baby rearing season. I would love that humans keep their disruptive toys in a box. I want to hear birds sing, water on the beach, honeybees buzz. Paper airplanes I am for. Even those made out of simple balsawood, but noise....no thanks. Paula Winchester 6635 SW 173rd Ave. Beaverton



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristin Bayans

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 04:02 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kbayans@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I support **restricting drone use in Oregon State Parks and along the Oregon coast** to protect wildlife and preserve quiet recreation experiences. Drones are often perceived by birds and marine mammals as predators, and even brief flights can flush nesting colonies, expose eggs and chicks, and disturb seals and sea lions during critical pupping and resting periods.

Oregon's coastal parks include Snowy Plover management areas, Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and other sensitive sites that support at-risk species and high concentrations of wildlife activity. These places should function as refuges, not as arenas for low-flying recreational aircraft. Unregulated drone use also undermines the peaceful, nature-focused experiences that many park visitors seek at Oregon's beaches and viewpoints.

I urge OPRD to adopt strong, enforceable limits that: (1) prohibit drone takeoffs and landings in all Snowy Plover management areas, Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas; and (2) apply seasonal no-drone periods in other key nesting, migration, and pupping areas when wildlife is most vulnerable. Prioritizing wildlife protection and quiet recreation over convenience for drone operators will keep Oregon's state parks functioning as true sanctuaries for both wildlife and people.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Hayley Nasman

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:33 AM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- While we appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks - the rules should prohibit drone use in **all** Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.
- We also recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. As such we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks -only a small fraction of these users operate drones, yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kathleen Mitchell

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 08:17 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

kathy.mitchell5232@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear Mark Gamba and Kathleen Taylor, Please use the power of your office to keep drones out of Oregon State Parks. Drones interrupt the natural cycles of birds and animals and are killing wildlife. Protecting nature is essential to our survival on this planet. Thank you for your work on this issue!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Aubrey Hornor

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 04:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

aubrey.hornor@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello, I am a master's student at OSU studying wildlife science and doing research into human disturbance to harbor seals. Harbor seals can be quite sensitive to disturbance and are known to have entire haul-out spots (places where seals rest on the beach) flushed from the shore by a single human intrusion, drones included. There are times in the seal lifecycle where the energetic investment of flushing into the water is very detrimental to their body condition, for example in pupping season when nursing a vulnerable pup. When a mother is flushed into the water, the pup can be left behind before it is developmentally ready and this can contribute to a pup's malnutrition depending on when the mother feels it is safe to return. Continued disturbance of this nature can result in pup death.

Lots of different wildlife species have this reaction to drones including many threatened sea bird species nesting on the coast, often fleeing their breeding sites due to perceived threats.

Please consider limiting public drone use to conserve coastal wildlife species and limit these human disturbances. While people may just be trying to get a better look, it can be detrimental to the health and survival of countless species.

Thank you,
Aubrey Hornor



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Candace Galen

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:12 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

galenc@missouri.edu

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD

As an Oregonian and avid user of our state parks I urge you to ban or strongly restrict the use of drones in the parks. Drones disrupt the quiet and bird songs that many of us seek. They disrupt and harm wildlife who use acoustics to find prey or attract mates. There are many noisier spots outside the parks where drones can be flown. Drone use could be limited to specific dates and times so those of us seeking out natural soundscapes could plan accordingly.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration

Candace Galen

Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Celeste Colasurdo

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

celeste.colasurdo33@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello,

I walk the beach often by Cape Meares, Oceanside, and Netarts Bay. I have had 3 encounters with men using drones during the nesting season and using them to fly near cliffs or near birds in the past year. One person flew the drone to a restricted area, the National Wildlife area of 3 Arch Rocks by Oceanside. Truly, the drones feel like an intrusion and a hassle to humans. They are also a source of sound pollution and they break the peace on an ocean walk. However, to birds they are a threat and this area has eagles, Black Oyster Catchers, Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Plovers, Cliff Swallows, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Cormorants, and Gulls. I've seen all of these birds in this area. Drones are more than a nuisance and a disrespectful intrusion. They are contributing to making threatened bird populations abandon nests or feel threatened. The bird populations are declining world-wide. Please make drone use illegal in all state parks in Oregon! There are other ways to be entertained and not at the expense of wildlife. I support this legislation and I hope it becomes law and is widely posted at all state parks and ocean beaches.

Thank you!

Celeste Colasurdo
Tillamook County



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Susan Bexton

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:13 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bexton713@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Birds are under threat all around. Please demand restriction of drones where they may affect birds at sea and on land.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michelle Casey

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:14 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

michellecasey02@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello,

As an Oregonian, I am deeply concerned with protecting our wild spaces.

- With the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, I urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern,

Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.

- I appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.
- I recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you very much.

Michelle Casey (*she/her*)
Portland, OR 97211



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Scantlebury

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

scantle@earthlink.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,

I am writing to support your proposed rules to restrict drone use in State Park and along the ocean shore.

As you know, a growing body of science indicates improper drone use is causing wildlife disturbances, leading to nest failures and other impacts contributing to wildlife population declines. Over a million seabirds and shorebirds nest along Oregon's coastline every year including the endangered Western Snowy Plover and at-risk species like the Tufted Puffin. According to the Bird Alliance of Oregon (I'm a member), their Snowy Plover and Black Oystercatcher monitoring programs have documented many drone/wildlife disturbances on the coast. This will only increase if State Parks doesn't have strong rules in place and a reasonable plan to roll out the new regulatory process.

I strongly urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use. Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats. Their noise also negatively affects the experience of the visitors that don't use drones.

I'm glad the State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. I would recommend that the rules also prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. I also believe OPRD should adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD-managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federally lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

My thanks to all your efforts to protect wildlife and habitat from drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Fred Gordon

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:15 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

flambaster@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD, public, and deciders.

I've tried to think of a system or situation where drones in parks is a good idea. I can't think of how it can work, so I oppose the rule as now written. There should be a rule about it, but with narrow exceptions, if someone else can think of something harmless, they should be forbidden. Reasons:

1. If allowed only under certain conditions, drones would be extremely time consuming and difficult police. Parks are chronically understaffed and staff can't add this significant new task. Current work on upkeep, enforcement, and species protection should get any added labor considered for drone management. And I'll bet there's no money to provide the labor to enforce new rules.
2. One of the great values, among many, in state parks is the opportunity for privacy, and peace. One has to plan and then walk a while to get at it, but it's there. With the prospect of intrusion by drones at any moment, that would be gone.
3. The same applies to birds and wildlife. A friend of mine is working as a volunteer to help preserve nesting habitat for dune birds that will not fledge with people around. The education task is huge. There is no chance of consistently keeping drones out of restricted areas. Just finding the operator is quite challenging.
4. If there are plenty of other places to operate drones, there's no need to allow them in state parks. And if there isn't that's telling- nobody wants them around.

I recognize that drone operation can be fun, and photos taken from drones can be lovely and useful. However, those considerations can't rule out the values described above.

One possible approach is to allow drone flights for rare high value public purposes if the

drone is operated by a professional, they attend an orientation on the rules, and there is a revokable bond. As long as this is a rare occurrence.

Thanks for listening
Fred Gordon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sue Brantley

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:16 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

suebrantley@comcast.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I'm writing in support of strengthening the rules prohibiting drones from disturbing wildlife. I myself have seen it happen—a large group of seals and pelicans were settling in for the night. An @\$#\$^&! flew his drone over them and most of them went into the water. My husband went over and chewed him out, but I'm sure he went ahead and did it the next day. As do people all over the place.

Our wildlife is having a hard enough time. STOP the drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Roberta Richards

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

richards.roberta@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To the decision-makers at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

Please protect wildlife and wild areas from the recreational use of drones. My family and I visit Oregon parks and campgrounds regularly, and our greatest joy is observing birds and other animals in their natural habitat, which we do quietly, not to disturb their routines. Drones are not quiet and are documented to disturb nesting birds and other critters. Some scientists maintain that drones were what caused the t Vaux's swifts, which have been roosting in a chimney at Chapman elementary school for some 30 years, to abandon this safe home.

I agree with the following concerns, as articulated by the Bird Alliance of Oregon:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds

and other wildlife.

- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roberta Richards
Southeast Portland



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marianne Terrell Lavine

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

g97219@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

No drones without permit
Permit limited to season
Limited number of permits in season
Good signage
Heavy fines
Leave the birds alone
Limit drones state wide

Thank you
Marianne Terrell Lavine



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nancy Brown

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

brownnab@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.
- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. This includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Sincerely
Nancy Brown



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristi Newton

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jknewton@comcast.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Leadership,

Thank you, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). I sincerely appreciate that, with the adoption of these new rules, State Park managers will finally have the necessary tools to effectively regulate drone use and preserve the integrity of our shared natural spaces.

While I recognize the interest in drone technology, I urge OPRD to adopt a **rigorous precautionary approach** regarding when and where these devices are permitted.

Protecting Wildlife and Sensitive Ecosystems

Research consistently shows that drones significantly impact wildlife behavior. Many species perceive drones as aerial predators, leading to increased stress and the abandonment of nests. Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** identifies over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals—such as the **Black Oystercatcher, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon, and Steller's Sea Lion**—that are known to be negatively impacted by drone disturbance.

I strongly advocate for the following protections:

- **Expansion of Prohibited Areas:** I applaud the draft rules that specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. However, this protection should be extended to include all **Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas**.
- **Federal Land Buffers:** To ensure a cohesive conservation strategy, we

recommend a **0.5-mile "no take-off and landing" buffer** on OPRD-managed lands adjacent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federal lands designated for wildlife protection.

Prioritizing Visitors' Experience

Oregon's State Parks attract millions of visitors annually. The vast majority of these individuals come to experience the "natural qualities" of our state: scenic beauty, wildlife observation, and, most importantly, quiet.

A Matter of Perspective: Only a small fraction of park users operate drones, yet the noise and visual intrusion of a single device can disrupt the experience for hundreds of others seeking a reprieve from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

OPRD should ensure that drone use is limited to a small number of designated areas that are **not** frequented by those seeking tranquility and are **not** inhabited by sensitive wildlife.

Summary of Recommendations

To summarize, I request that the final rules reflect the following:

1. **Restrict drone activity** to a limited number of low-impact zones.
2. **Codify prohibitions** in all Rocky Habitat and Marine protected areas.
3. **Implement a 0.5-mile buffer** adjacent to federally protected wildlife habitats.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting Oregon's natural heritage and for considering these recommendations as you finalize the rules for drone use in our state parks.

Sincerely,

Kristi Newton
Certified Oregon Naturalist



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Allison Alford

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:19 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

allison.alford@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To whom it may concern,

Please regulate drone use. Drones are a loud, confusing, disturbance for wildlife. And drones are a loud disturbance for people and a potential violation of privacy.

Wildlife is already under enough pressures just trying to survive, please regulate drone use.

Thank you,
Allison Alford



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dennis White

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 05:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

d1c1white@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

RE: Public comment on draft rules to guide take-off and landings of drones in state parks and ocean shore

Dear Ms. Gauthier,

On behalf of Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on and submit recommendations to improve the draft rules regarding take-offs and landings of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in state parks and on coastal areas managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

The mission of our group is to protect and preserve the rocky shore intertidal life, nesting and migrating sea birds, and marine mammals in and around the Otter Rock Marine Reserve and the National Islands Wildlife Refuge. To that end, we operate a program of volunteers and supervised high-school interns who act as guides in the State Park areas of the Devil's Punchbowl and Otter Rock Marine Gardens. Our volunteers and interns are trained on the area's wildlife, ecosystem, and interpretive methods that enables them to connect with visitor interests, elevate visitor understanding and appreciation of our delicate ecosystem, and inspire a sense of stewardship.

In recent years our group and others volunteering for various community science projects have witnessed many instances of nest disturbance due to the presence of drones. The frequency of these observed disturbances is alarming. Every summer since our formation, I have joined our volunteers in taking on interpretive shifts at the Devil's Punchbowl where oystercatcher nests are being monitored. Volunteers and I have witnessed multiple drone incidents in the Park every year, and in all cases, users were launching in a prohibited area posted with signs. In all

cases, users were violating federal rules regarding distance from nesting birds. In all cases, users flushed birds out of their nests. Nesting oystercatchers left their nests to ward off what they undoubtedly regarded as a predator. Their eggs and chicks were left vulnerable to actual predators and unfriendly weather conditions that threaten reproductive success. These birds are also at risk of injury from the drone blades. The Otter Rock Marine Gardens is also a prohibited site where drone launches are observed. The Marine Gardens provide critical pupping areas and haul-outs for Pacific harbor seals that are easily disturbed by the presence of humans and their motorized devices.

In addition to wildlife, the pleasure and safety of visitors need to be considered. As documented in OPRD and ODFW surveys, the overwhelming reason visitors come to the coast is for viewing (enjoying the beauty, experiencing nature, connecting spiritually, etc.). Such visits are compromised by the noisy, intrusive, and, to some, creepy nature of drones, which often have cameras on board. A drone can completely spoil an activity and, in some cases, present dangerous conflict situations. Creating designated fly zones for all users to reduce these recreational conflicts is essential to reduce the negative impacts on Oregon park users and wildlife, but it is also important to include elements and strategies that can increase compliance.

Otter Rock is just one site, but we are one of many along the coast for which there are similar concerns. Every wildlife habitat area deserves to be free of drone disturbance, especially during nesting season.

We have the following observations and recommendations for the OPRD Drone take-off and landing Rules.

The OPRD Drone Rules Process

- We applaud the restart of the process, which initially was underrepresented by conservation interests.
- The final designation of UAS Operating Areas is a primary concern of local communities, and, as of yet, these are not known. Therefore, in the 30-days between publication and activation of State UAS Operation Areas, we recommend that there be a further comment period to allow for final public input and adjustments. These are the details that everyone is looking for.
- We recommend that OPRD establish a public/stakeholder oversight group to evaluate the success of the program over time and recommend appropriate adjustments

Drone Rules

- Virtually all coastal areas with rocky outcroppings and offshore islands are sensitive areas for wildlife breeding. The remaining areas of sandy beaches are sites of migrating birds, and some of them are nesting areas for the endangered Snowy Plover. To protect the over 70 at-risk species in Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan, launch prohibitions are appropriate for the entire coast (not just state parks), at least during breeding and migratory seasons. This should at least include the State's Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected areas.
- We appreciate the change in language from previous rule versions, which seems to prohibit launch in all areas except those that are specifically designated for launch. We encourage that there be no launch area designations in any of the sensitive areas identified above.

- Since many drones can be operated from a long distance, the launching restrictions should provide for a buffer zone of at least ½ mile from protected areas.

Enforcement

Local enforcement

As stated above, violations of current rules are rampant. Cooperation between some OPRD park

managers and US Fish and Wildlife Service has already resulted in the posting of signs prohibiting

launch in areas where wildlife disturbance has been observed. Those signs have not deterred recreational users from launching in prohibited areas, and the number of drone launches has continued to increase. Unless there is a mechanism for enforcement, it is predictable that the map designations will have no chance of fulfilling their intended purpose. The current mechanism for reporting violations rests with the Oregon State Police where there are one or two officers who cover the entire coast. If the program is to have any impact on violation reduction, parks restricting launch must have a nearby enforcement capability where rangers and the public alike can initiate a response.

Certification and coordination with federal rules

Title 14, Chapter 1, Subchapter F, Part 89 of FAA rules requires registration and onboard remote identification ID and location capabilities of all drones over 0.55 lbs. At the federal level, smaller drone

operators who use drones for recreational purposes only are not required to register or have the onboard ID/location feature. Operators of small recreational drones are the most significant violators of wildlife disturbance, so it is important for OPRD to fill this gap in some way that will ensure that recreational operators are at least made aware of the rules. OPRD can do several things in this regard:

- In addition to permits to operate in restricted areas, OPRD should implement simple registration

systems for general use after drone acquisition. The State can defer to the federal process of certification and ID, if the operator presents evidence of federal certification.

- Within the processes of certification and issuing permits, OPRD should require that operators testify to having read and understood the state rules, the “best practices” document, and the federal rules concerning distances from nesting areas and the prohibition of wildlife disturbance.

Operators presenting federal certification should be required to attest to understanding the state

maps and associated rules.

- A small fee for state certification can contribute to the capacity of state parks to respond to violations.
- Upon final designation of UAS Operating Areas, the State should coordinate with the FAA and websites such as B4U Fly that are used by drone operators to determine launching restrictions. Many drone operators found operating in restricted areas have indicated checking with B4U Fly where there is no information about additional state restrictions.
- OPRD should consider requiring onboard GPS tracking capabilities for launches in the state.

This

would bridge the federal gap in requirements for drones under 0.55 lbs. and enable linking the drone to a registration number and/or verification of potential violations should an incident be reported. Given the low possibility of enforcement, the ability of an observer to find and record the drone’s identity and location would be a major deterrent to violations and would offset the

need for more expensive enforcement personnel. It is understood that detecting the ID of a drone with onboard identification will require special equipment. I would suggest that some members of the conservation community would gladly invest in such equipment if the state would not.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,
Dennis White, Board President
Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Skye Decker

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 07:06 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

skye.decker@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Listen to Bird Alliance of Oregon! They are the experts who have done their research in protecting our wildlife which is one of the top tier things that make Oregon a real genuine gem. We are all connected and we have to be keep everyone accountable to protect nature and our home. Please consider all of the recommendations to protect all the nesting coastal birds and wildlife from improper drone use. Look again at the statistics for nesting failures by coastal birds due to human interference especially for the endangered Western Snowy Plover and at-risk species like the Tufted Puffin.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

diana boss

Date comment received:

February 11, 2026 11:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

natal.bebop4t@icloud.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Many Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jodi Heintz

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 06:04 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jodiheintz@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am writing to voice my support to strengthen rules about drone usage in our state parks and along the coastline. As an avid outdoors person and advocate for the crucial role bird diversity plays to the overall health and beauty of this state, I thank the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for taking this issue up.

I know that there is a growing body of research that shows improper drone use is increasingly a cause of wildlife disturbances, leading to nest failures and other impacts contributing to the decline in populations of some of our most vulnerable bird species.

I have witnessed firsthand drones in action in nature and am frustrated by the lack of respect these individuals have for nature. We all have heard the increasing number of stories about social media impact on “getting the shot” to the detriment of human and wildlife. These proposed guidelines will create truly meaningful safeguards for birds and protecting our beautiful state.

Thank you,
Jodi Heintz
2350 NW Savier St. #108
Portland, OR 97210



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard G Holloway Jr

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:17 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

allthewaymediagroup@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Subject: Public Comment on Proposed OPRD Drone Takeoff and Landing Rules

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting this comment regarding the proposed Oregon Parks and Recreation Department rules regulating drone takeoffs and landings in State Parks and along the Oregon Coast.

I support wildlife protection and conservation. I am a lifelong nature user and steward, an Eagle Scout, and someone who has worked directly in farming, logging, and commercial fishing. I have spent decades observing and interacting with Oregon's landscapes, waterways, and wildlife firsthand. My professional and personal experience has given me a deep appreciation for both the fragility and resilience of these ecosystems. Because of that, I believe the current framing of these proposed rules risks oversimplifying the problem while overlooking effective, modern solutions that already exist.

Drone operations in the United States are already heavily regulated at the federal level. The Federal Aviation Administration enforces strict requirements on commercial and recreational drone operators, including mandatory registration, operational limits, no-fly zones, and altitude restrictions. Modern consumer and professional drones, such as those produced by DJI, are geofenced by default. These aircraft cannot take off in restricted areas, log every flight, record operator location, and enforce proximity and altitude limits automatically. These safety and tracking features are already functional, widely deployed, and continually updated with real-world operational data. These tools represent an effective, enforceable layer of protection that already exists without additional park-wide prohibitions.

Blanket restrictions on takeoff and landing across entire parks or along broad stretches of

coastline are a blunt instrument applied to a highly specific problem. If the primary concern is disturbance of wildlife in sensitive areas during key breeding or migration seasons, a more precise solution is available. Drones can be digitally restricted in software through geofencing to prohibit flights over critical habitats during defined periods. Seasonal restrictions, paired with education campaigns for users, are highly effective in reducing disturbances without restricting responsible use elsewhere. This approach is both scientifically grounded and operationally practical.

The characterization of drones as a pervasive disturbance in natural areas does not align with lived experience or empirical evidence. Drone flights are short by design because of battery limitations. Even advanced consumer drones have flight times under an hour, and most recreational flights last significantly less. Compared to off-leash dogs, amplified music, vehicles, aircraft overflights, and human traffic in sensitive areas, drone presence is infrequent, highly localized, and temporary. Concerns about cumulative disturbance must be grounded in evidence. Broad prohibitions risk penalizing responsible operators while doing little to address real threats to wildlife.

Responsible drone use provides significant public benefits that are missing from the current discussion. Drone photography and videography expand access to Oregon's landscapes for people who cannot physically visit them due to age, mobility challenges, distance, or economic constraints. Drones allow individuals, educators, and non-profits to document natural areas, create scientific records, and share educational content that fosters conservation awareness. High-quality aerial media also supports local economies by inspiring tourism, providing marketing for parks, and generating legitimate income for licensed operators working legally and ethically. Drone imagery can assist park management itself, providing data for monitoring erosion, infrastructure, trail usage, and ecological changes that would otherwise require costly and labor-intensive surveys.

Enforcement considerations should not drive overly restrictive policy. Geofencing, flight logs, and real-time tracking already allow drone operators and authorities to identify violations automatically. Creating blanket bans increases enforcement burdens unnecessarily, requiring staff to monitor compliance across vast areas and enforce rules in the absence of clear evidence of disturbance. Where violations occur repeatedly or egregiously, existing law enforcement frameworks are sufficient to address misconduct, as they are for traffic safety, boating regulations, and other public compliance issues. The goal should be to enable responsible innovation while focusing enforcement on real risk rather than imposing sweeping prohibitions.

Wildlife protection policies must be evidence-based, targeted, and proportional. Not all species react to drones in the same way, and not all locations carry the same sensitivity. Research shows that some birds exhibit short-term avoidance, while others are largely unaffected by high-quality, nonintrusive drone operations. Migratory timing, breeding seasons, and habitat type all influence vulnerability. Adaptive, location-specific, and seasonally calibrated restrictions, combined with education and software-based control, will achieve far greater conservation outcomes than blanket rules that treat all drones and operators as equally problematic.

In closing, I urge OPRD to:

- focus on targeted, science-based protections for wildlife rather than broad prohibitions,
- integrate modern geofencing, flight logging, and digital enforcement tools into rule

design,

- distinguish between irresponsible users and responsible, licensed operators,
- consider the cultural, educational, and economic benefits of ethical drone use, including scientific monitoring, outreach, and tourism support,
- and ensure public rules are practical, enforceable, and evidence-driven.

Oregon can protect its wildlife while supporting responsible innovation and technological advancement. These goals are not inherently in conflict unless policy forces them to be. With careful, precise, and modern rule-making, parks can achieve both protection and public access objectives.

Thank you for considering this comment and for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Respectfully,

Richard G Holloway Jr

CEO, Alltheway Media Group



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jay Dicharry

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:20 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jay.dicharry@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hey crew-

I want to acknowledge how challenging it can be to regulate new technology. However that's not the job you have- your job is to regulate how that tech may be used in STATE PARKS. You DO have the ability control what happens on our taxpayer funded state land, and since we fund this, I do believe there should be significant input from the public as to how parks are regulated.

I'm not going to give up our collective REAL LIFE LIVED EXPERIENCE IN NATURE so that some influencer can get a drone shot to post on his social media account. Thats essentially what all this can be boiled down to.

We hate the whine of them flying, we hate that they are capturing video of anyone without consent, and it just makes the whole experience like we are still tied to our phones and tech while trying to "escape" outside into nature. I go to a state park to get away- not to still be connected. Drones are like the second hand smoke of the tech world. Personal Drones have no place in state parks. Period.

Now- I do believe there is a role for them in fire management (a huge one actually). So I'd argue that it would be way to draw a line in the sand to say that drone use is illegal in all Oregon state parks, except for use that is funded/conducted for wildfire management.

Thanks for all you do, I hope this will be taken into consideration.

Jay Dicharry
Bend OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Donna Maebori

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:21 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

donna.maebori@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Katelyn Runyan

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

runyankatelyn@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am in favor of regulating drones to protect our wildlife, coastal & otherwise.

There's already people who do not abide by fencing & signs posted in regard to not trampling these precious wildlife areas, I do not want a free-for-all drone being added into the equation.

Thank you for your time,
Katelyn Runyan



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sandy Mico

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:23 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sandracmico@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I am a year round bird watcher who frequents public spaces each week for birding experiences. Please prioritize protections from drones et al for the birds and other wildlife who depend on our parks and public spaces to survive.

Sandy Mico



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicky Hike

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

egressless@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Please use the common sense and science backed rule of thumb- keep them OUT of nesting sites, and wildlife areas ,no take off or landing and immediate fines to enforce this. If we would like to least some of the species in harms way to live and reproduce, then take measures to ensure it. Thanks



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynn DeLorme

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lynndelorme1@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD,

I am a Portland Native that would greatly appreciate it you would propose rules that restrict that use of drones so as not to endanger and cause to go extinct all the Native birds, and marine mammals that make our great state unique. I grew up here and have seen first hand, tons of Native dead birds as well as marine mammals along our coastlines that has increased over my lifetime—I'm 55. I do not want to live in a state does not respect, protect the indigenous birds and mammals for the next 7 generations. I used to be proud of our state parks and the multitude of Native birds that I would observe while birdwatching. The City of Portland has already given up by letting a lot trees, roses and Narive plants are freeways to be burned to the ground. I grew up here where there never was anyone constantly trashing the City of Roses. I was raised to be a steward of the environment and I pray you consider that green spaces are safe spaces for trauma survivors like myself who were stuck with someone who ruined everything I held dear. Please be a steward for our environment.

Thanks.

Lynn DeLorme
Turtle Mountain Chippewa member and Slovakian



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Holly Smith

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

hollylaroo@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peg Reagan

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:27 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

Reagan.peg@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Another voice opposing drones in State Parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sara Simon

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

sjsimon9@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

We appreciate that the new rules give State Park managers clearer authority to regulate drone use. Because drones disturb wildlife—particularly nesting birds—we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to when and where drones are allowed.

While millions of visitors come to Oregon State Parks for quiet, scenery, and wildlife, only a small number use drones, whose noise and intrusion affect both visitors and sensitive habitats. Drone use should be limited to a small number of areas away from wildlife and from visitors seeking natural park experiences.

Oregon's updated State Wildlife Action Plan identifies more than 70 at-risk species that are negatively impacted by drones. We support the draft rules prohibiting drones in Snowy Plover management areas and recommend extending these prohibitions to all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas.

We also recommend prohibiting drone takeoff and landing within a 0.5-mile buffer of OPRD-managed lands adjacent to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federally protected wildlife areas.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Melanie Olson

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

olsonfamily2420@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I think you fully ban drone landing, flying, and take off in ALL Oregon State Parks as it ruins the experience for users and negatively impacts wildlife.

Ive had drone operators fly a drone directly overhead while in a state park and it is infuriating. Not only does it feel like an invasion of personal space and privacy, there is nothing to keep that operator from harrassing me or the wildlife I am trying to observe, or the experience i am trying to have. Many of these operators have no experience flying a drone and there's no control of the footage they capture.

Please do not allow drones of any size or capability to be used in or above state parks. Thank you.

Melanie Olson
Tillamook, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brett Davis

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:29 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

bstdavis@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

o Whom It May Concern:

- We appreciate, with the adoption of new rules, State Park managers will now have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks.
- Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, we urge OPRD to take a precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.
- Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. **Only a small fraction of these users operate drones yet their noise and intrusion affect wildlife and scenic habitats.** The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. **OPRD should recognize this aspect of visitor use and only allow drone use in a small number of limited areas** that are not visited by people seeking natural qualities of the parks and that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

- Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones-- this includes birds like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion.
- We appreciate that State Parks draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. **The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.**
- **We recommend OPRD adopt no take off and landing rules in a 0.5mi buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge and other federally lands** designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Thank you.

Brett Davis, MPH



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Robert Duval

Date comment received:

February 12, 2026 07:30 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

duval5315@gmail.com

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I would prefer to not have drones in state parks and on the coast thank you

Robert Duval Koo



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Bucknam

Date comment received:

February 13, 2026 05:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bbucknam@charter.net

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

I appreciate that State Park managers will have tools to actually regulate drone use in state parks, with these new rules. And it's great that draft rules specifically prohibit drone use in Snowy Plover management areas.

However, this does not go far enough. The rules should prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well.

Drones disturb birds and wildlife because they are perceived to be predators and have been shown to cause significant impacts to nesting birds. With this in mind, I urge OPRD to take a more precautionary approach to where and when it allows drone use.

Millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors enjoy Oregon's amazing state parks. The vast majority of visitors come to parks to enjoy beautiful landscapes, wildlife and quiet time. It is wrong to harm sensitive birds and other wildlife to entertain the tiny fraction of visitors who want to fly drones.

The State Parks should include strong enforcement mechanisms in the final rules.

Thank you



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Juliet

Date comment received:

February 13, 2026 04:14 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Hello,

I respectfully urge OPRD to move forward with draft regulations with strong rules and a clear rollout plan to stop Improper drone use which increasingly disturbs nesting seabirds and shorebirds, including endangered and at-risk species, contributing to nest failures.

Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Cameron La Follette

Date comment received:

February 13, 2026 04:15 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

Dear OPRD,

Oregon Coast Alliance is an Oregon nonprofit corporation whose mission is protection of coastal natural resources and enhancement of community livability.

We write again to OPRD, as we did in 2024, to strongly oppose the allowance of drones (unmanned aircraft systems) in state parks. OPRD has been saddled with this task since the 2021 Legislature passed SB 109, directing the Department to adopt rules concerning the use of drones in state parks. Please note that there is nothing in this law requiring OPRD to expand or provide opportunities for the use of drones in state parks. Parks must “manage the use of unmanned aircraft systems by people in state parks” to protect various listed resources, while providing for the enjoyment and “recreational use” of drones.

In other words, OPRD has the authority to severely limit drones in parks except under extraordinary circumstances such as resource management or emergencies. This is clearly permissible and should be the standard for the proposed rules. The entirety of the state is available for drone use; there is no need for drones to be found in our state parks as well, except perhaps in the most unvisited portions of the park system, where they cannot interfere with visitor experience.

People go to the parks, especially the coastal parks, which are overall the most popular in Oregon, for solitude and the experience of untrammelled beauty, such as only the ocean shore can provide. As an initial matter, ORCA suggests that the department ban all drone use from all the coastal parks, except if needed for resource management, scientific research or in an emergency. This is entirely justifiable based on protection of the visitor experience and the fragile coastal habitats, which include large seabird nesting colonies.

We have reviewed the proposed rules, which are good enough as administrative rules go. However, they leave actual drone locations, maps and usage details up to the local parks managers, where there is the least public oversight and the greatest opportunities for drone

users to take advantage of minimal oversight (and overworked park staff) and fly their drones wherever they wish, despite departmental rules.

The only way to avoid this problem, human nature being what it is, is to prohibit all use of drones in high-visitor areas, which includes the entire coastal region. The rules should be written to allow for emergency exceptions only, but otherwise to restrict recreational drone use to little visited areas of parks, where they will interfere as little as possible with either visitors or wildlife and ecosystem needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Phillip Johnson

Date comment received:

February 13, 2026 04:16 PM

Location (if provided): {city}, {state}

Public comment:

To OPRD:

I am glad to see progress in developing rules for the operation of drones in state parks and especially on the Oregon shore. It is a good thing that park managers will have clearer authority and guidelines for regulating drones, and hopefully heading off their worst impacts.

I served on the initial working group that recommended the basic framework for the proposed rules, so in a sense I have had my say. However, I do want to point to several key elements that are not yet clear in the draft rules.

*The devil is in the details, as the saying goes, and in this case the details are in the maps, which are not yet available. The actual maps are essential for determining whether wildlife and park and shoreline visitors are adequately protected from the incursion of drones. It is fine to hold a comment period now on the basic outline of the rules, but public comments on the maps, once people can see specifically where the boundaries lie in the areas with which they are familiar, are a critical step in the process. Reference is made to adaptive management-- OPRD will need to be highly adaptive at the forefront of the process in adjusting to feedback on the maps.

*Without seeing the maps, I don't know whether this is a problem or not, but it is important that drones not be permitted in overly small areas adjacent to no-fly zones. This would be an invitation to trouble, as drone users, frustrated by tight limits, are all too likely to push beyond boundaries, deliberately or inadvertently.

*The draft rules state that OPRD "may" establish a UAS Pass. There was strong agreement on the working group, shared by those representing drone users and those representing environmental concerns, that there *should* be a permit system for all drone users. Permits could be free, although charging a fee would help to fund OPRD's management. Application for drone permits would both provide an opportunity to educate users and make sure they understand the rules, and to obtain data on drone use and the demographics of the users.

The more general point I would emphasize is that OPRD must take a precautionary approach here. Protecting wildlife, public safety, and the experiences of the great majority of non-drone-using park and shore visitors is mandatory; allowing drones is optional (some states ban them from public lands entirely), and should be based on first assuring the absence of harm. There are laws against harassing wildlife, but drone users are seldom biologists, and may well despite good intentions be oblivious of disturbance they are causing to breeding and nesting birds. Drone use should be restricted such that drones, operated within the users' line of sight as required, cannot reach sensitive habitat areas.

Thank you for considering these views. I should clarify that I am no longer affiliated with any organization and comment strictly as an individual.