



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

T M

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 10:50 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

xisled@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The \$5-7 proposed increase is onerous for families and lower income users who should be encouraged to visit parks. A monthly fee of any cost for these groups could constitute a budget conflict. I see many vehicles parked in day use areas with no visible signs of having even paid a day use fee. Additionally, an additional \$2 increase, two \$1 bills or coins, is very awkward.

RV owners can obviously afford any increase that is proposed.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

TM



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Joanne Kittel

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 11:22 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

joannekittel@viewthefuture.org

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

**Public comment:**

No one wants to pay more for anything. But this is a fee for service state. OPRD receives little funding and needs park fees to help fund basic operation costs then there are the tourists who enjoy our parks and need to pay their fair share too.

I am in favor of the increased fee hikes to the highest level.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

David A Tooze

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 12:51 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dmtooze@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

If you are charging day fees, then I suggest some form of consistency. Ex. Fort Stevens, one of your busiest parks doesn't charge day fee. But other parks, like ecola do. Makes no sense



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Josh Bjornstedt

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 03:32 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

gummery72@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Enough is enough on the fee increases. Families are being priced out of too many other activities. Don't add to it by raising parking fees and camping fees. The day use fees to walk in our national forests seems wrong. It is never going to stop. What guarantee is there that these raised fees go toward improvements or maintenance at state parks and campgrounds?

How about requesting government subsidies to offset these increased costs. That might be one subsidy I could actually get behind.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kirk Barnes

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 03:59 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

thereverendkirk@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Oregon State Parks is doing a fabulous job of trying to drive away every average Oregonians form visiting any State Park in Oregon. Virtually no Oregonian is going to pay 5 to "15" dollars for day use anywhere in the state, No one is going to enforce any of this, but the State Parks will suddenly need millions of dollars to install power pay gates to get there money (still without preforming any maintenance anywhere, because that would require State Park employees to actually do physical work)

The never ending maintenance reasoning is getting ridiculous. Oregon State Parks virtually never maintains anything, yet continuously wants to raise prices for maintenance. The Oregon Lottery has had record level years, yet most all money directed toward Oregon State Parks is squandered on ridiculous programs that do nothing for our actual State Parks, (but sure make non profits employees and for profit concessionary companies rich).

These Parks were built and are here for Oregonians (not out of state tourists or out of stat for profit concessionary companies to profit off of ), please stop driving us all away!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Brian B

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 05:56 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

pdx321@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I do not support an increase until a full review of all costs is performed. Where is all the existing money going? Anything that does not directly benefit all users should not be funded. Remove administrative bloat before increasing fees on citizens.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kim McCarrel

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 07:30 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

kim@nwhorsetrails.com

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

**Public comment:**

I'm fine with the proposed fee ranges. I think the increases are reasonable, and are necessary to enable State Parks to continue to provide the services and amenities that the public enjoys.

I would like to see OPRD get a bit more creative about providing ways for low-income people to enjoy our parks, whether camping or day-use.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Christian Rodriguez

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 07:32 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

c.rodriguez556@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I do not support an increase in fees for parking in Oregon State Parks for locals. This creates a barrier to access for everyone. I do support an increase to out of state visitors, however, and believe these rate increases should be charged to people who are not from here. These visitors should be the ones bearing the rate increases as they are the ones who clog our roads and parks with traffic. Keep Oregon State Parks accessible for Oregonians. Period.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Erik Halstead

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 07:48 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

sp\_redelectric@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

**NO!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Oregon State Parks belong to the people, not the top 1%. It's bad enough that so many of our parks are limited to just those rich enough to own an expensive luxury RV or a boat, when Oregon has declared housing and homelessness emergencies. But to now charge us to use the lands we already paid for with a variety of taxes and fees?**

**I understand there may be specific parks that due to extremely high usage, limited resources or special programs that warrant a reasonable use fee. But the vast majority of parks are simply areas of recreation. So many Oregonians are being priced out of other recreational activities (have you tried to go skiing?), and cities and counties are imposing ridiculously high fees to use local parks. AND collecting taxes too!**

**If State Parks decides to implement fees, two things will happen:**

- 1. Usage will drop. Dramatically. The loss of revenue won't be offset.**
- 2. I will ensure that State Parks is excluded from receiving any other revenue such as tax or lottery revenue. One you sleep with the "day use fee" devil, you marry it. No going back to getting bailouts from the taxpayers - you gave them the middle finger.**

**Remember a few years ago when there was discussion of selling off State Parks? Well, this will cement that decision. If State Parks are no longer public and belong to the people, there is no reason the State should own them. Sell them to developers and collect the property tax revenue.**

**Keep State Parks FREE, OPEN and ACCESSIBLE for all Oregonians.**

**(P.S. Every time the State of Oregon has a Kicker refund, every taxpaying Oregon resident should receive a free two night campground stay at the State Park of their choice.)**



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Heidi M

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 10:06 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dinahjane369@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

Absolutely NOT!! I camp A LOT with my family. We use state parks for a little over half of our trips. This rate increase would put state park camping out of our price range. As a life long Oregon resident my kids deserve to experience all the nature this state has to offer. This kind of rate increase is absolutely unreasonable especially at a time when we are paying more for literally everything else and very little wage increase to cover it!



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Carl Blomquist

**Date comment received:**

August 1, 2024 11:07 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

forestecologyone@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Oregon State Parks and Recreation lacks leadership and vision. Whenever I have participated in public comment forums and new park presentations, we all soon realize that we are all only a mere annoyance in the process and the “wheels of progress” will crush our futile pleas as you roll on to the set in stone conclusion, regardless of the good advice i have heard offered from resident taxpayers. For many decades I have argued for more accessibility, low cost, low impact camping and hiking availability allowing for less services in favor of a greater connection with nature. Oregon has now committed to the opposite path looking to provide full hookups for million dollar motorhomes and a general distain for “tent” campers. As an Oregon taxpayer, the single most important reason for paying taxes in this state is public access to outdoor activities and in particular, public lands. I propose more tent only campsites with single parking areas, single restroom, trail loop access, and no services other than garbage dumpster for \$10 per night (resident registration) with a 5 night stay limitation. Low cost, low maintenance, minimal services, shorter term stays, and much more connection to nature. Please reconsider your path towards making Oregon State Parks only about money and nothing about the experience or God help us all. I say NO to any increase in fees until at which time I believe that you are heading in the right direction for the future of ALL OREGONIANS. Thank you for your time and consideration and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Kory Thompson

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 08:02 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

willisk03@aol.com

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

**Public comment:**

Increasing camping fees for RVs would only push more campers to use private parks that have more amenities. It would also exclude families who can't afford higher rates and use camping as a means of vacation for themselves.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Jill Narozny

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 08:21 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jinarozn@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

Please do not increase fees as the outdoors needs to be accessible for all, not just those who can afford it.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Jason Weinstein

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 10:05 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jcweinsx@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

Oregon has fantastic state parks, but our Parks need some help. Some of the parks facilities are older and need investment to improve campsites and restrooms.

Oregon Parks needs to increase rates on a regular cadence to ensure it has sufficient funding to maintain the parks in optimal conditions. US inflation between 2009 to 2024 is around 46%. It is not realistic to expect parks to be maintained at the current amazing condition without regular increases in fees.

Parking fees must increase. Annual parking fees should be increased to be equivalent to 5 or 6 day use parking fees. High demand parks should have a higher daily parking fee during peak season. The Director should have the ability to designate parks that require a parking fee.

Campsite fees should increase. Out of State campers should be charged more than a 25% additional fee during peak season for high demand parks. - 50% is appropriate for out of state visitors in RV sites. Out of state fees should apply to tent sites.

Reservations for high demand campgrounds should be changed to give a priority window to Oregon residents before campsites are available to out of state residents. Non-Oregon residents should have a reservation window that opens 30 days after the window for Oregon Residents.

Oregon Parks do not need wifi to enhance the experience. WiFi will encourage highly compensated remote workers to spend more time in campsites and reduce the opportunities for the broader public to stay in the parks. Limited wifi at visitor centers in areas with limited 4g/5g service would be appropriate.

Oregon Parks are better than parks in our neighboring states. The fees should reflect the premium experience and superior facilities. Out of state users should pay a premium to use high demand parks in high demand season.

Oregon Parks are great, but we need to provide more funding to maintain the Parks. The Parks

experience depends on the efforts of the Parks workforce. Parks employees need to be compensated fairly at living wages based on the community they serve in.

Thank you for considering my comments





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Ross Tewksbury

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 10:30 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

rtewks@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am against raising the parking fees. It is already hard for low income people to even get to the parks and this would just create a financial barrier. This would apply to middle income people too. I remember the time when all parking was free at the parks. This has gone down hill over the years. So please do not raise the fees. I do not do camping and so I have no opinion on this part.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Sam Luedloff

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 11:12 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

samluedloff@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello,

I am a frequent user of Oregon State Parks, have a multi year parking pass, and appreciate all the work park rangers do to keep our parks clean and open for us all to enjoy.

Everyone is feeling the impact of inflation. I am sure park rangers are not being paid enough to live comfortably, and I want that job to be a desirable career path for people. However increasing parking fees and camping fees just strains the users of these parks more. Between every outdoor recreation location having a different parking pass and/or daily fees, it feels to me like I'm paying my taxes through parking passes. My car dash is covered with the NW Forest Pass, Oregon State Park Pass, National Park passes, BLM Passes (?)... It's getting absurd. Along with that, many of these locations are maintained by volunteer groups. Smith Rock for example has a yearly "Spring Thing" where climbers and park enjoyers clean up the park. SAR groups are often volunteer organizations. People are chipping in for free, and apparently the parks are still losing money.

I'd like to see where the funding for parks comes from. Why are you trying to make up the short comings in parking passes and not another area. I understand costs go up, but increasing parking passes just seems like a quick and easy solution for you and not a long term plan. Looks like Oregon Minimum wage falls between \$13 and \$16 an hour. What's the relationship between parking passes, camping fees, and minimum wage? Eventually people are going to be priced out of enjoying our most free resource as Americans.

I pay a lot in taxes, and I'd like to see that money go to parks before you raise fees. Can you present your funding in an easy to understand visual like a pie chart, and discuss why you can't use the other areas to make up the funds?

Thank you, Sam Luedloff



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Michael Throop

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 12:03 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mthroop55@hotmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

- There should not be a charge to visit at our Public State Parks and park in a parking lot (day use).
- Because there has not been an increase since 2009? Why was there an increase then?
- Hire better Park Managers to work within an existing budget.
- People who camp overnight should pay a nominal fee, except out of state users should pay double.
- Lottery funds should be used to support State Parks more than they do now.
- The State of Oregon charges more fees than they ever have. Shame on you. I believe someone in Salem is paid to think of how to come up with more Fees, we pay too many now.
- Seniors should have free parking permits for day use areas.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Andrew Plunkett

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 12:10 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

plunkett.andrew.w@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I fully support Oregon State Parks. Regarding the RV camping fee increase, a 37% increase is too much considering inflation and most utilities recent increases. About half of that amount would be more in line with most cost increases lately.

A 37% increase will put a lot of families on the sidelines for RV camping. I know the thought process of a lot of people is "if they can afford an RV, they can afford this". A lot of RV owners are families who saved up over a long time to provide that one piece of equipment for their family to use to enjoy the outdoors. Just because they own one doesn't mean they have a lot of money.

Please consider this when making your final decision.

Thank you for your time.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Stephanie Martin

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 12:53 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

srmomartin@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I would like to see out of state charged more for all facilities and fees. Not just RV sites. Especially Yurts and Cabins. But across the board would be good.

I also think the reservations should open early for Oregon residents so they get priority.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Adam Bjornstedt

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 01:28 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

Adam.bjornstedt@proton.me

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

**Public comment:**

While necessary at times, raising rates is not always the answer. For Oregonians accessing our own public lands and facilities, we already pay into maintaining and stewarding these resources through taxation. Is it possible that if existing budgets were managed more responsibly by the State, that rate increases to such treasured resources as these could be minimized or eliminated? I would think so. Perhaps a closer look at what current funds are being used for, and what truly are essential programs focused on the care and responsible stewardship of our natural resources, is in order prior to any consideration of rate or fee increases.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Robert Bjornstedt

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 01:57 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

bobandmary@centurytel.net

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

**Public comment:**

I am opposed to the park fee increases.  
Oregonians are the owners of the parks, not mere tenants.  
With the level of taxation in Oregon we are already paying enough.  
Suggest you look at all the nonsense spending in the state budget and move some to parks if it is really needed there, which I doubt.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Ann Summar

**Date comment received:**

August 2, 2024 04:45 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

apsummar@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hello. I'm work with many disabled veterans at a local clinic and would love to see a discount option for yurts or cabins for disabled veterans. While many may have RVs or campers, that type of camping is not an option for some; unfortunately, the cost for lodging is out of the price range for many. If you are considering extending that benefit to disabled veterans, I am confident it would be well utilized much as the sites for tents and RVs are appreciated as well. Thank you.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Rhiana Wegner

**Date comment received:**

August 3, 2024 08:37 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

Wegner.rhiana@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I wanted to state my agreement with others' comments. The online registration system needs serious reworking. It has felt impossible to get camp sites at locations and times we are 100% committed to honoring. I am always dumbfounded by the number of spots open when I stay somewhere, when online everything was booked up. I agree with others that cancellation fees should be applied to ensure folks honor their reservations and to prevent the practice of multi-location concurrent bookings. To further address the latter issue, it seems like the reservation system could also limit folks to 2 different reservation locations for the same time frame. Let's recoup some money through cancellation fees and encourage good citizenship at the same time. I agree that the majority of costs should be recouped through charges placed on out-of-state folks, to ensure Oregonians have priority access to our natural resources. Tent sites should stay at current prices to continue to make camping financially viable for everyone.

A few things to add - My partner has limited walking mobility related to a disability. He does not use a wheelchair, so we don't book accessible sites, wanting to ensure that space is available for others with greater or specific need. He and I are constantly frustrated by the lack of general accessibility at parks for folks with varying abilities. I focus here on reservations, and a few ways new funds could be spent to improve campground accessibility. 1) Include front and back photos of sites on the reservation page so it is easy to see how a camper can access all parts of the site, and provide descriptions of paved areas leading from or near the site to bathrooms. 2) Include seats in ALL showers. I would say at least 1, but inevitably that 1 gets taken by someone without an accessibility need. 3) Add more stalls with toilets to men's bathrooms - this will improve safety and accessibility for a wide range of folks. 4) If there are steps to a site, make that clear in the description and show photos of the steps in relation to the site. 5) Note which amenities are only accessible via stairs, show stairs in pictures. 6) Note which amenities require walking on dirt, loose rock, etc. on an incline. As an interabled couple we can devise many work-arounds to be in a space not truly made for folks with varying physical abilities, but we need to know ahead of time in the booking process to make the best decisions for us and our needs. Should we have to do that? No, public parks should be accessible to all. These are generally low cost fixes with meaningful immediate impacts. Others please feel free to expand!





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

James Stratton

**Date comment received:**

August 3, 2024 09:47 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

akstratto@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I was pleased to see that Oregon State Parks is expanding its surcharge for out-of-state visitors. I support this. I also support the rate increase. As a former State Park Director in Alaska (1995-2002) I completely understand the need to raise revenues to cover your expenses. I have one further suggestion that we employed at Alaska State Parks. Provide Oregon residents with an exclusive time to reserve campsites/yurts before it is opened to out-of-state residents. We did this with our public use cabins in Alaska and it was wildly popular with residents. It also ensures that residents can not only get into their own state parks but also don't have to compete with non-residents six months out for the very best campsites. You don't need to give residents more than a week or two jump on everyone else. If someone has an Oregon driver's license or ID, then they get to reserve early.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Ellwood Cushman

**Date comment received:**

August 3, 2024 11:38 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ehc200@cox.net

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

**Public comment:**

Regarding fees for out-of-state park users: If there are no Oregon taxpayer dollars subsidizing the state parks, and they are in fact paid for by user fees, then the justification to charge a higher rate to out-of-state users is much less strong than if the parks were subsidized from the general fund or otherwise by Oregon taxpayers. If the parks are not subsidized by general taxpayer dollars, then a slight increase in the fee charged to out-of-state residents makes sense in order to give OR residents some advantage, but it shouldn't be significant. If general taxpayer funds are used to subsidize parks, then the out-of-state user fees should be structured so they are paying an amount at least equal to what a typical Oregon resident would pay to subsidize the parks from the general fund or other tax source.

No-shows: There should be a penalty for "no-shows", because that reservation has prevented some other person from making a reservation for that spot. It should either be some fee that is significant enough to be a disincentive to make reservations that the person may or may not keep, but not unreasonable, or it could be the forfeiture of the first night's fee.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Jean Chung

**Date comment received:**

August 3, 2024 11:43 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

jeanhochung@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

I have been living in Oregon since 1987, and I love and admire Oregon State Parks.

I am a huge proponent for keeping Oregon State Parks affordable. Visiting state park campgrounds is already quite expensive as it is, considering staying in some AirBnb costs around \$60 or so in Portland. Also, raising State Park camping fee is likely to affect all other camp ground fees over time.

Raising fees for out-of-state visitors makes sense as they do not pay taxes and auto-registration fees here in Oregon.

I understand that maintaining and operating State Parks takes a lot of efforts, but please try to keep the cost from rising too much too fast.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

M J Basti

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 08:26 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

unicycledog2@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I recommend increasing fees for all out of state visitors using campsites.  
Please retain Oregon senior discount for day use and camping.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Tracy Jensen

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 10:14 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

tracytheta@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** Vancouver, WA

**Public comment:**

The fees for camping should not be higher for out of state residents. Many Washington residents live just across the river from many Oregon state parks. We share this region and it is our home too. The taxes that Oregon State residents pay are not usage taxes. WA residents have our own taxes for state and regional parks. None of which charge Oregon campers a higher fee. Many of which, like WA residents, live right across the river from our parks.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

KELLEY SHERMAN

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 10:37 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

kelleymsherman@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I don't like the idea of rate increases for parking or camping in our state parks. I understand that these fees help to maintain the parks, but it's also my understanding that these parks are supposed to be accessible to everyone. An increase in fees will make them less accessible to some people unless exceptions are made.

Maybe while considering fee increases, consideration of retirees, veterans, and disabled individuals being given free or reduced rate access should also be considered. To allow for continued access of the parks to these, often, lower income groups of people.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

David Derlacki

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 02:36 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

daved@pacifier.com

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

**Public comment:**

I have camped in OR state parks for 45 years and volunteered with OPRD for 10 years. I reluctantly understand the need for higher fees. I am in favor of higher fees for out of state users. When we use parks in other states, we are typically charged a non-resident surcharge.

I strongly urge you to consider that camping should be accessible to all Oregon residents. Between higher fees and crowded campgrounds, camping is becoming less affordable over the years. I'd like to see a modest discount for seniors and a low-income discount on tent sites.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Laura Kazlas

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 03:50 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

llkazlas@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I agree with extra charges for out of state visitors to camp. There is a huge population of RV campers in the USA, that sold their home to travel the country. They look for the cheapest places to camp. The rates Oregon charges for out of state campers should be similar to private campgrounds. We (Oregon residents) have to pay for the infrastructure (sewer, water, electric, etc.) If the rates are similar to a private campground, many out of state folks might choose the amenities offered at private campgrounds, thus boosting the local economy.

Plus, Oregon residents can not hardly get a camping spot unless you plan 6-12 months in advance. Is there a way Oregon residents could be given priority for camping spots??? Our taxes help pay for the state parks. Maybe have a certain amount of spots reserved for Oregon residents?

Many of Oregon's young families enjoy tent camping as an affordable way to have a vacation. They DESERVE to have affordable rates to enjoy our state's natural resources.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Elu Armstrong

**Date comment received:**

August 4, 2024 05:05 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

mr.eliarmstrongcssd@gmail.com

**Location (if provided):** La mesa, CA

**Public comment:**

It's best to make people pay who don't have a vote. I hope other states charge people who visit from Oregon more as well. Oregon sucks for doing this.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

John Hortsch

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 03:51 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

riverjohn@msn.com

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

**Public comment:**

I don't think proposed fee increases out of line. I've enjoyed the parks for years and found them to be great value. Yurts and cabins have been ridiculously cheap for a long time. For day use I'd like to see more enforcement of the rules. Hand out tickets to violators. Stiffer penalties for no shows. I think the reservation system is being abused. There seems to be lots of empty camp sites on busy weekends.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Michael McCauley

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 07:55 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

ryancreekfarm@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I support the new fee increases. Oregon State Parks need more staffing, maintenance, expansions and upgrades. My one concern is the "cheaters". I visit a fee park near my farm almost daily and regularly notice that a third, or more than half of all visitor regularly don't pay their daily entry fee or have an annual pass. If you really want the new fees to produce revenue, then you need to make sure park visitors pay their entry fees. Please take some of this expected new revenue to man the entry booths around the state. The booth at our nearby park is never manned. Even when there are big events occurring in the park. Hundreds or even thousands of visitors entering the park and no Ranger or Volunteer in the booth. That's a lot of revenue that State Parks miss out on. Please give Rangers the authority to write tickets and not just pass out notes when they catch a park visitor who did not pay the entry fee. Nice is nice and Oregon is a nice place, but people shouldn't be allowed to cheat. Please don't let those of us who are going to pay higher fees be the the suckers for those who cheat. All it takes is a little enforcement...



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Tracy Koenig

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 08:30 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

raiderthecat@yahoo.com

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

**Public comment:**

Hi,

I read your proposal and I found the price increase very reasonable. I really enjoy the parks and the park system. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Koenig  
Albany, OR



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Guy Johnson

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 11:37 AM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

guy.johnson@outlook.com

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

**Public comment:**

Federal Parks have the lifetime America the Beautiful pass for seniors. Campgrounds and other amenities are also discounted for seniors. Why can't Oregon implement a similar discount program and perhaps a lifetime parking pass for our beautiful state. California, Washington and even Idaho offer senior passes at discounted rates.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

varro clarke

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 12:51 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

vjamesclarke@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

If OPRD needs to increase revenue, I would prefer that it look into tapping into other sources. Understanding the constraints of state tax and spending laws, I accept this may be impossible. If rates must be increased, I would prefer that OPRD increase the fees for 12- or 24-month permits, more than the day use permits. Day use permits are slated for a 40% to 200% (\$2-\$10) increase. 12-month permits are slated for an increase of 33% to 200% (\$10-\$30), and 24-month permits are slated for an increase of 20% to 60% (\$10-\$30). The proportionally smaller fee increase of the most expensive permit makes this a regressive proposal that disproportionately increases the financial strain of those buying less expensive permits. If you must increase permit fees, so be it. But I would prefer that you place the bulk of financial burden on those capable of paying more for extended permits. I would be more supportive if the proposal increased the 12- and 24-month permits more, and increased day use permits less.





# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Theodore Wiesehan

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 01:57 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

theo.wiesehan@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Please do not increase fees for Oregon residents. Instead, we should increase parking fees and camping fees on non-residents to make up the needed revenue. We already pay for these parks through our taxes, and should be able to enjoy them without exorbitant fees. Double the parking and camping fees for visitors who are not Oregon residents.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Jonathan White

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 02:30 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

hesterw1929@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

I am in favor of increasing the surcharge for out-of-state campers, since many states do the same to Oregonians. In general, modest fee increases are okay, but the state should consider a senior pass similar to the recreation pass created by the federal government.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Brad Halleck

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 04:33 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

dirthawk@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

Why doesn't state offer a senior discount like the federal parks and campgrounds? They just keep increasing the fees and are pricing out those of us on retirement fixed incomes. Please consider a senior discount.



# Submit a public comment on a rule

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

**Commenter name (if provided):**

Eva Emerling

**Date comment received:**

August 5, 2024 07:32 PM

**Commenter email (if provided):**

Mija4285@gmail.com

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

**Public comment:**

The price has already gone up significantly over the past few years. It is cheaper to rent a hotel room than a yurt now. These are state parks. They should be affordable to for more people.