



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Quinn Wyrick

Date comment received:

January 17, 2026 04:33 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

Quinn.wyr@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

The use of drones in Oregon State Parks can be disruptive to the wildlife around it. Many creatures, including at risk species like the Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon, among others are negatively impacted by these drones. The wildlife perceives them as predators, making their daily life much too stressful and dangerous. Please consider limiting the usage of drones in certain areas within the Oregon State Parks that way these at risk animals can thrive.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Mark Fenske

Date comment received:

January 17, 2026 05:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

mfenske99@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

As a hobbyist photographer and amateur drone pilot I would very much like to see an opportunity suing a drone in state parks or previously restricted spaces. I am aware that some folks just disobey any rules and do it anyway but I'd love to see a way where we could do so safely and legally. I, personally, would be open to a fee system, permit, lottery, etc. Perhaps a certain number per day or have them timed similar to how the Columbia Gorge operates in the summer? There are many beautiful places here in Oregon that deserve to be seen and a way to do so safely and in a lawful matter would be excellent. I'd make the argument that those of us who are willing to go through the process of doing so in a lawful manner likely weren't the issue to begin with. Thanks for giving this some thought.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ann Tiedeman

Date comment received:

January 18, 2026 12:14 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

tiedemanpdx@yahoo.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.

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.

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):

Rebecca DeFrancisco

Date comment received:

January 18, 2026 04:48 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

defrancisco924@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am writing to request a small change to the proposed rules regarding the takeoff and landing of drones in Oregon State Parks.

While we agree with the idea of prohibiting the drones from operating in the parks, the wording of the proposal would also ban the flying of kites, balloons, model gliders, frisbees and other silent flying objects.

Please amend the rule by inserting "Motorized" in the definition of Drone to solve this issue and keep our beaches family friendly and a place that will continue to support our tourism.

Thank You for your consideration,
Rebecca DeFrancisco
The Kite Company
407 SW Coast Hwy
Newport Oregon 97365



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lucas Cansler

Date comment received:

January 18, 2026 10:40 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

lucas cansler@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm submitting this comment in support of rules that allow responsible drone takeoff and landing in Oregon State Parks and along the ocean shore, with restrictions that are **narrowly tailored to protect wildlife**. In my view, the best approach is **not** to create a "designated areas only" system for takeoff/landing, but instead to use **targeted, evidence-based protections** where conflicts truly exist—especially around sensitive animals and habitats—while preserving reasonable access for the many visitors who operate drones safely and respectfully.

I appreciate OPRD's effort to pause, gather feedback, and refine its framework. As OPRD finalizes these rules for 2026 implementation, I urge the department and Commission to prioritize a rule structure that is clear, enforceable, and proportional—focused on preventing real harms rather than broadly restricting lawful recreational use.

Principles I urge OPRD to follow:

1. Target wildlife impacts directly, not general recreation

The strongest justification for restricting drone activity is preventing disturbance to sensitive species (nesting seabirds, raptors, marine mammals hauled out on shore, etc.). Restrictions should focus on:

- Seasonal protections during nesting/pupping periods

- Buffer distances around clearly identified nesting or haul-out areas
- Temporary closures when wildlife managers identify active sensitivity

This protects animals while avoiding unnecessary restrictions in places and times where impacts are minimal.

2. **Avoid “designated takeoff/landing only” policies**

A designated-area system often functions like a de facto ban for most visitors, concentrates use into a few spots, and creates confusion when people can’t determine where they are allowed to operate. Oregon’s parks and ocean shore are diverse; a one-size-fits-all, designated-only approach is more restrictive than necessary. Instead, a statewide baseline rule with targeted wildlife protections is simpler and fairer.

3. **Write rules that are narrowly tailored and respectful of lawful use**

Rules should be proportional to the risk and should not inhibit lawful recreation more than necessary to protect resources. Where limits are needed, they should be based on specific, articulable concerns (wildlife disturbance) rather than broad assumptions about drones generally. This approach maintains public trust and respects the rights of visitors who follow the rules.

4. **Make compliance easy with clear guidance**

If OPRD’s main goal is wildlife protection, compliance will be highest when visitors can quickly understand:

- When seasonal wildlife restrictions are in effect
- Where buffers apply and how big they are
- How to identify sensitive areas on the ground

Practical steps that help: consistent signage near known sensitive habitat, simple web pages and maps explaining seasonal restrictions, and coordination with “Know Before You Fly” messaging.

5. **Use enforcement that matches the problem**

Enforcement should focus on truly harmful behavior—harassing wildlife, repeatedly flying low over haul-outs or nests, or ignoring clear closures—rather than penalizing responsible operators in low-conflict areas. A wildlife-focused rule is also easier to enforce because it ties violations to observable harms and clearly posted protections.

Oregon can set a strong example by adopting a wildlife-centered framework that protects sensitive species while preserving fair, reasonable access for responsible drone users. Please ensure the final rules emphasize **targeted wildlife restrictions** rather than broad limitations like “designated takeoff/landing only,” and keep the rules as clear and narrowly tailored as possible.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Meg Dooney

Date comment received:

January 18, 2026 08:43 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

megdooney@gmail.com

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



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Megan Hoff

Date comment received:

January 19, 2026 08:53 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

meganhoff7@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):

Skye Kimel

Date comment received:

January 19, 2026 10:37 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

skyekimel@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please ban drones from all state parks except by permit. No one out in nature needs to feel hassled or watched by drone activity. More importantly, why bother the wildlife with them? They are a nuisance. Allowing them, only encourages them. I regularly visit Smith Rock State Park and the rules are consistently broken there. A partial ban on them "during nesting season" is not only ineffective, but also is difficult to enforce and to communicate the rule as most people do not know when "nesting season" is and it varies for different species. A blanket ban is a better answer.

Thanks!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Katie McKenzie

Date comment received:

January 19, 2026 11:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

katherynemckenzie@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please curtail use of drones in state parks and on ocean beaches. Drones are not compatible with privacy and quiet in state parks. They are also dangerous to nesting birds. I was at cape blanco state park and a person was flying a drone over the sea stacks where there were nesting sea birds. This should be strictly off limits. Flying drones over head while you are hiking on the beach and/or in a park should be expressly prohibited. Drones are just not a sensible use in a state park. Please do not allow them anywhere in state parks.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joan Wikler

Date comment received:

January 19, 2026 11:26 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jgwikler@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I was glad to learn 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 other wildlife because they are perceived to be predators. Oregon's newly updated **State Wildlife Action Plan** has identified over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals, many of whom 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.

Our wildlife here in Oregon is a treasure, and both Oregonians and visitors derive enormous pleasure from it. Our natural areas are already facing unprecedented threats from climate change and development. We must protect them from additional stress.

Consequently, I urge the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to please protect our wildlife by imposing strong restrictions on where and when it allows drone use.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Diane and David Bilderback

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 12:51 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

ddbilderback@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft rules for drone takeoff and landing on State Parks and Ocean Shores. We are grateful that the state park managers will have the authority to regulate drones and make changes as needed. We have read the draft and would like to suggest some improvements as we have a lot of experience watching drone disturbance of breeding bird colonies in the Bandon area and south Oregon rocky intertidal areas. We are retired biologists and avid birders who have been volunteer monitors for various agencies and a conservation organization (USGS, USFW as well as Portland Bird Alliance) that have been monitoring Black Oystercatcher reproduction from 2006 to present. Besides watching Black Oystercatchers, these years of monitoring have given us much observational experience with many of the marine colony nesting birds (Common Murre, Tufted Puffins, Brandt's Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Double-crested Cormorants, Western Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots) along our south coast Oregon rocky shores. This coming year will be our 20th year monitoring Black Oystercatcher nests, and unfortunately, we have seen the damage that drones do to nesting birds in the rocky intertidal area.

We have witnessed the devastating impacts of drones as they trigger the protective and territorial

behavior of these nesting seabirds.

Black Oystercatchers will leave their nests and chase drones just as they would a Peregrine Falcon, but unlike the falcons, drones persist in the area, and so, the birds can be off the nests for a long time (over 30 minutes) leaving either the eggs or young chicks open to predation by Ravens, Western Gulls, and Peregrine Falcons. Also, we have witnessed Black Oystercatchers fly 300 to 400 feet high chasing drones. Normally, these birds only chase raptors up to about 200 feet. Chasing drones at that higher elevation causes them to expend a lot more energy. Drone harassment certainly costs Black Oystercatcher parents a lot of energy that should instead be devoted to raising healthy chicks to fledging. It is not just Black Oystercatchers that are being affected as we frequently observe drones being flown over Elephant Rock and other bird colony rocks off Coquille Point and in the Bandon area, causing all the birds in the colony to come up off their nests and again, subjecting all the nests or fledglings on these rocks to predation.

It is our understanding the Oregon has updated its State Wildlife Action Plan which includes over 70 at-risk species of birds and mammals including Black Oystercatcher, Brown Pelican, Caspian Tern, Peregrine Falcon and mammals including the Harbor Seal and Steller's Sea Lion. All of these are known to be negatively impacted by drones. We commend the State of Oregon to have updated the State Wildlife Action Plan, but we want to encourage you to follow through on preventing drone disturbances to these birds and mammals.

In reading the new rules, we noted that you prohibited all drone use in Snowy Plover management areas. But we encourage you to broaden this to include no drones in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as well. From our many years of experience watching rocky intertidal areas during the breeding season, all rocky intertidal areas should be off limits to drones as this is the only way to prevent nest disturbances.

We also recommend that OPRD adopt no takeoff and landing rules in a 0.5 mile buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federal lands designated to protect wildlife populations and habitats.

Another big concern that we have is getting clear information out to drone users. We have often approached a drone operator that is harassing Black Oystercatchers to have them explain that because the FAA doesn't list this site as being prohibited, they are free to fly their drone. We would encourage you to post rules about drone use on all websites that visitors might access (campsites, maps of trails, etc.) so that there is clear information on OPRD website. In addition, OPRD will need to post both No Drone signs (in parks that do not allow drones) as well as information on the web about OPRD parks that allow drone use. We also think that it is vital to post on site what fines might be instituted for flying drones in a no-fly zone.

We often share our scope with visitors when we are watching Black Oystercatchers. When we see drones come into the area and all birds are in the air, these visitors are upset to see that drones are not prevented from flying. We explain that there is clear posting about the areas being a "no drone area" in our Bandon area but that drones are still being flown. From our perspective, most people are more interested in seeing our unique and beautiful rocky beaches, enjoying seeing animals and birds that are new to them and very upset when there are drone intrusions. Please only open State Parks to drone use that do not have sensitive birds and animals. Even the National Parks are closed to drone use as they understand that people are enjoying the parks, not watching drones.

Diane and David Bilderback

ddbilderback@gmail.com



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steven Ehrlich

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 04:06 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

steve_ehrlich@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

Hello, 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 by prohibiting loud, buzzing, motorized drones. These usually have 4 or more small rotor blades, turning at a high RPM creating a loud irritating buzzing sound. They are flown remotely, sometimes even beyond the sight of the operator or pilot ,creating an unsafe operation of a large moving object.

Drones are a newer development that have had a very negative effect on hobbies that people have enjoyed for many years. I am not advocating for the exclusion of Drones entirely, but those of us who enjoy flying our silent gliders, frisbees, kites and the like should not be penalized because of a few bad players. By changing the wording to include "motorized", you will keep the rule adjustments to those whose behavior are negatively effecting the enjoyment of the park.

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.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sonya Kauffman Smith

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 04:25 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

sonyaeks@yahoo.com

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

Public comment:

I strongly feel the state should not allow drones in state parks. The parks are a spiritual place and a place for meditation for myself and others. The noise pollution the drones would cause would disrupt the peacefulness of the park and the ability for myself and others to pray and meditate in this space.

On multiple occasions I have been in city parks where drones are being flown, and they have encroached in my personal space and have harassed my dog. Sometimes you can't even see the person who is manning the drone as they are able to fly it while staying out of site.

Allowing persons to fly drones in state parks would inevitably cause conflict among those flying and those who are there to enjoy nature away from technology and noise pollution in the city.

Allowing drones in state parks goes against everything that natural spaces are intended for.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lori Eberly

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 04:47 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

lori.eberly@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I support any restrictions made against the use of noisy, invasive, disturbing drones on our parks. They are disruptive to people and wildlife.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maggie Keenan

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 02:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

maggiekeen@protonmail.com

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

Public comment:

No drones in any parks, please.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kurt Koegler

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 03:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

kurtkoegler@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Good morning. We are frequent users of Oregon State Parks, both as campers and day users for hiking. We purchase annual passes and support Oregon Parks as long-term members of Oregon Parks Forever. As such, we vehemently oppose the use of any drone activity in any of Oregon's State Parks. Earlier this month we were at Shore Acres to view the King Tides and the presence of a drone spoiled the simple and quiet pleasure of nature by buzzing around. Allowing drones in any Oregon State Park violates the serene and healing environment of nature and makes it more difficult to escape the craziness of our modern world.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janel Erickson

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 03:55 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

janelbetherickson@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Regarding drones in Oregon State Parks: They are noisy and intrusive and ugly and a detriment to enjoying nature. A drone and its operator ruined our experience at Multnomah Falls a few years ago. We live in a highly mechanized world and there needs to be a place -- nature -- where we can escape the noise/buzz/distraction of things like drones.

I am against any drones launching, landing or flying in or over Oregon State Parks EXCEPT those used for Search and Rescue. People who want to film our lovely parks for their blogs/websites/sales materials can use a CAMERA that they look through and touch a button to take a picture.

Please, Oregon State Parks, use good judgement here and put beauty and nature over technology.

Janel Erickson



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Flaxen Conway

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 04:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

flaxen.conway@oregonstate.edu

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

Public comment:

Drones should NOT be allowed in Oregon state parks. Period. No thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

JoBeth Rube

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 04:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rubejobeth@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I understand there can be legitimate reasons for using a drone in and around parks and beaches. However, I have also experienced some rather scary situations. While walking on a beach, I was trailed and then made a physical target of a drone with it traveling towards me at a high rate of speed and then stopping right before hitting me. I had to use a large stick as protection. I also was paddle boarding on Beaver Creek and a drone followed me for a long duration of time. I waved it away many times but the operator persisted and would come in close and move away as a taunting gesture. I wanted to give this information as evidence of the problems drone technology creates for average people enjoying our outdoor areas.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Frank Armendariz

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 05:08 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

f.armendariz@icloud.com

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

Public comment:

Drones should not be allowed within the boundaries of any Oregon State Park, particularly those that contain endangered threatened species.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Meagan Hatfield

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 05:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

pupfish@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

As an Oregon resident and recreational user of Oregon parks I strongly request drone usage be restricted to a specific area within each park. Drones create a lot of noise pollution that takes away from the enjoyment of the parks and immersion in nature. The noise creates a lot of stress for nesting birds and other wildlife. If they must be allowed, please restrict their usage to times that don't coincide with bird's nesting season!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Eileen Stark

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 06:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

ems45@comcast.net

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

Public comment:

- I strongly urge OPRD to take a strict, precautionary approach to where/when it allows drone use. Drones greatly disturb wildlife because they are perceived as predators; they cause significant impact to nesting birds in particular. Drones should not be allowed in any place where wildlife (or human visitors) might be affected. 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. While it's good 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. OPRD should 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.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

teresa taylor

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 06:42 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

teresashea57@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I absolutely object to the idea of any drones flying over our state parks.

Come on, people!

Parks, wild spaces, nature ... ALL of these are RUINED by the sound and invasion of drones.

NO DRONES IN ANY PUBLIC SPACES.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Garrett Jones

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 06:52 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

gburtonj@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am a drone owner, but I am opposed to drone use in Oregon state parks. Their presence is very detrimental to the park experience, which one hopes is for the appreciation of nature. Drones seriously distract from this. If I experienced drones in any state park, and it was a regular thing, I would no longer visit that park. Whatever rules you adopt, you should put up clear signs (like the No Fireworks signs) that make clear that drones are prohibited in the park. This won't stop drone use (there is no enforcement of any rules in state parks anyway), but at least it would discourage it.

If there has to be drones allowed somewhere in state parks, ones that is mostly recreational (such as Cascadia) might be one where drones could be allowed in the open field areas. I'm thinking of parks where visitors are there not for the appreciation of nature, but to recreate. Also ocean shores where driving on the beach is allowed, since because of that the beach is spoiled anyway, though my preference would be for the banning of both driving and drones on public beaches.

Please do your best to keep drones out of natural areas. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Eric Krueger

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 08:09 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

erkrueger@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I'm a fixed wing RC flyer. We can and do share park space with other users, but it would be better if there were a separate, dedicated area for the RC modelers hobby, including rotary craft (drones and helicopters), boats, etc. Alton Baker Park has such areas were very little if any development or infrastructure would be necessary. A little mowing and a portapotty would do it. Map attached.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Thomas Busse

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 09:30 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

TomBusse@protonmail.com

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

Public comment:

A particular use of drones is by "rail fans" to capture railroad operations and corridors that are not accessible by road and trail. Often these are worked into documentaries about the history of a railroad. There are some rail corridors that run through and by Oregon State Parks. Explicitly allowing drone filming of such railroads would be much appreciated



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kammy Kern-Korot

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:19 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing regarding the proposed rules on drone takeoff and landing at Oregon State parks property. I am in favor of limiting drone use as much as possible, for the following benefits: 1) minimize disturbance to wildlife, 2) minimize disturbance to humans/maintain a natural and quiet experience in state parks; and protect privacy, since drones are commonly used to take imagery. State Park should be a refuge from such intrusions.

Thank you for hearing my comments
Kammy Kern-Korot
Oregon resident



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nancy Brown

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:19 PM

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

Public comment:

I have copied the talking points regarding drone use in State Parks which I strongly endorse. I am a native Oregonian who wants to keep Oregon Oregon. Our parks are meant to be natural areas where people and animals are undisturbed by the noise and unnatural presence of drones flying closely overhead.

Nancy A. Brown
Forest Grove, OR

- 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):

Kamala Bremer

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:20 PM

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

Public comment:

Dear State Parks People,

I am so relieved that you have drafted a proactive policy of designating areas where drone use IS allowed (vs. the prior proposal which allowed them everywhere except where excluded) and of requiring Passes to fly drones in a State Park (vs. the prior proposal which had no permits or passes). This will allow you to manage drone use over time.

As you implement your rules, please keep in mind that NO ONE except a few drone users want to have drones flying in the park. They disturb everyone who is not actively flying the drone with noise, loss of privacy and fear of surveillance. Millions of users visit the coast for peace, quiet and privacy. Please limit drone use to the bare minimum areas possible.

I am a monitor for the State Parks system of Western Snowy Plover nesting areas on the Oregon Coast. I have observed first-hand the negative impact of powered hang-gliders on the behavior of birds and fear that objects flying overhead (whether hang-gliders or drones) are perceived as predators and risk chasing birds off their nests. This applies not just to designated WSP areas; I have also seen plovers successfully nesting well outside their designated protected areas.

Therefore, I would encourage you to ban drone use from most beaches from April through September to protect possible nesting areas. Please give special consideration to banning drones from all Western Snowy Plover Management Areas, Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas.

While monitoring plovers at the coast, I have also observed the reckless behavior of powered hang-glider operators, and have twice been harassed from the air by them. Drone operators are similarly unlikely to consistently follow rules. This is why the Pass system will be so powerful, as violators can be barred from flying drones in the parks anywhere. Drones flown in State Parks should be clearly marked so that violations can be reported.

Please keep the future in mind. Drones are able to take photos and videos. Drone operators can post these on social media without the subject's permission. Soon drones will be able

to link to facial recognition and could be used to identify users. Please protect State Parks users from unwanted photographing, monitoring, crime or harassment by strictly limiting drone use.

Thank you for all you are doing to provide Oregonians and visitors with a safe place to enjoy our beautiful state!

Kamala Bremer

Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nancy Crumpacker

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:21 PM

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.

I urge OPRD to outlaw drones in state parks and ocean beaches since OPRD has to assume that every drone user will act responsibly. All it takes is one irresponsible person to damage bird and mammal habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:21 PM

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

Public comment:

Hello

Having seen first hand the negative impact of drones on wildlife I am writing to oppose any takeoff, landing, or other use of drones in state parks, especially in sensitive shoreline areas where Snowy Plovers nest.

While visiting the Blue Pool I witnessed a drone operator buzzing a duck by lowering the drone a few feet over top of it until it got scared and flew off. When confronted, the operator thought it was funny and blew off the impact of his actions

Even if drone use is not intended to be malicious, Snowy Plovers in particular are sensitive to nest disturbances. Allowing drone use in these areas will further degrade their habitat.

Additionally, nothing ruins the peace of a wild area like the buzzing of a drone, not to mention wondering who is recording me and my loved ones in a time of mass surveillance.

Please keep drones out of our parks and shores.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Melissa Brewer

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:22 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing to request that you strengthen droning restrictions and include a strong “roll out” plan to help best protect nesting birds, marine mammals, and other wildlife from drone disturbances. Like the Bird Alliance of Oregon, 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, 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,
Melissa Brewer



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Adam Gardner

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:22 PM

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

Public comment:

To those that make Decisions regarding the rules that affect the public enjoyment of Oregon State Parks,

I am writing as a long time recreational motorless remote control model glider enthusiast 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 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.

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

Sincerely,

Adam Gardner

NCSS and AMA



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff Buckingham

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:23 PM

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

Public comment:

Please prohibit drone use in public lands. I support the conservation of local wildlife that are disrupted by drones. Drones have no necessity in natural areas.

Thank you,
Jeff Buckingham



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Deb Whitcomb

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:23 PM

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

Public comment:

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment on proposed restrictions of recreational drone use in Oregon State Parks.

For the sake of wildlife, I believe that all recreational drone usage should be prohibited in State Parks. In addition to prohibiting launchings and landings, that would include prohibiting drones from entering the air space of the State Park.

People flying their drones in an area with wildlife are typically advised to remove their drone from the area if they see behavioral changes in the wildlife. Unfortunately all drone operators are not necessarily sensitive to this or, in a worst case scenario, are actually getting a thrill out of engaging wildlife with their drone.

A study of YouTube videos reveals high behavioral response from birds and land animals when confronted with a drone.

[Drones as a Threat to Wildlife: YouTube Complements Science in Providing Evidence about Their Effect](#) (Cambridge University Press)

image.png


[Drones a Source of Disturbance for Wintering Water Birds](#)

(British Trust for Ornithology)

In addition, sometimes stress is experienced by wildlife as physiological changes that aren't accompanied by obvious behavioral signs –

see <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960982215008271>

The destructive possibilities of a single drone flight can be devastating for wildlife. In May 2021, 1500 tern nests were abandoned in Boca Chica Ecological Reserve in California because of a drone.

image.png

[A generation of seabirds was wiped out by a drone in O.C.](#)

I would encourage Oregon to follow the lead of the U.S. government and states like Washington and Colorado, which prohibit drones in their Parks.

(If air space is controlled by the FAA, then I would encourage Oregon to work with other states that restrict such drone usage to get the FAA to add these natural areas to their overflight restrictions. Drones are already prohibited in National Parks, so this should be legally doable.)

The protection of wildlife and wild habitats are a primary reason for the existence of State Parks. The already stressed State Parks should not be further burdened by the introduction of a motorized, intrusive and ineffectually regulated recreational activity (that cannot be effectively regulated in natural areas).

Default setting should be no drone activity allowed. At an absolute minimum, drone use should be prohibited during seasons when birds are nesting and before young have fledged, when marine mammals are giving birth and still taking care of young, when migrating birds are feeding and recuperating on long flights to their wintering or breeding grounds. This would effectively mean most of the year.

Deb Whitcomb
Portland, OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pepper Trail

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:24 PM

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

Public comment:

To the OPRD:

Thank you for engaging the public in this rule-making process for regulating drone use, initially through the stake-holders group, and now through public comments. I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society based in Medford and Ashland.

Drone flights have a highly disturbing effect on birds and other wildlife, which perceive the drones to be predators. This is particularly true for birds in exposed habitats, including beaches, nesting cliffs, prairies, and sage-steppe. Disturbance of nesting birds, including Snowy Plovers, Black Oystercatchers, and colonial seabirds like cormorants and puffins is especially serious. Even in the non-breeding season, displacement of migratory flocks by drones can lead to stress, disrupted foraging, and costly energy expenditures. Negative impacts are not limited to birds: mammals including harbor seals, Steller's sea lions, and herds of elk are known to be affected.

Given this, we urge the OPRD to take a precautionary approach to when and where drone use is allowed. We are grateful that the State Parks draft rules prohibit drone flights in designated Snowy Plover management areas. However, more protection is needed. The rules should also prohibit drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas. Further, the final rules should adopt no take-off and landing zones in a half-mile buffer in all OPRD-managed lands adjacent to US Fish and Wildlife Service refuges and other federal lands designated to protect wildlife protections and habitats.

Finally, we note that millions of Oregonians and out-of-state visitors visit Oregon's state parks every year, to enjoy wildlife viewing, beautiful landscapes, and the tranquility of nature. These experiences are diminished by the noise and visual intrusion of drones, which are operated by only a small fraction of park visitors. Recognizing this, OPRD should 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 of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Pepper Trail, Ph.D.
Conservation Co-Chair
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
Medford, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:24 PM

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

Public comment:

There needs to be additional language in terms of interacting with wildlife and just quoting a statute that points to a different wildlife rule is not enough.

I have seen people using drones and birds, especially raptors, begin engaging with the drone because it's infringing on their space and the person keeps flying the drone.

They need to be made to immediately stop flying the drone and leave the area.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Miriam Edell

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:24 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing about the use of drones in parks. I do not support the use of drones in recreational areas.

Miriam Edell. Corvallis, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Taylor Black

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:25 PM

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

Public comment:

Hello,

We are Winddriven... A family-owned kite shop, in Lincoln City Oregon, that has been in business for over 25 years. What we see as a simple wording mistake on upcoming regulations would completely end our family business and greatly effect the community of Lincoln City. As tourism is the ONLY industry our city has, a regulation like this would cause a huge seasonal loss of income for many such businesses.

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 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.

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

Sincerely,

Winddriven Kite and Toy Store



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rebecca DeFrancisco

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:26 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing to request a small change to the proposed rules regarding the takeoff and landing of drones in Oregon State Parks.

While we agree with the idea of prohibiting the drones from operating in the parks, the wording of the proposal would also ban the flying of kites, balloons, model gliders, frisbees and other silent flying objects.

Please amend the rule by inserting "Motorized" in the definition of Drone to solve this issue and keep our beaches family friendly and a place that will continue to support our tourism.

Thank You for your consideration,
Rebecca DeFrancisco
The Kite Company
Newport, Oregon



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Brian Brewer

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:26 PM

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

Public comment:

I am writing to request that you strengthen droning restrictions and include a strong “roll out” plan to help best protect nesting birds, marine mammals, and other wildlife from drone disturbances. Like the Bird Alliance of Oregon, 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, 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,
Brian Brewer



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Linda Reymers

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:27 PM

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

Public comment:

Please follow the federal lead in not allowing drones near state parks or beaches. They are annoyingly intrusive, destroying the peace and quiet many Oregonians seek when enjoying parks and beaches.

Thank you,
Linda Reymers



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Christie Creed

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 10:35 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

creed.christie@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

To the committee,

As an avid hiker, surfer, beach-goer and coastal Oregon resident I am vehemently opposed to the use of drones in our coastal state parks. This is especially important in our coastal zones as the noise of drones is not only troubling to humans trying to enjoy nature, but also to the myriad of seabirds which call Oregon home short-term or year-round. Many of these shorebirds are considered nationally or internationally threatened, and should not have to contend with drones alongside other predators and human nuisances.

It's so rare to have a space to be present and decompress in nature; and we need to protect those places to do so. Please ensure that we are safeguarding these coastal environments from excess noise - for humans (who already take so much from our environments) and our avian residents.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

January 20, 2026 11:46 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

monica_cox@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I do NOT want drones to have access to state parks and beaches in Oregon, except for rescue & recovery operations by authorized law enforcement or the military. We use these parks and beaches to escape noise and intrusion, as peace & quiet in nature is restorative. Buzzing tech overhead is not conducive to this. ATVs on dunes are bad enough; and we've avoided beach access because of the noise and chaos that occurs there because of them. Please, please, please - absolutely NO TO DRONE USE IN PARKS AND BEACHES!!!



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bryan Lynch

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 01:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

airshark@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please keep SAFE and legal drone flying accessible to the public. I understand the need for rules, but please do not make them so restrictive that us hobbyists cannot enjoy the same parks that we pay for with taxes. Please use this process to encourage and welcome drone hobbyists instead of excluding them.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Patrick Chewning

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 02:35 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

pchewn@comcast.net


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

Public comment:

The proposed "DRONE" regulations have a serious problem in the definition of "DRONE". The existing definition is for any unmanned flying device. That definition would include non-motorized devices such as Frisbee, Kite, toy glider, etc. Please modify the definition to only include "MOTORIZED" devices as "DRONES"

 NOT_DRONES

 BAD_DEFINITION

 THIS_IS_DRONE

 CORRECT_DEFINITION

 SUMMARY



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

DYLAN FERAL-MCWHIRTER

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 03:22 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

dfmcwhir@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I already submitted a comment previously against the proposed rules but after the virtual public hearing today, I have a few more comments and a few suggestions.

SUGGESTION #1. My strong suggestion is that if the proposed rules pass, the Oregon State Parks need to publish the exact boundaries of the State Parks online and/or at the parks with lat/lon coordinates. Ideally both. As mentioned, the proposed rules can/do only restrict take off, landing, and operation of UASs in state parks and ocean shores. They don't and can't (because of the FAA) restrict flights OVER state parks and shores. As somebody who enjoys flying drones at the coast for instance, I'm going to still want to capture images and video of the scenery. I need know where state park property begins and ends to see if there are still places that might be adjacent or near state parks while being compliance with FAA rules. Those areas may be public roads, other publicly owned property not designated state parks, etc. I will always try to follow the rules whether I agree with them or not, but I need to know where those rules apply and approximately isn't good enough. Without that information, I will just use my best guess at what constitutes State Parks and coastal areas and inadvertent rule breaking may occur.

I really feel like state parks not being overly restrictive on drones would ultimately be better for wildlife. I think a strong message on restricting drones in the absolute minimum areas necessary to avoid damaging wildlife and supporting that with data, while leaving as much other space open as possible will encourage people to follow the rules where it is important. If rules for flying from state parks are overly broad without giving clear reasons I think people are more likely to disregard them or look for work arounds (like I mentioned above). Also by only restricting drones where it is proven necessary (ie. specific bird nesting grounds) it would make enforcement of rules easier and take less resources. Whoever is going to be enforcing the rules can't be everywhere, you might as well focus one the areas that really matter while encouraging drones to go to the places where it doesn't matter by not restricting them there.

There were several comments complaining about the noise of drones. While some drones can be noisy, a lot of them are very quiet now. Especially the small ones, often at any sort of distance you would be hard pressed to pick up their noise over background noise (wind, ocean, river, etc).

The above point might lead to another good compromise to the rules:

SUGGESTION #2. Maybe state parks should be less restrictive on small drones weighing less than 250 grams. The FAA is much less restrictive on drones of that size because they are generally recognized to be safer. They are smaller and quieter than full sized drones so less likely to disturb wildlife and other park visitors. Generally, they can't be flown as far, if for no other reason than they are hard to see, so again are less likely to get close to undisturbed wildlife areas and/or other people.

There was a comment in the meeting about protecting the tiny portion of the land that state parks represent from drones (2%?). Something to the effect of 'the drones have the rest of the state, let us protect this small sliver of land'. First that isn't true, in terms of non-private land, drones already can't fly in a lot of city and county parks, national parks or forests, and generally near airports (with exceptions). Arguably, there are a lot more recreational spaces that people can use to enjoy that outdoors without drones than there are for enjoying with drones. Second, I think it is equally as fair to flip that argument upside down and say 'let people enjoy the rest of the state without drones, just let the drones have this small sliver of land'. In that version of the argument, a non-drone operator would say it isn't fair because they can't enjoy 'xyz' of the state parks. That is just as true for the drone operators. Everybody has their own reason for wanting to use state parks.

Side note, the FAA considers the "drone" operator a pilot and considers the FAA responsible for applying penalties/rules for pilots. For instance, if someone were to grab a "drone" operator's controller or block their vision that could be considered hijacking of an aircraft. I think it is an untested legal question whether an agency/group other than the FAA can prohibit or make rules on landing, takeoff, and/or operation of a UAS (my guess is that yes on take off and landing, but it is much less clear on "operations").



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Denise Pflum

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 04:18 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

deepflum@msn.com

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

Public comment:

I do not think drones should be allowed. They are noisy and intrusive. Thank you.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Lynda Zukaitis

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 06:28 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

lmzukaitis@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I have seen drones harass waterfowl on the beaches along the coast. I would hope that Oregon minimizes drone use except for research/search and rescue operations, etc. Keep them away from wildlife and areas where people go for quiet and relaxation. If drone users don't follow the rules, or harass wildlife, the penalties should match the disturbance.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Josh Head

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 06:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

joshuaehead@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

No drones should be allowed in any park or public space. They are an invasion of privacy and personal space and the noise they make is incredibly annoying and disturbing to dogs and wildlife. No one goes to parks to see drones. The people who use drones are also a certain type of people that are annoying. Mid twenties to thirties white males who play too many video games and can't find enjoyment in the real world. No one should be catering to these people especially if it means giving up the peace and quiet, the privacy, and the beauty of our parks. In my opinion drones should be illegal everywhere. I hate them and when I see them I get extremely annoyed and angry and have had unpleasant encounters with those I've seen flying drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

G des Granges

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 06:37 PM

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

Public comment:

I am not in favor of allowing drones to be based or initiate flight from state park property, unless it is for the purpose of managing the parks (monitoring conditions at the park, the wildlife, etc.) There are very few locations left for individuals to enjoy natural environments, particularly those of us who live in more populated area. The park system provides these environments. Even the ambient sounds of occasional drone flights damage this sense of quiet and peace and distract from the enjoyment I and many others seek in the parks.

G. des Granges



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Joy Trevey-Lowell

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 09:36 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

joytreveylowell@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

January 16, 2026

Comment: Drone use in Oregon State Parks

Robert Ellison,

All Oregon State Parks that allow horse camping and or have horse trails available, including beaches that allow horseback riding, should prohibit drone use. Drones are not compatible with equestrian use.

Here's why; *Equines are fight or flight animals. Horse stock are fearful of anything overhead, whether it's a wasp or a cougar. This fear elicits a fight or flight response. This response goes from the eyes/ears directly to the Magdala, or fear center part of the brain. It does not go to the Hypothalamus, or the balanced, stable part of the brain.** There is often little a rider can do to convince the equine they are safe in these instances. Equestrian safety is at risk. Drone use in parks open to equines can and will cause unnecessary risk to both the rider and the horse. This can be avoided by being selective in which Parks and Beaches allow drone use.

There are many Oregon State Parks that are not open to equestrian use, these parks may be suitable for drone use. We hope you will regard this comment with the seriousness necessary to secure our future safety. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this most important safety issue.

Respectfully

Joy Trevey Lowell

State Director
Sourdough Chapter,
Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

*Horse Brain Science; By Dr Steven Peters



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janet Dahlgren

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 10:24 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

janet@timbl.net

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

Public comment:

Drones are incompatible with enjoying nature and viewing wildlife. Their use should be highly managed and very limited in all public areas and only allowed by permit.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Peyton Priestman

Date comment received:

January 21, 2026 11:54 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

peyton.priestman@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I would like to thank ORPD for beginning the process of regulating drone use in State Parks and along the Oregon coast. I believe strongly that we should be protecting our native birds and other wildlife that can be disturbed by drone use. We saw this just last year with the swifts that have nested at Chapman School for over 30 years, but abandoned their roost there in 2024, potentially because of drone use in the area. The recently updated Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan includes a list of 70 at risk species of birds and mammals, many of which are known to be negatively impacted by drones. Drones are also a nuisance for many State Park visitors who go to the parks to enjoy connection with nature and are disturbed by the noise and intrusive nature of drones.

Please consider limiting drone use to a small number of areas in State Parks, that are not used by sensitive birds and other wildlife.

In addition to prohibiting drone use in Snowy Plover management areas, please consider also prohibiting drone use in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas.

Please consider adopting a no take-off and landing rule within .5 mile buffer in OPRD managed land adjacent to all USFWS refuge and other federal lands designated to protect wildlife and their habitats.

The interests of a vocal minority of drone users should not outweigh our commitment to protect Oregon's wildlife and habitats, and to preserve the natural beauty and tranquility that our state parks offer millions of Oregonians and out of state visitors each year.

Thank you,
Peyton Priestman



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Delores Porch

Date comment received:

January 22, 2026 01:15 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

verandafay@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am in favor of the state parks department creating rules for drone usage in state parks. As a state parks camper I do not go to these areas to be disturbed by overhead intrusions. I also do not want drones affecting my viewing ability of birds and other wildlife.

Drones need to be limited when near wildlife refuges and natural areas, especially with protected species like Snowy Plovers. I would like to see that a .5 mile buffer is created to OPRD managed lands adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuge and other federal lands regarding the takeoff and landing of drones.



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Beverly Minn

Date comment received:

January 22, 2026 01:16 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

bevandkent@hotmail.com

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

Public comment:

1. I like the idea of drone users having to purchase a nominal pass, as this would improve monitoring of drones in a State Park, especially if "designated takeoff and landing zones will likely be released on a rolling basis."
2. I hope drone use is prohibited in all Rocky Habitat Management Areas, Marine Reserves, and Marine Protected Areas. This will increase my enjoyment of these areas immensely.
3. There should also be at least a half mile buffer of no take off and landing zones in OPRD managed lands adjacent to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Refuges.

Thank you.

Beverly Minn

Bandon OR



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

RAM PAPISH

Date comment received:

January 22, 2026 02:10 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

rampapish@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

I am very concerned about use of drones in areas managed by ORPD. I have seen disturbance myself on several occasions and am very frustrated by it. There are many challenges faced by birds in a modern landscape. We don't need to further stress birds and lower reproductive fitness through disturbance. I have seen declines in several birds species that many people enjoy and drone use is one factor in this decline.

I feel it is important to 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 as well. Please 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,
Ram Papish



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bob Doppelt

Date comment received:

January 22, 2026 07:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

b81849912@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

We regularly hike and camp at Beverly Beach State Park on the coast and in many other parks across Oregon. I'm sure there are details that need to be worked out. But your policy should be simple and straight-forward:

NO DRONES OF ANY TYPE ANYWHERE ON OR NEAR STATE PARK LAND.

NO DRONES, NO DRONES, NO DRONES ANYWHERE ON OR NEAR STATE PARK LAND.

Please implement this policy.

Bob Doppelt



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Terry Canavello

Date comment received:

January 22, 2026 07:57 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

canajello@gmail.com

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

Public comment:

Please do not allow the use of drones in our parks.

Flying a drone use is not an essential part of experiencing nature. It does not immerse the user in the smell and feel of a beach, forest or path the way hiking, riding or biking does; it makes our parks part of a video game experience and that isn't why all of us work so hard to keep our parks open.

As a horseback rider I am especially concerned about the danger to my safety created by an overhead drone. Having a buzzing entity, a drone, overhead will panic a horse so deeply that it may be uncontrollable in a situation demanding good control. This will lead to unneeded accidents and injuries and create a huge liability problem for the State of Oregon.

Aside from the danger and liability created by drone use near horses, the noise and invasion of privacy created by the best intentioned drone impinges on the enjoyment of every other visitor to our parks. Nobody comes camping to be looked at by a stranger in the sky. Please tell drone users to fly their drones somewhere other than in a place where users are camping, walking, hiking and riding to experience the wonder of nature.

Thank you, Terry Canavello
President of the Rogue Rider Endurance Club
Grants Pass, Oregon