



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Walter Ciceric

Date comment received:

October 7, 2024 11:21 AM

Commenter email (if provided):

wal2mar@yahoo.com

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Regarding camping on Mill Beach:

The Oregon health department recently closed Mill Beach due to fecal contamination. The campers have been a continual problem for several years due to trash, drug needles, body waste and fires [during the fire season] to the extent people don't feel safe at the beach. The city has gone to the expense of building very nice bathroom facilities at the city owned parking lot at Mill Beach, but this had to be closed several years ago because of abuse by the campers.

Mill Beach is a wonderful place for citizens to enjoy flying kites, beachcombing, sea-gardens, family gatherings and even weddings. It would be a shame to allow campers to prevent ordinary citizens from utilizing Brookings beaches. The well-being of the residents of Brookings who want to use Mill Beach without risk to their health and safety should be our paramount concern. There is also the concern of keeping our beaches so pristine.

OPRD has enacted regulations prohibiting camping on the beaches of multiple cities and counties all along the Oregon coast spanning from Seaside all the way down to Gold Beach. It makes no sense to treat Brookings differently and leave them off the list. The same situation applies at all these beaches. I suspect that the city of Brookings agrees with the above. Curry county has enacted regulations prohibiting camping on the unincorporated beaches of the county. Also, the city of Brookings does not allow camping on its beaches in Chetco point Park immediately adjacent to Mill Beach. Why would it not make sense to include the other beaches in Brookings?

I am writing in support of adding the city of Brookings to the list of cities as noted above. I think it will make life easier for the OPRD Rangers at Harris Beach State Park as well.

Sincerely, Walter Ciceric



Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

JOHN PAYNE

Date comment received:

October 7, 2024 12:45 PM

Commenter email (if provided):

jkparch@aol.com

Location (if provided): Fort Lauderdale, FL

Public comment:

Members of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

My wife and I, and her parents before us, have owned a unit in Macklyn Cove for over 18 years. (For the 12 years before that we visited Brookings as renters). During that time, we've enjoyed watching, and joining, the citizens of Brookings and visitors alike, as they recreated on our beautiful Mill Beach. People picnicking, children frolicking in the surf, families flying kites or playing catch with balls or frisbees, kayakers launching their boats to fish or otherwise explore the scenic cove, created an almost Norman Rockwell type tableau of outdoor recreation. I've spent many a day sitting on our deck thankful for our wonderful weather and gazing out on the idyllic scenery.

But not today. Now this once beautiful beach has been turned into a virtual nightmare by the habits of those camping on our shore. Those campers defecate and urinate on the sand. (On September 19 the Oregon Health Authority issued a Health Advisory for Mill Beach due to unsafe levels of fecal bacteria in the ocean water). Overnight campers build campfires, in direct violation of local ordinances, and leave hot embers

unattended as a hazard to the barefooted children who might step on them. Campers use drugs and discard their used needles on the sand. My wife narrowly avoided stepping on one such needle. Brookings Councilman Maalmberg mentioned during a City Council meeting, finding human waste and used needles while helping his daughter perform the public service of cleaning the beach. Furthermore, those campers yell at and throw stones at the good people of Brookings and our visitors who are just trying to enjoy a day at the beach.

The city has, in the past, seen fit to pass ordinances outlawing camping in Azalea Park and on other public lands and beaches such as the beach below Chetco Point, facing South. As the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, you have a duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of our state, as well as that of our visitors. Please take a proactive role in maintaining the beauty and public enjoyment of our Oregon Shores. I implore you to protect those by implementing the proposal to prohibit overnight camping on Mill Beach and other beaches, public or private, within the city limits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Payne