



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Gale Payne

**Date comment received:**

October 23, 2024 12:55 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

gcpattorney@aol.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

Attached,  
please see my public comment submitted on this last day of public  
comment that summarizes all developments that have occurred throughout  
the period of public comment in the above-referenced matter.

Thank you,  
Gale Payne

Dear Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission:

On this last day of public comment on the pending petition to add Brookings to the list of cities where overnight camping on Oregon's ocean shore is prohibited by OPRD regulation, I offer the following summary of developments that have occurred throughout the open comment period.

Oregon State Senator Brock Smith (Senator representing the District covering Brookings) favors this petition; he announced his support at the public hearing conducted by OPRD in Brookings on October 9, 2024.

The City of Brookings supports this petition per the unanimous vote of its 5 Member City Council (5-0 in support of prohibiting overnight camping on the ocean shore/beaches within Brookings) on October 14, 2024.

Written public comments by more than 60 Oregonians provided to OPRD and posted on its website as of October 7, 2024 almost unanimously support this petition.

Oral public comments at the public hearing conducted by OPRD in Brookings on October 9, 2024 from almost 50 people in attendance unanimously support this petition. Not one person voiced any opposition at this public hearing.

In addition to these written and oral public comments provided directly to the OPRD, eighteen (18) visitors and tourists to Mill Beach in Brookings and other Oregon beaches coming from around the United States and the Bahamas signed an endorsement in support of this petition; this was provided to the OPRD at the October 9, 2024 public hearing. Tourism is an important economic resource for Oregon and our Brookings community which cannot be overlooked.

In addition to those providing written and oral comments directly to the OPRD, four (4) more pages of endorsements, signed by about 40 additional residents of the Brookings area, support this petition; this was also provided to the OPRD at the October 9, 2024 hearing.

The public and its governing representatives have spoken. They are unanimous in wanting and needing this OPRD regulation for Brookings.

Everyone living in unincorporated Curry County that submitted a public and/or oral comment during the comment period also unanimously favored a similar overnight camping prohibition throughout Curry County as was done in Clatsop County, and Tillamook County by OPRD Regulation 736-030-0095 & 736-030-0100.

Even Curry County itself has voiced its intention for and support of a camping prohibition on the beaches and shores of unincorporated Curry County. *See* its Regulation, effective June 28, 2023, at Section 6.06.053 entitled "Prohibited Camp Locations" stating, "It shall be unlawful for any person to establish or occupy a campsite at any time if such camp is ... (a) within 250 feet of a waterway," defined at section 6.06.0020 as "any ocean, lake, estuary."

Regarding those who may not have spoken during the public comment period (the underrepresented and/or homeless), this OPRD regulation prohibiting camping on Brookings beaches directly and actually serves the interests of the underrepresented. It is the very underrepresented that cannot afford to take themselves and their families on vacation. These are the very people who depend most strongly on being able to freely recreate on the beaches and parks in their community such as Brookings without getting sick, hurt, or afraid. This petition preserves this ability and the corresponding health, safety, and welfare of the underrepresented segment of our population along with all others who use the beaches in Brookings.

Allowing homeless persons to encamp overnight on ocean beaches enables and perpetuates such predicament at the expense of the rest of the public wanting to recreate there, as opposed to other alternative pathways aimed at breaking the cycle of such unfortunate circumstance. For this uncontestable reason, the very public easement that allows the public to recreate on Oregon's beaches is for recreation only—and not encampment or shelter.

We the people, your public, and your constituency have unanimously joined together to beseech the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to pilot us along a course that preserves our health, safety, and welfare by enacting this amended regulation adding Brookings to the long list of cities where overnight camping along Oregon's ocean shores is prohibited.

/s/ Gale Payne  
Brookings Homeowner  
Dated October 15, 2024



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Tim Rundel

**Date comment received:**

October 23, 2024 12:58 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

trundel@brookings.or.us

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

The Brookings City Council voted 5-0 last night in support of the prohibition of overnight beach camping. Please see attached letter.

Respectfully,



# City of Brookings

898 Elk Drive, Brookings, OR 97415  
Office (541) 469-1102 Fax (541) 469-3650  
[www.brookings.or.us](http://www.brookings.or.us)

October 15, 2024

Justin Helberg | District Manager  
South Coast District  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
P.O Box 699  
Port Orford, OR 97465

Mr. Helberg,

We were approached by your office approximately one month ago about OPRD receiving a petition from the Macklyn Cove Condominium Association (as allowed under ORS 183.390) that requested the department's open rulemaking to add Brookings to the list of cities where overnight camping is prohibited, within the city limits, along the ocean shore.

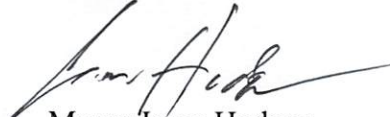
The City has received complaints in the past from the Macklyn Cove Condominium Association concerning transient camping on Mill Beach. This matter has been discussed numerous times over the past several years. This matter was the subject of a review by the City Council and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission in 2009 and again in 2017. During those review periods, council did not want to restrict camping on beaches in the City of Brookings.

Currently, overnight camping is prohibited on the ocean shore within the city limits of Seaside, Cannon Beach, Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Lincoln City, Newport, Bandon, and Gold Beach. Camping is also prohibited on the ocean shore in all of Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

The City Council instructed the city manager to conduct a survey with the cities where overnight beach camping is currently prohibited. We also conducted a workshop on October 7, 2024 to discuss the survey results and to review the public comments submitted online to OPRD during the public comment period. City officials also attended the OPRD public hearing at Southwestern Oregon Community College (Curry County Campus in Brookings) on October 9, 2024. Council members also received citizen input on the petition via email.

The Brookings City Council had a council meeting October the 14<sup>th</sup> and the council passed a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in support of prohibiting overnight camping on beaches in the City of Brookings.

Sincerely,



Mayor Isaac Hodges  
City of Brookings, OR



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Mark and Emelinda St James

**Date comment received:**

October 23, 2024 01:00 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

tsaint33@yahoo.com

**Location (if provided):** , OR

**Public comment:**

As far as I know, as a past hiker, this exception for camping on State beaches was for hikers traveler along the coast. Was specifically for one night. Then leave it clean and hike on. Also would be the same if one was going to kayak the coast. I did this from Brookings going north. I pulled in on a beach, set up my tent and stayed a night moving north.

As for the Brookings issue with campers/squatters staying well past the one night rule at Mill State beach;

1st: Why isn't the 1 night stay enforced?

2nd:

We know that Tillamook County and other northern Oregon Counties have gone thru the right channels and totally banned any camping on all their beaches.

Why can't Curry County do the same?

If

Brookings decides to bend the one night stay and not move on any long term squatters it will be a mess on Mill Beach as it is already. Stink, feces, needles, trash and decreasing home values. No local families can enjoy the beach for fear of the above, also vehicles being broke into.

You

give an inch, they will coming to our Curry County beaches in droves. Word will get out to the homeless and squatter populations.

Shut down all beach camping in Curry County as other Counties are able to do.