

## Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

November 20, 2024

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Agenda Item: 9a

**Action**

Public Comment Allowed: **No**

Topic: **Request to Adopt 736-015-0030- and 0040-Day Use Permit Rules**

Presented by: **Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager**

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### **Background:**

Day use parking permits are currently required at 25 of Oregon's state parks listed in rule. Proposed rules would move the agency to an adaptive management model, utilizing day use parking permits as a tool to help manage visitation and protect natural, cultural and recreation resources, while generating vital revenue for ongoing operations and maintenance needs. Listing parks in rule is an outdated process that fails to provide parks with needed flexibility to manage increased visitation and changing conditions.

Proposed rules would require a day use parking permit fee at all state parks, with an option for the director to waive fees. If proposed rules were adopted, the agency does not intend to require a permit at all parks. There are no immediate plans to change parks requiring a permit, but the agency will begin reviewing parks for possible changes in 2025.

### *Group Facility Out-of-State Surcharge*

Recently adopted rule changes added a 25% surcharge on all campsites for out-of-state visitors. This proposed rule change would extend the surcharge to group facilities and other rentals. During the original rulemaking process adding the surcharge to all campsites, buildings and other facility rentals were left off. This updated proposed rule changes would allow the agency to fairly and consistently implement the new surcharge.

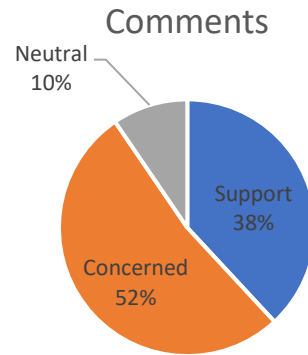
### *Public Comments*

Public comments were opened October 1 through November 1. Twenty written comments were received during that period. A public comment hearing was held on October 23 with one oral comment received during the hearing.

Individuals who expressed support for the proposed rules shared thoughts that benefits of the proposed rules could include:

1. Improved Park Maintenance and Resource Protection:
  - Fees will provide necessary funds for park upkeep and conservation.
  - Ensures sustainability and enjoyment for future generations.
2. Director's Flexibility in Fee Management:
  - Allows for adaptive fee structures based on current needs.

- Enables waiving fees when appropriate for accessibility.
3. Economic Justification:
- Increased fees make sense due to higher park usage.
  - Provides a practical solution without overburdening the general budget



Individuals submitting comments with concerns about the proposed rules shared the following concerns:

1. Financial Burden and Accessibility Concerns:
  - Additional fees strain low-income individuals and families.
  - Request for program to allow individuals with disabilities to receive access at a free or reduced cost.
  - Fees are viewed as discriminatory, limiting access to public lands.
2. Parks Should Be Funded Through Taxes:
  - Parks are a public good and should be maintained with existing tax revenue.
  - Suggests better allocation of current funds over new fees.
3. Skepticism About Effective Use of Funds:
  - Doubts that increased fees will lead to actual improvements.
  - Concerns over potential mismanagement or lack of transparency.
4. Opposition to Out-of-State Surcharges:
  - Higher fees for non-residents may be unfair or burdensome.
  - Could negatively impact individuals already facing hardships.
5. Desire to Maintain Current Access and Fee Structure:
  - Preference for keeping parks freely accessible as they are now.
  - Fear that changes might reduce the ability to enjoy state parks.

**Prior Action by Commission:** Commission approved rule changes in September 2024 and directed staff to seek additional public comment on changes to day use parking fees and out-of-state surcharges on facilities.

**Action Requested:** Adopt proposed amendments to 736-015-0030- and 736-015-0040 to update day use parking permit and group facility rules.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A proposed rules clean copy
- Attachment B proposed rules marked copy

**Prepared by:**

[736-015-0030](#)

**Day Use Parking Permit**

(1) Purpose: Based on the department's goal to manage increased use of park areas, the director may require a motor vehicle day use parking permit in all park areas. This charge is a parking fee and not a charge for recreational purposes under ORS 105.672 to ORS 105.696. The immunities provided under ORS 105.682 apply to use of state park land for recreational purpose.

(2) General Regulations:

(a) All park properties require a day use parking permit when posted.

(b) Parking permits are to be clearly displayed through the windshield of motor vehicles with the expiration date visible;

(c) Persons with motorcycles or other motor vehicles, such as convertibles, where the permits could be subject to theft, may keep the permit with them and must show it to an enforcement officer or park employee upon request.

(3) Day Use Parking Permit Fees:

(a) Daily Motor Vehicle       \$7-15;

(b) 12-month Permit         \$30-60.

(c) 24-month Permit         \$50-80.

(d) The director will determine the day use parking permit fee within the range.

(A) The director will review proposed changes in the parking permit fee on an annual basis.

(B) The department will post changes on the department website for a minimum of 30 days prior to the effective date.

(C) The department will post information about the day use parking permit fee on the department website.

(4) The department may enter into a written agreement with privately owned commercial vendors and non-profit cooperative associations affiliated with the department under ORS 390.143 to sell 12-month and 24-month permits:

(a) The director shall establish a maximum allowable fee of \$1 for vendors who sell the 12-month and 24-month permits;

(b) Non-profit cooperative associations affiliated with the department may by agreement retain fees in excess of the minimum vendor fee for use in funding interpretive programs in park areas;

(c) The vendor's fee will be included in the price of the permit;

(d) Only a park employee may issue replacement permits in the event an original permit is lost, stolen, or mutilated.

(5) Daily Access Exceptions: The director may grant exceptions to the day use parking permit requirement in selected park properties or under the following circumstances:

(a) Emergency vehicles;

(b) Government vehicles on official business;

(c) Business and delivery vehicles on official business;

(d) A person who is currently a registered camper at a park area and clearly displays the overnight rental receipt;

(e) Park concessionaires and their employees;

(f) A person entering the park to engage in specially permitted non-recreation activities;

(g) Park volunteers on duty in the park;

(h) A person with a permit issued by another entity with which the department has a written agreement to honor their passes; or

(i) Other persons as designated by the director.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 390.124

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 105.672 to 105.696, 390.111, & 390.121

### **[736-015-0040](#)**

#### **Miscellaneous Rentals and Products**

(1) Firewood: Where conditions permit, firewood will be sold.

(2) Boat Moorage Facilities — \$15-40 per day per boat: Where boat moorage facilities are provided they may only be reserved with other campsite reservations.

(3) Marina Slip Rental—Where slips are available at marinas in parks without camping facilities rental rates and lengths of time will be detailed on the department website.

(4) Showers — \$-5-10 per person: Charged where showers are available to non-campers in a campground.

(5) Horse Camping Area:

(a) Non-hookup site: Fee Range: \$21-29 per night per camper unit;

(b) Hookup site: Fee Range: \$33-52 per night per camper unit,;

(c) Group site (accommodates 3-5 units): Fee Range: \$57-86 per night;

(d) Double site: Fee Range: \$49-90 per night per two camper units;

(e) A camper unit consists of a motor home, trailer, tent or camper.

(6) Group Tent Camps: Small group tent areas available in some parks which are designed to accommodate approximately 25 people. Water and toilet facilities are provided nearby, but shower facilities may be some distance away.

(a) Base rate (0-25 people): Fee Range: \$90-117 per night;

(b) Charges for persons in excess of the 25 person base rate will be \$3 per person per night.

(7) Group RV Camp: Special camp area designed to accommodate RV's requiring hookups in a group setting. The camp has electrical hookups available, water, table, stove, and access to a restroom.

(a) Base rate (up to 10 units): Fee Range: \$150-250 per night,;

(b) Charges for units in excess of the 10-unit base rate: \$10 per unit per night.

(8) Pets Staying Overnight in Facilities (Yurts, Cabins, Tepees): Not more than two pets (cat or dog only) staying overnight in facilities: \$10 per night.

(9) A 25-percent surcharge will be added to all group day use and overnight facility rentals reserved by non-residents.

(10) Lodge/Community Hall: Large meeting facility with kitchen and restroom facilities which may be reserved overnight: Fee Range \$200-325 per night.

(11) Meeting Hall: Small meeting facility, generally associated with a campground, which may have limited kitchen facilities and restrooms: Fee Range \$125-200 per day.

(12) Champoeg Pavilion: Includes Indoor Memorial building and outdoor large covered pavilion area. for group day-use: Minimum fee range of \$250-400 per event for up to 50 people, and \$1 per person thereafter up to the maximum occupancy of the facility.

(13) Smith Rock Amphitheater: Includes outdoor bench seating and small stage. Maximum of 50 people per event. Fee Range: \$100-\$300

(14) Shore Acres Garden Packages: Facilities must be reserved as part of a package All facility prices, no matter which package is booked, start with a minimum of 50 persons per event. Additional people beyond the minimum of 50 are \$1 per person up to a maximum of 100 people per event. Reservable Shore Acres facilities include garden sites which are lawn areas outside of the formal garden or a section of the formal garden; the Garden House and Pavilion which are buildings within the formal garden and the Observation Building lawn area.

(a) Package 1: includes garden site, Garden House, and Pavilion area. Fee Range \$450-700.

(b) Package 2: includes Garden House and Pavilion area. Fee Range \$350-600.

(c) Package 3: includes garden site and Pavilion area. Fee Range \$250-500.

(d) Package 4: includes Observation Building lawn area (no building included with rental). Fee Range \$150-400.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 390.124

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 390.111, 390.121 & 390.124

736-015-0030

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~~(6) Park Areas Subject to Day-Use Parking Permit Fees: Park areas at which a day use parking permit fee shall be charged include: Fort Stevens State Park, Cape Lookout State Park, Ecola State Park, Nehalem Bay State Park, Honeyman Memorial State Park (West side), L.L. "Stub" Stewart Memorial State Park, Heeeta Head Lighthouse, Shore Acres State Park, Milo McIver State Park, Viento State Park, Benson State Recreation Area, Dabney State Recreation Area, Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, Mayer State Park, Rooster Rock State Park, Champeog State Heritage Area, Detroit Lake State Recreation Area, Fall Creek State Recreation Area (Winberry), Silver Falls State Park, Jasper State Recreation Site, Mongold Day-use Area, Willamette Mission State Park, Tou Velle State Recreation Site, The Cove Palisades State Park, Tumalo State Park, Smith Rock State Park, Farewell Bend State Recreation Area.~~

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**736-015-0040**

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(b) Package 2: includes Garden House and Pavilion area. Fee Range \$350-600. Pavilion (inside the formal garden and must be booked with an event site or the garden house): Fee Range \$100-150 per event.

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