

AGENDA

Morrow County Parks Committee Meeting

-- Regular Meeting --

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Morrow County Public Works Office, Conference Room

365 West Highway 74

Lexington, Oregon 97839



1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Pledge of Allegiance	<i>Mike Gorman</i>
1:06 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Call Meeting to Order Welcome / Sign In / Introductions	<i>Mike Gorman</i>
1:11 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Review Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023	<i>All</i>
1:15 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Parks Committee Seats Committee Member Seats & Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations	<i>Kirsti Cason</i>
1:21 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	Parks Information & Requests Park user requests & reservations Oregon Recreational Immunity (SB1576) Camping Registration Fee Increase Proposal	<i>Kirsti Cason</i> <i>Greg Close</i>
1:26 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Youth Hunt Report 2023 Season	<i>Greg Close</i>
1:31 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.	Contracts and Agreements Park Host Agreements The Landing – Kitchen/Dining Facilities Oregon Department of Forestry Helipad Intergovernmental Agreement Logging, Fire Fuel Reduction (Grazing)	<i>Kirsti Cason</i> <i>Greg Close</i>
1:36 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Future Grant Funding Opportunities Winter/Spring 2024 – OPRD Local Government Summer/Fall 2024 – OPRD All-Terrain Vehicle Grant Program Summer/Fall 2024 – OPRD County Opportunity Grant Summer/Fall 2024 – OPRD Recreation Trails Program Grant	<i>Kirsti Cason</i>
1:41 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Anson Wright – Updates/Projects/Grants 2023 Year End Review 2024 Projects Issues/Concerns needing addressed	<i>Greg Close</i>
1:46 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.	Cutsforth Park – Updates/Projects/Grants 2023 Year End Review 2024 Projects Issues/Concerns needing addressed	<i>Greg Close</i>
1:56 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	OHV Park – Updates/Projects/Grants ATV Operations & Maintenance 2023 – 2025 (ATV23-03) ATV Operations & Maintenance Equipment (ATV24-02) 2023 Year End Review 2024 Projects Issues/Concerns needing addressed	<i>Greg Close</i>

2:01 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	Parks Scheduled Events - Events at Anson Wright, Cutsforth Park, and OHV Park	<i>Open Forum</i>
2:06 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Ideas/Suggestions - Seeking ideas and suggestions on what could make parks a better place. Amenities, development, buildings, events, etc.	<i>Open Forum</i>
2:16 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.	Public Comment - Area/Agency Activities, Projects, and other items not on Agenda	<i>Open Forum</i>
2:26 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Wrap-up - Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting September 2024	<i>Mike Gorman</i>

The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Kirsti Cason at 541-989-9500.

This is a public meeting. This agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but additional subjects may be considered as well. If you have any questions about items listed on the agenda, please contact Kirsti Cason at 541-989-9500.

Morrow County Parks Committee Zoom Meeting

Topic: Morrow County Parks Committee Meeting

Time: March 19, 2024 1:00PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 860 6155 5262

Passcode: 317174

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86061555262?pwd=1hKyzFQNpmcnoEcLNk1g7Zq4eB1gBd.1>

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,86061555262#,,,,*317174# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,86061555262#,,,,*317174# US

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/k19YTW1Xw>



MINUTES

Morrow County Parks Committee Minutes

*Tuesday, September 19, 2023 |1:30pm – 2:30pm| Meeting called to order by Mike Gorman
Location: Morrow-Grant County OHV Park, 71000 E. Morphine Ln., Heppner, Oregon 97836*

Meeting start time was delayed due to technical issues with zoom live feed.

In Attendance – Roll Call

In Person: Rose Kylo, ♦Jeff Wenholz, *Glenn Maret, *Dean Robinson, John Bowles, *Kim Cutsforth, Stephen Wreccics, ♦Roy Drago Jr., Landon Jones, *Geroge Shimer, William Messiclo, Robert Cooley, *Kirsti Cason, *Greg Close

Digital/Electronic Attendance: *Sheryl Bates, *Mike Gorman

*Denotes Morrow County Parks Committee Member ♦Denotes Morrow County Board of Commissioner

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Minutes Review

The minutes from March 07, 2023, were reviewed.

Motion to approve as submitted: Sheryll Bates

Seconded by: Dean Robinson

Approved: with no changes.

Parks Committee Seats

Kirsti C. – Information regarding the Morrow County Parks Committee (MCPC) seats that were currently vacant, appointed positions and those positions that there have been applications received for.

Coming due March 2024 will be Boardman Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) who currently has Lynn Prag listed as the representative. Morrow County Public Works Department representative who is represented by Greg Close, this position has been filed by the County Parks Manager in the past. Public Park User Group for Motorized Recreation and is currently represented by Mike Gorman.

In the March meeting the committee will review the Park User Group for Motorized Recreation that is open to the public, applications are available for anyone interested in this position. The Morrow County Public Works Department selects their representative and informs the MCPC who the representative is. BPRD will need to provide meeting minutes to MCPC for the formal appointment. Committee applications are available online, and with this agenda packet for anyone that is interested. Once reviewed and recommended by the MCPC the committee list goes to the Board of Commissioners for their review and final approval.

Parks Information & Requests

Kirsti C. – Funding assistance to help with revisions of the County comprehensive plan for the recreation element from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Local Government and County Opportunity Grant programs was researched and OPRD said that the programs were not set up to fund that type of work. They can however work and assist with a park master plan. Discussions with Tamra M. from the Planning Department indicated that it may not be necessary to update the comprehensive plan and believes that changes could be completed internally with some documentation and updates to the Parks Master Plan.

Will be applying for an upcoming Local Government grant from OPRD in hopes to replace siding and windows on the Cutsforth 4-H/Darcy Coil building.

Park users requests continue to have power upgrades as Cutsforth and Anson Wright still have several 30amp services and newer recreation vehicles (RV's) often use 70amp services. The other request is larger sites, with more space between sites. No other complaints or issues that aware of, if there are Greg may be able to provide more detail on that.

Youth Hunt Applications

Kirsti C. – There is a second season spike only youth elk hunt flyer included in the agenda packet and online. There is an application online or can request hard copy. The hunt is for Morrow and Grant County resident youth only, this is a way to give back to the county's residents in which the OHV park resides. Youth must complete the application and turn in by the deadline to the Morrow County Public Works Department. In the past there have been six (6) and ten (10) youth hunters permitted in the park. The past couple of years there has been six (6) or less as there were not enough applications to fill all the allowed amount. If you know of anyone that may be interested, please help spread the word as would like to see all available spots filled to promote hunting and outdoor recreation.

Question was raised as to how youth are selected?

Youth turn in an application, and they are reviewed to make sure that reside in Morrow or Grant County then try to fill with equal numbers from each county. If not enough to split equally fill the remaining with the other applicants.

Mike G. asked for Clarification regarding out of county youth that may have a connection via a relative such as grandparent in Morrow or Grant County to see if they could apply for the hunt.

Kirst C. – Explained that when the program (2nd Season Youth Elk Hunt) started it was decided that priority was to be given to those residing in the counties as a courtesy and to give back to the local communities for supporting the OHV Park.

Sheryl B. – Questioned when is the hunt and can applications be emailed? To try and help spread the word prior to hunt taking place.

Kirsti C. – Yes, can email the Applications. Applications are due October 9, 2024 for the verification and selection process, actual hunting season takes place November 11 – 19. Those that are successful applicants will be required to purchase Oregon hunting licenses, tags, and any other items necessary for hunting. The County only provides land in which the youth may hunt on in specified area, if have a successful hunt park personnel

help retrieve the animal and bring back from the field to the main campground area. Applications are also available on the County main web site and on the County Parks Events page.

Anson Wright Park – Updates/Projects/Grants

Greg C. – Liz Morris Camp host again this year and has helped with upkeep of the park and greeting park guests. Anson Wright is what I believe is a diamond in the rough. Signs at the park were repainted providing a fresh new look helping grab travelers’ attention as they pass by. No major projects scheduled at this time. The goal in the future is to enlarge the campsites.

Cutsforth Park – Updates/Projects/Grants

Greg C. – Electrical work with power upgrades as some boxes are just outdated and need to be replaced as they keep grounding out. Cabins have had heaters replaced, painted the interior, replaced mattresses, and added indoor solar lighting. Main gate has been upgraded to have a lock with a gate remote so those that have property on the back side of the park can still have access.

OHV Park – Updates/Projects/Grants

Greg C. Kathy Dill-Spears stepped up after Don Aschoff moved to Cutsforth to fill that vacancy. Ashley Bowling was brought on as an assistant to help Kathy and give her a break. Ashley was already at the park staying as spouse is part of the Oregon Department of Forestry Helicopter crew stationed at the park.

Overall things are going well this year. A Park Ranger full time employee was hired in August that has made a significant difference on the amount of work that is being completed and issues that are quickly resolved.

Group discussion with Greg replying as to what the job duties are for the Park Ranger position.

Oregon Department of Forestry Helicopter crew started using the Helipad in early June. The new asphalt pad is not holding up and has pitted and gouge marks that cause issues for landing. Will be pouring concrete over the Helipad to correct this issue.

Helipad was created for emergency use, however ODF has also been using it during peak fire season to help locate the equipment centrally in area for fire response. There is still room available at the park should LifeFlight be necessary.

The Landing hosted by Off Road Trails and Treats Kellie French and Linda Tagg their contract will be up at the end of the 2023 camping season. Current operators are unsure if want to continue or not in future. Will put out a Request for Qualifications this fall or spring. Discussions regarding having at the park and user comments when it is open or closed.

Logging and Thinning at all parks will be taking place. Mainly thinning for safety. Some of the larger logs will be saved and stored at the park for turning into lumber for use at the park. While some others will be utilized for firewood that is sold to campers at all the parks.

Group discussion regarding who is surveying and marking the trees and other aspects of where and how materials harvested would be utilized. Greg explained that he has been working with Brian Spivey from the Heppner Ranger District to determine what is a safety hazard and is also putting together a plan for harvesting for sale to lumber mill.

Public Comment

Greg C. – Asked the question, is there anything anyone would like to see at the parks as it helps provide direction.

Kirsti C. – A lot of requests for events in the fall.

Discussions to have fishing derby in the fall in addition to one in the spring as seems to be well attended.

Mike G. – What is the park usage this year, is it average below?

Greg C. – unsure but appears to be at least average or above. Offered an explanation that it is not what it was during COVID as park usage skyrocketed during that time once opened as everyone seemed to want to get out and the parks were one of the few places that people could get out and enjoy, so things are down from that but still doing well.

Mike G. – commented that sees many travel trailers and ATVs go by his property so was guessing that would at least be average.

Roy D. Jr. – Question all the amenities and items are available at all the different parks. Is fuel available?

No fuel is not available due to land use regulations thus the reason attempting to get it updated, food at landing, parts room was here once but did not work out. Would like to see a small convenience store with fuel, or even a vending machine. Have vending machines but are going to be utilized for laundry mat area once completed. Also do not want to tread on The landing contractor that also sells small items for now it is a goal to eventually have a small store.

Jeff W. - questioned if there are any plans to install Electrical Vehicle Charging station/s?

Not at this time, Greg replied. Kim Cutsforth commented that you can get an adapter for the RV powered sites that work. Kirsti explained only for the 50-70amp sites as the 30amp sites wouldn't accommodate the adapters.

George Shimer wondered if Cycle Oregon utilized any of the parks in the past or plan in future. Kirsti explained that looked at using the parks but because of the location on the route it was determined that would be used as a rest stop or safety check point. Boardman Parks installed fish cleaning stations, discussions regarding cost and how they work.

Glen M. – explained that work for Pickle ball/basketball courts are moving forward. As well as Phase II talking about another set of docks and more playground equipment. Tree issues that have fallen and clean-up of trees in progress.

Kim C. – Willow Creek Parks reservoir low water levels but still seeing boaters, and the dock needs to be replaced next year. An overlay of asphalt at the RV Park due to asphalt cracking and failing is likely going out to bid in spring. Diane and Gary Lent are hosting and performing maintenance as Vern Keithly retired from doing maintenance at the park. The pool had a good season. Upgraded heater at the pool, repaired roof and looking at resurfacing the pool and spa.

Kirsti C. – mentioned to Kim to have Willow Creek Parks look into the OPRD Local Government Grant funding opportunities for the pool and the bathhouse/restroom repairs as may be an option as seen a couple in the past year approved assist with projects.

Kim C. - Mini Golf Course is back on track Silver Creek, Howard Beth Bryant Foundation and the Heppner Junior/Senior High School TSA program are working together to complete the 18-hole course that will have a clover in the middle. The Mini Golf course will be located where the old pool was that is currently a rock garden park.

Next Meeting and Wrap-up

March 19, 2023 | Time: 1:00p.m. | Morrow County Public Works, Conference Room, Lexington, Oregon 97839

Morrow County OHV Park Site Tour and Lunch at The Landing is available to those that wish to participate.

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:08 a.m. and was passed unanimously.

Minutes Submitted by: Kirsti Cason
Morrow County Public Works Assistant

Reviewed on: _____

Motion to approve made by: _____

Motion Seconded by: _____

Neigh's: _____

Date Approved: _____

Corrections if any to be noted here:

MORROW COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE

Revised By-Laws Article III MEMBERSHIP - signed and dated May 10, 2017

COMMITTEE INFORMATION as of 03.07.2023

# of seats	Committee Seats	Name	Info	Term Beg	Term end
1	Boardman Park District appointed by the Boardman Park District	<i>Scott Green, Rebecca Hall (moved)</i> Lynn Prag (Interm Dist. Mgr)	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2018 Mar-2021	Mar-2021 Mar-2024
1	Irrigon Park District appointed by the Irrigon Park District	<i>Glenn Maret (2 - 3 yr. term)</i> Glenn Maret	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2018 Mar-2023	Mar-2023 Mar-2026
1	Willow Creek Park District appointed by Willow Creek Park District Board	<i>Kim Cutsforth</i> Kim Cutsforth	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2019 Mar-2022	Mar-2022 Mar-2025
1	Morrow County Public Works Department an employee of MCPW	<i>Greg Close (2 - 3yr. Term)</i> Greg Close	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2018 Mar-2021	Mar-2021 Mar-2024
1	Umatilla National Forest a representative from Heppner Ranger District	<i>Brandon Houck (moved), Doug McKay</i> [REDACTED]	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2020 Mar-2023	Mar-2023 Mar-2026
1	Park User Group a person to represent Equestrian	<i>Dean Robinson (2 - 3 yr. term)</i> Dean Robinson	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2019 Mar-2022	Mar-2022 Mar-2025
1	Park User Group a person to represent Motorized Recreation	<i>Mike Gorman (2 - 3yr. Term)</i> Mike Gorman (Chair.)	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2018 Mar-2021	Mar-2021 Mar-2024
1	Park User Group a person to represent Hiking/Biking	<i>Sheryll Bates (2 - 3 yr. Term)</i> Sheryll Bates	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2018 Mar-2023	Mar-2020 Mar-2026
1	Park User Group a person to represent Hunting/Camping	<i>Thomas Wolff (Chair.)</i> Kirsti Cason	Past Rep. Current	Mar-2019 Mar-2022	Mar-2022 Mar-2025

Article III MEMBERSHIP; Section 3 Terms of office

Terms of office: all individuals of the Committee, shall be appointed to three(3) year terms. As designated by the appointing authority, individuals of the initial Committee, including the chair person and the vice chair shall serve terms in alternating one (1 year).

Terms that will expire or have no appointed representative are highlighted.

Committee Seats are a Three Year Term.

If seat is an appointed position - District or Department will need to send letter and meeting minutes if applicable indicating who the selected representative will be for the term.

If User Group - Individual will need to submit a committee member application.

Morrow County Public Works Department

365 W. Highway 74
P.O. Box 428
Lexington, OR. 97839
Phone: (541) 989-9500

Eric Imes Greg Close
Director Parks Op. Manager

Sandi Pointer Kirsti Cason
Management Asst. Administrative Asst.



Application for Morrow County Parks Committee

Application will remain active for six months after it is received.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone:
Work: _____
Cell: _____
Home: _____

NOTE: *Information on this page is considered public record and may be available up on request.*

Request to represent Park User Group: _____

Please circle position/s interested in filling:

- 1. Park User Group - Equestrian
- 2. Park User Group - Motorized Recreation
- 4. Park User Group - Hiking/Biking
- 5. Park User Group - Hunting/Camping

Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Availability: _____
day, evenings or both?

Briefly state why you would like to serve on the Morrow County Parks Committee

Please list qualifications and skills you have which you believe would be valuable if you are appointed to this position.

Please list personal and/or professional interest relevant to this committee and how you would use those skills to help develop, evaluate and plan during meetings:

Parks funds are funds received from grant monies and revenues generated from the parks; and in some cases funds may only be allocated to specific things that set prioritization for use of funds to determine work schedules and funding allocations: Please explain your experience in budgeting, scheduling and any experience or knowledge of dedicated funding experience.

Morrow County Public Works Department

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P.O. Box 428
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Eric Imes Greg Close
Director Parks Op. Manager

Sandi Pointer Kirsti Cason
Management Asst. Administrative Asst.



Application for Morrow County Parks Committee

Application will remain active for six months after it is received.

Date: 9/22/23

Name: Mike Gorman

Physical Address: 53784 Hwy 74 Heppner, OR 97836

Mailing Address: Same

E-mail Address: mgorman@co.morrow.or.us

Telephone: Work: 541-676-5607

Cell: _____

Home: _____

NOTE: *Information on this page is considered public record and may be available up on request.*

Request to represent Park User Group: 2. Motorized Recreation

Please circle position/s interested in filling:

- 1. Park User Group - Equestrian
- 2. Park User Group - Motorized Recreation
- 4. Park User Group - Hiking/Biking
- 5. Park User Group - Hunting/Camping

Name: Mike Gorman

Occupation: Morrow County Assessor/Tax Collector

Availability: Anytime
day, evenings or both?

Briefly state why you would like to serve on the Morrow County Parks Committee
I wish to continue to be a member of the parks committee representing motorized use.

Please list qualifications and skills you have which you believe would be valuable if you are appointed to this position.
Have served for several years. Have been secretary of the 4-Corners Snowmobile Club for over 20 years.

Please list personal and/or professional interest relevant to this committee and how you would use those skills to help develop, evaluate and plan during meetings:
As assessor, I can see the benefit that County Parks and outdoor recreation brings to the County.

Parks funds are funds received from grant monies and revenues generated from the parks; and in some cases funds may only be allocated to specific things that set prioritization for use of funds to determine work schedules and funding allocations: Please explain your experience in budgeting, scheduling and any experience or knowledge of dedicated funding experience.
I budget for my own County department. I review taxing district budgets annually.

HANDS ON EVALUATIONS

One at a time or in a group each are evaluated for Oregon's Hands-On Requirement



	Class I	Class III	Class IV	Monthly Totals
May 07	0	3	0	
May 09	3	1	0	
May 29	11	4	0	22
Jun 12	4	0	0	
Jun 17	3	0	0	
Jun 18	8	0	0	
Jun 26	3	2	0	20
Jul 03	0	2	0	
Jul 04	0	2	0	
Jul 13	0	1	0	
Jul 17	1	0	0	
Jul 27	1	0	0	
Jul 31	0	3	0	10
Aug 20	1	0	0	
Aug 21	0	2	0	3
Sep 03	0	1	0	
Sep 04	2	2	0	
Sep 25	3	2	0	10
Oct 08	2	0	0	2

Total 2021 67

	Class I	Class III	Class IV	Monthly Totals
May 20	0	6	0	
May 28	1	0	0	
Jun 04	1	0	0	
Jun 09	1	0	0	
Jun 11	1	1	0	
Jun 16	3	1	0	
Jun 17	2	0	0	
Jun 18	1	8	0	
Jun 19	2	0	0	28
Jun 22	0	2	0	
Jun 29	1	2	0	
Jul 01	1	0	0	
Jul 06	3	0	0	9
Jul 17	1	1	0	
Jul 23	2	0	0	
Jul 30	1	1	0	
Aug 06	1	2	0	
Aug 07	0	3	0	
Aug 27	1	0	0	13
Aug 31	1	0	0	
Sep 03	0	1	0	2
Sep 10	1	0	0	
Sep 17	2	0	0	
Sep 24	0	2	0	5
Oct 15	1	0	0	1

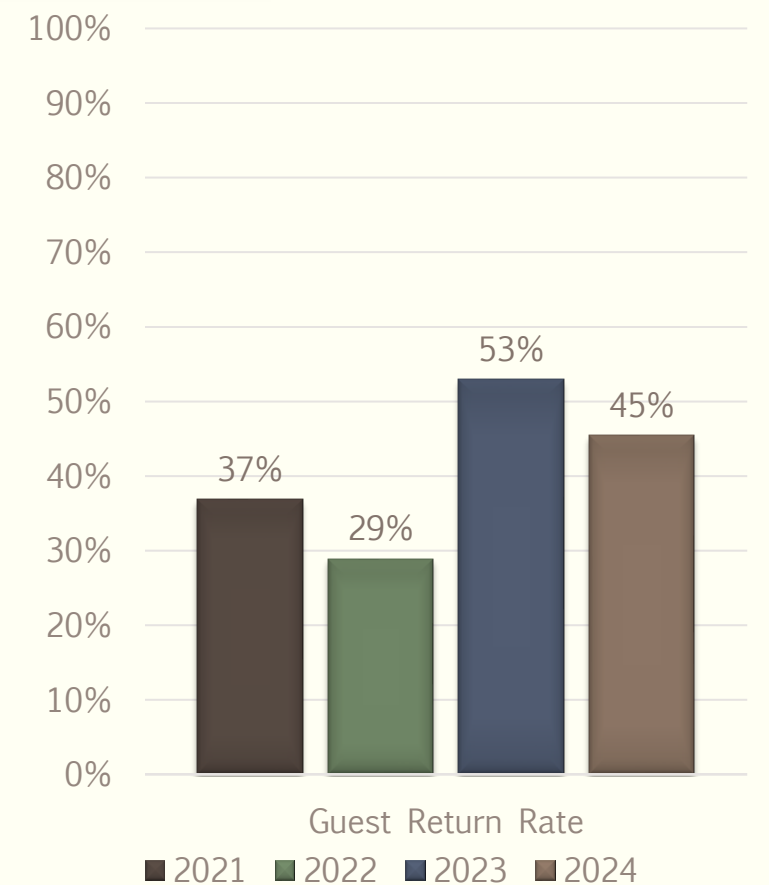
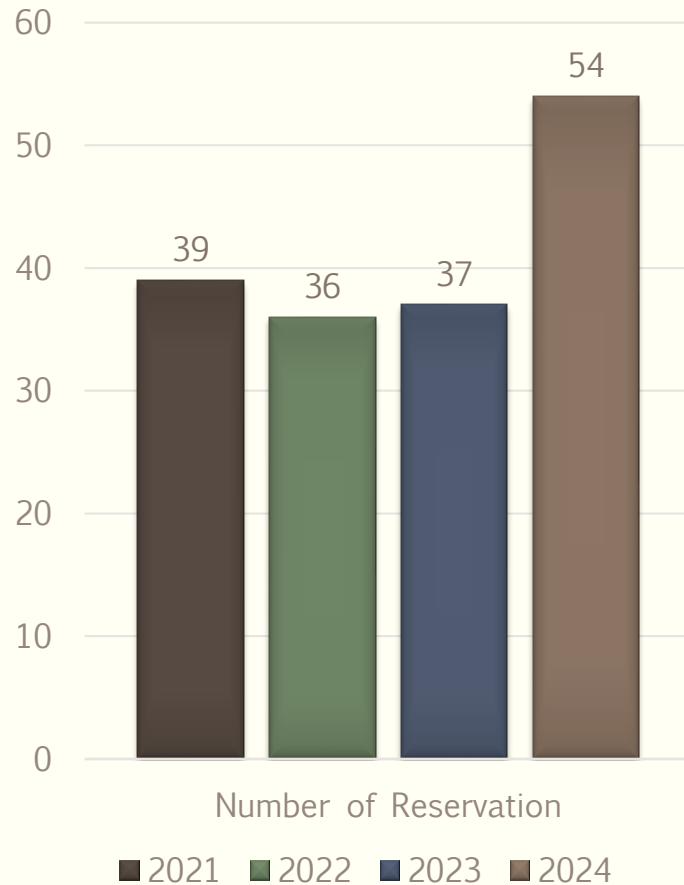
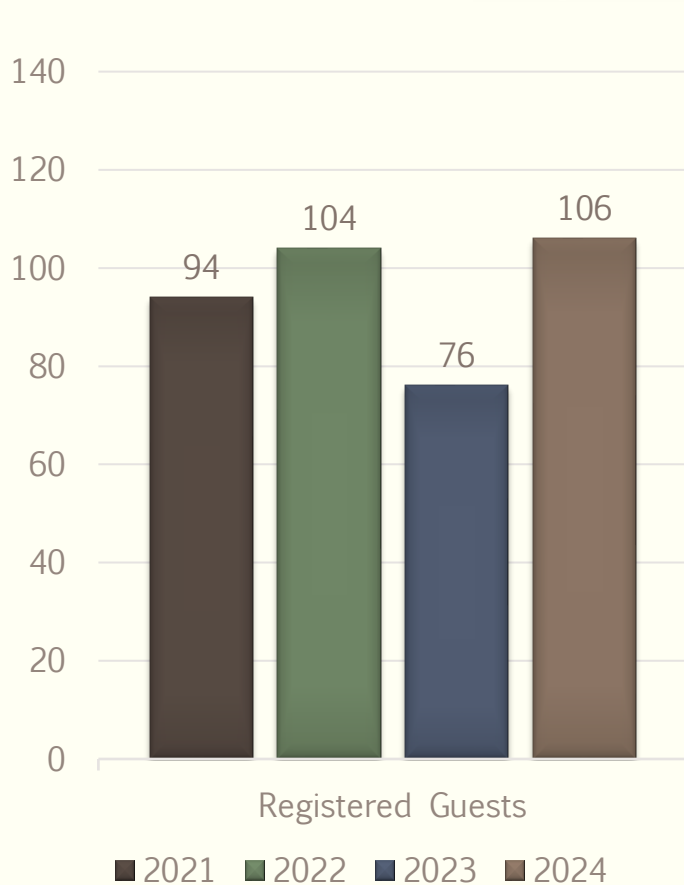
Total 2022 58

	Class I	Class III	Class IV	Monthly Totals
May 27	6	7	0	
May 29	1	0	0	14
June 10	0	2	0	
June 24	1	0	0	3
July 02	0	1	0	
July 08	0	1	0	2
Aug 12	0	1	0	
Aug 19	1	3	0	5

Total 2023 24

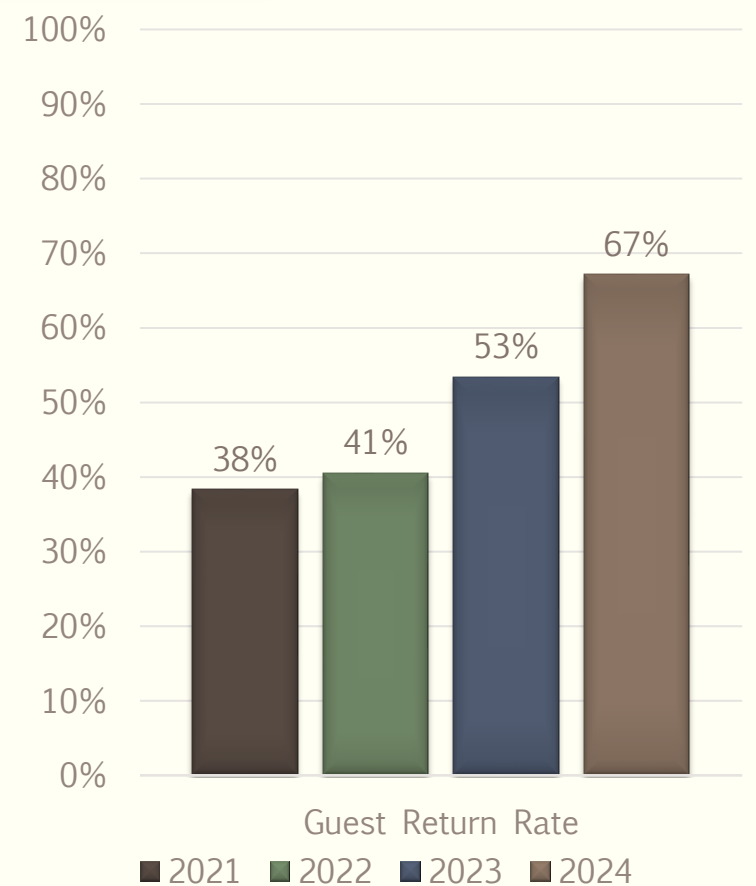
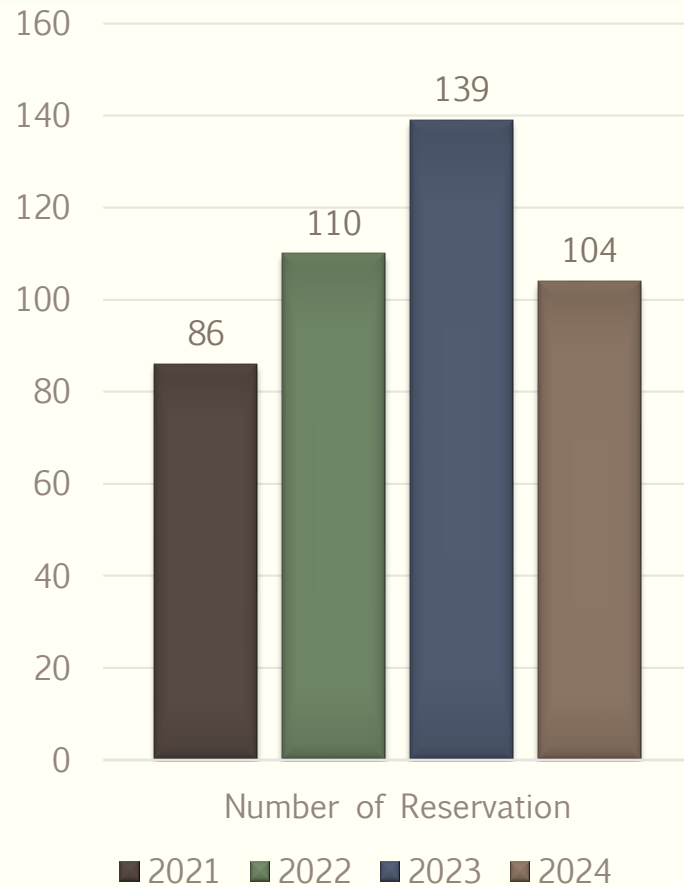
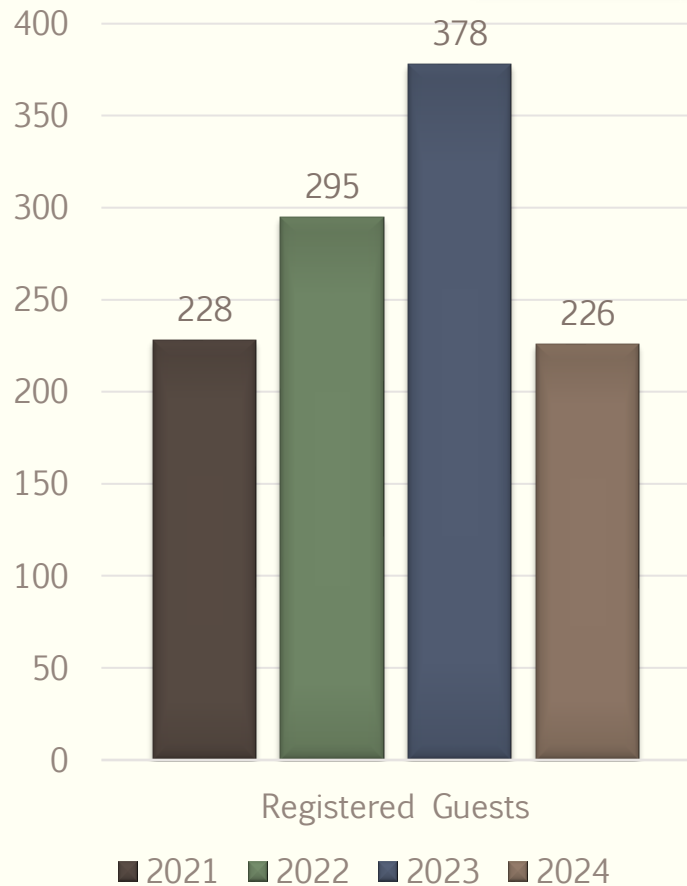
ANSON WRIGHT PARK CAMPING

Numbers are registered guests only and does not reflect actual users



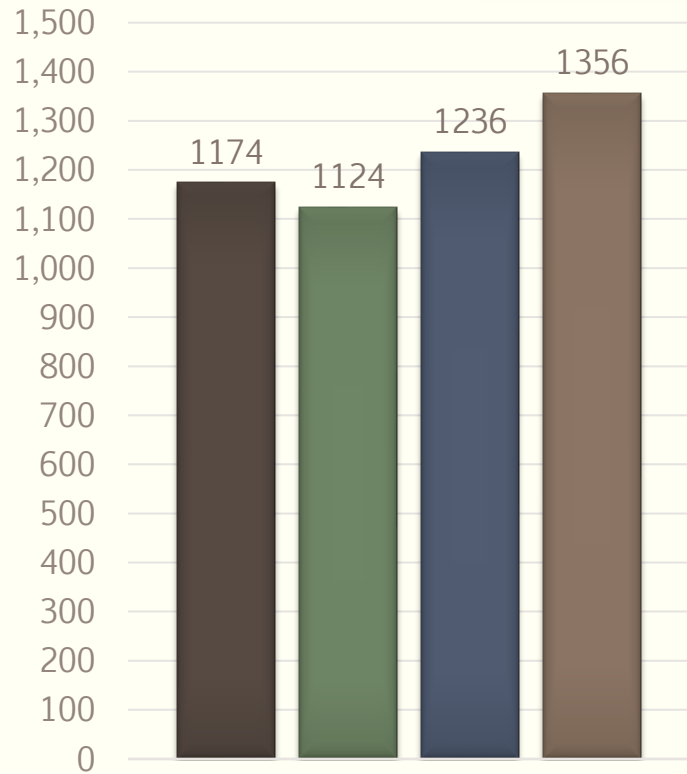
CUTSFORTH PARK CAMPING

Numbers are registered guests only and does not reflect actual users



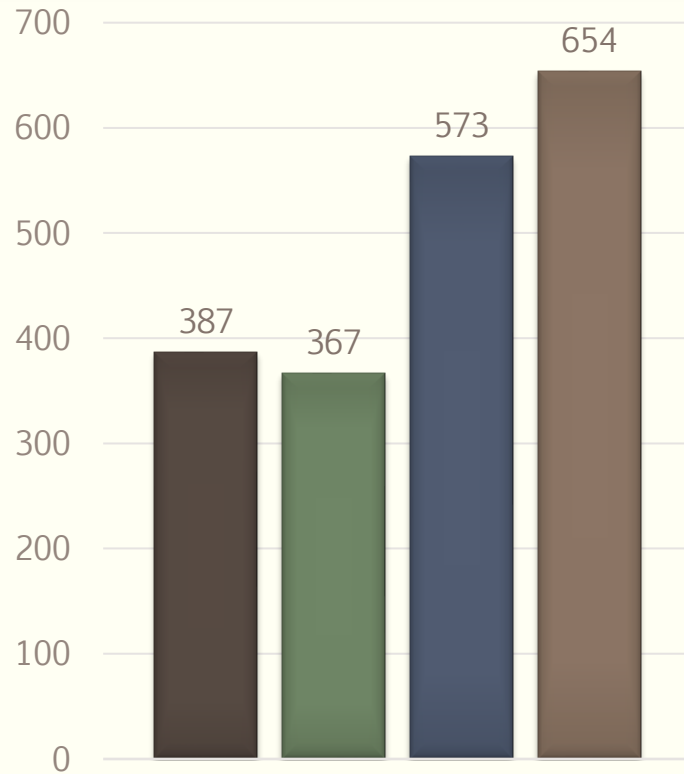
OHV PARK CAMPING

Numbers are registered guests only and does not reflect actual users



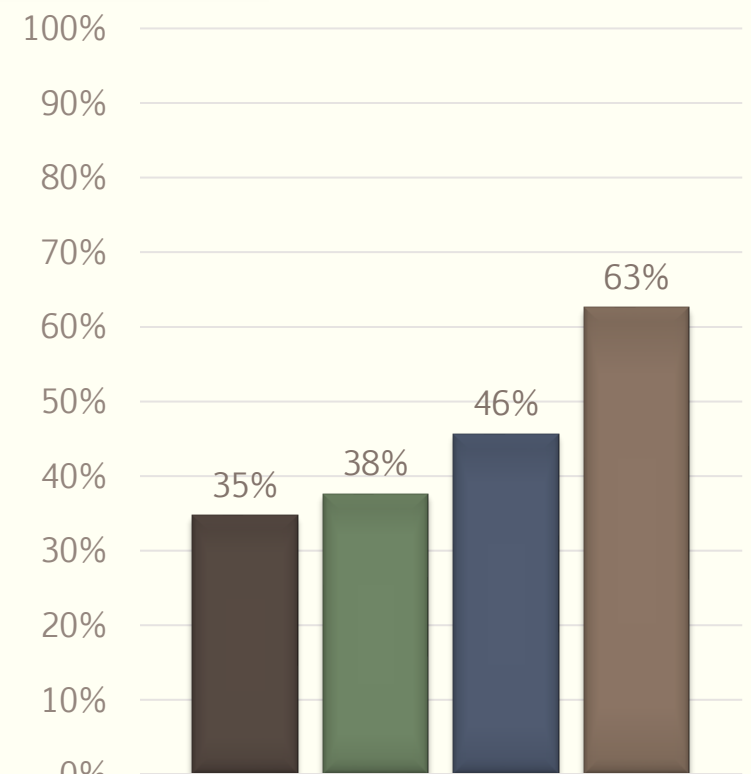
Registered Guests

■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



Number of Reservation

■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



Guest Return Rate

■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024

As trails around the state close for fear of lawsuits, lawmakers aim to change Oregon’s ‘recreational immunity’ law



By [Gemma DiCarlo](#) (OPB)
Feb. 27, 2024 6 a.m.



The cliffs at Yaquina Head, near Newport, Oregon, on March 16, 2023. A 2019 lawsuit that originated in Newport has called Oregon's recreational immunity law into question, causing cities up and down the coast to close trails for fear of liability.

Jule Gilfillan / OPB

The Oregon Public Use of Land Act [protects](#) local governments from lawsuits if someone is injured while recreating on public land. But a 2019 lawsuit threw the “recreational immunity”

law into question when a judge [sided](#) with a Newport woman who sued the city after slipping on a wet footbridge.

Since walking, running and bicycling aren't explicitly [included](#) in the recreational activities protected by the law, cities and counties across the state have closed trails and bike paths to avoid liability. [Senate Bill 1576-3](#) would fill the gaps in the law's language to keep public spaces open.

Rep. David Gomberg, a Democratic state lawmaker whose district covers Lincoln County and parts of western Lane and Benton County, joins us with more details on the bill and what it could mean for Oregon's public lands.

Note: The following transcript was created by a computer and edited by a volunteer.

Dave Miller: *This is Think Out Loud on OPB. I'm Dave Miller. In 2019, a woman in Newport broke her leg after slipping on a trail bridge. That led to a lawsuit that slowly made its way through the courts. In July, the Oregon Court of Appeals released a ruling in the case that sent shockwaves throughout the state. Cities and counties say that it increased their legal liability, forcing them to close walking trails and bike paths. Lawmakers have jumped into action in response. They say that Senate Bill 1576 would fill in some newly created gaps in state law and make it so the public still has access to public spaces. David Gomberg is a Democratic state representative from Lincoln County and parts of Lane and Benton Counties. He joins us now. Welcome back to the show.*

David Gomberg: Well, very pleased to be back with you and all of your listeners. And thanks for your interest in this important subject.

Miller: *The issue at the heart of this is a phrase that I hadn't heard of I don't think, and probably many of our listeners haven't as well: recreational immunity. What is this?*

Gomberg: Well, Oregonians love their open spaces. They love the outdoors. And in order to protect access to our beaches, to our hiking trails, to our biking paths, Oregon adopted a statute that says that if you should be injured using one of these open spaces, you can't sue the property owner if you've had an accident. And that's intended to make sure that we keep these spaces open and available to Oregonians. And that's called recreational immunity.

Miller: *Is the basic idea that a city or county just doesn't have the money to make these places so safe? Or maybe, in some cases, it's physically impossible to make them 100% safe. But they don't have the ability to make them so safe that no one will ever get injured, and they don't have the money to defend themselves and to pay millions of dollars in lawsuits if people do get injured. Is it that simple that that's where this immunity comes from?*

Gomberg: Well, of course we want our trails, our beach accesses, our biking paths to be safe. We all want that. But if somebody should be injured, there is a huge liability in question, and that requires our counties, our cities, and private landowners to start making decisions about whether they're going to make these spaces available. Imagine how many beach access points there are

along 300 miles of oceanfront here in Oregon. And can we monitor and protect and safeguard all of them?

Well, this court case came down, and maybe we should talk a little bit about the case. The decision was that a woman was going out to walk her dog and was heading toward the beach and had this unfortunate accident on a bridge on her way to the beach. And the courts have now suggested that maybe she wasn't recreating on her way to the beach, that maybe recreation began when she arrived at the beach. That's what really threw the shockwaves through our entire outdoor community because now the suggestion is that every one of these situations needs to be adjudicated, needs to go to trial to find out whether a person was actually recreating when they had their accident. That's a big deal.

Miller: And before the key point here, I should just take one step back. A trial court, first, did find that this woman who had the broken leg, could not bring suit because of the recreational immunity that covered the situation. And then the Appeals Court in July disagreed saying, "No, this can go forward." And the Oregon Supreme Court did not choose to take this up. So the ruling from the Appeals Court stands. How did insurance carriers, the biggest ones in the state that offer insurance to a lot of cities and counties, interpret this ruling?

Gomberg: Well, they wrote to cities and counties and said, "We encourage you to start closing your trails." And a lot of them did. According to the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, more than 20 trails have been closed to the public since this ruling came out. And the insurance carrier is saying that you're open to liability. But even when that liability is not assured, we've still got the court costs to deal with. So rather than just simply dismissing a case outright, it's going to have to go to trial to find out whether there was any recreation involved.

Miller: I want to read a statement from the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association. We asked if they wanted to come on the show. They declined to make someone available for the interview, but they did give us this statement:

"Recreational immunity further reduces the financial incentive for cities, counties and the state to keep our families and communities safe. They will now have no responsibility to maintain safe trails, bike lanes, and parks. This ultimately benefits insurance companies who don't want to pay claims. For example, children harmed by poorly maintained playground equipment or bike riders injured on hazardous pathways will now have no way to be compensated for their medical bills or injuries due to shoddy maintenance or neglect. This bill is just another example of government shirking its duty to its citizens. Oregonians deserve better."

I'd like to give you a chance to respond to some of these specific points here. For example, that there will be no way for people to hold, say, a city accountable if a child is harmed by poorly maintained playground equipment?

Gomberg: Well, you know, it's interesting that my friends, the trial lawyers, submitted this statement to you when earlier today we had a hearing on this piece of legislation and they did not appear. But that being said, I think that cities do have a responsibility. The question here is whether they have legal liability. And that's a different question. Cities have a responsibility to

maintain playground equipment and bridges and hiking paths and trails. But legal liability? That creates a scenario where they have to start choosing which facilities to better maintain to that higher level of safety. And they're going to start closing down the ones that they can't maintain to that higher standard.

Miller: How do you enforce or get any city or county to live up to its responsibility without the threat of a lawsuit, without the legal liability? I mean, is it just a kind of honor system?

Gomberg: Well, honor is a good thing. But, you know, at the end of the day, we have these other things called elections. And we hold our city and county leadership accountable at elections for the decisions they make. I think that's the standard we're looking at in this case is that we expect cities and counties to do their jobs. But we're not holding them to that higher standard where they can be sued and put our trails and beach access off limits if they don't.

Miller: The trial lawyers have also said that cities are overreacting; that yes, insurance companies gave them this advice but they said the Appeals Court simply sent this back to the trial court and a jury could very well find for the city. What do you say to that? That this is putting the cart before the horse and let's see how this case works out and it may be that nothing really effectively has changed?

Gomberg: Well, there's that potential, but the message here is that each one of these different cases needs to go to court to decide whether it can move forward, rather than being dismissed outright before the expense of that trial. And my understanding is that since the case in Newport, there have been several different cases filed on similar sets of facts that are moving their way through the courts now.

Miller: I want to go back to what you were saying earlier about elections as the ultimate version of accountability in our system. Let's say that someone didn't slip on a footbridge, but that at some point in the future, there's a bridge on a trail collapses and someone falls down and gets injured, falling into the stream. Would you say that that person shouldn't have a right to sue the county that maintained that bridge? But their recourse is to vote out members of the county commission in two years?

Gomberg: Well, let's start with this, Dave. I'm a legislator but I'm not an attorney. But that being said, my understanding is that there's a difference between ordinary negligence and gross negligence. And should a bridge be maintained in such shoddy condition that it collapses, there's a whole different legal standard that applies. And the recreational immunity is the standard we're using for ordinary negligence, not gross negligence. Now again, that's my understanding. And I say that from a layman's point of view.

Miller: Just finally, my understanding is that this bill in this short session, there are only a few weeks left in it, that you and others have seen it as a kind of stop-gap. I mean, if I understand it correctly, it is adding words like "hiking" and "walking," or "biking" to be included as recreation, to be under the definition specifically of recreation. What might you push for in a future session? I mean, what do you see as the principles of a fuller solution?

Gomberg: Well, you're absolutely correct. This measure that's working its way through the legislature, Bill 1576, is a stop gap measure. It basically reinstates recreational immunity through July of 2025. Why July of 2025? Because that's when the next long legislative session ends. And what it's doing is giving us time to really dive a little deeper and address the important question that you've raised today about how we protect public safety as well as public access to these really very important open spaces. We're going to take the time to dive deeper to come back with the answers and pass legislation in 2025 for a longer term fix.

Miller: David Gomberg, thanks very much.

Gomberg: Pleasure.

Miller: David Gomberg is a Democratic State Representative from Lincoln County and parts of Lane and Benton Counties.

Contact “Think Out Loud®”

If you'd like to comment on any of the topics in this show or suggest a topic of your own, please get in touch with us on [Facebook](#), send an email to thinkoutloud@opb.org, or you can leave a voicemail for us at 503-293-1983. The call-in phone number during the noon hour is 888-665-5865.



Resident

Non-resident
Effective Jan 1, 2022













MIN

MAX

MIN

MAX

Campsites

	<p>Full / "Standard Full"</p>	<p>Sewer, electricity, water at site   </p>	\$26	\$38	\$33	\$47
	<p>Electric / "Standard"</p>	<p>Electricity, water at site  </p>	\$24	\$35	\$30	\$44
	<p>Tent</p>	<p>Water at site or nearby </p>	\$17	\$24	Same as resident	
	<p>Primitive / Walk To</p>	<p>Water nearby</p>	\$0	\$11	Same as resident	
	<p>Hiker / Biker</p>	<p>Walk-in, bicycle, boat-in, or bivouac only (no vehicles) </p>	\$7	\$8	Same as resident	

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Cabins and Lodging
[Pet-friendly](#) [Accessible lodging](#)

	Resident		Non-resident	
	Effective Jan 1, 2022			
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX

	Yurts	\$43	\$54	Same as resident
	Pet-friendly Yurts	\$53	\$64	Same as resident
	Deluxe Yurts	\$82	\$82	Same as resident
	Pet-friendly Deluxe Yurts	\$92	\$92	Same as resident
	Totem Cabins	\$26	\$26	Same as resident
	Rustic Cabins	\$43	\$52	Same as resident
	Pet-friendly Rustic Cabins	\$53	\$62	Same as resident
	Deluxe Cabins	\$89	\$98	Same as resident
	Pet-friendly Deluxe Cabins	\$99	\$108	Same as resident
	Mini Rustic Cabin at Detroit Lake	\$43	\$43	Same as resident
	Pet-friendly Mini Rustic Cabins at Detroit Lake	\$53	\$53	Same as resident
	Tepees at Clyde Holliday	\$46	\$46	Same as resident



Groups
Accessible group sites

Resident

Non-resident
Effective Jan 1, 2022

MIN MAX MIN MAX



Group Tent Camp

\$71 \$97 Same as resident

Rate per person after 25 people \$3 \$3 Same as resident

Group RV Camp

\$102 \$122 \$127 \$152

Rate per RV unit after 10 \$10 \$11 Same as resident

Horses



Horse Campsite

\$17 \$36 \$41 \$46



Group Horse Camp

\$54 \$58 Same as resident

Special Parking



Boat Slip / Mooring

\$10 \$10 Same as resident



Extra Vehicle

Payable on site - check ahead for availability \$7 \$7 Same as resident

CAMP HOST COMPARISON February 2024

Anson Wright Park Host:

[Service Contract](#)

\$40.00 per day (\$1,200 – 30 day mo.)
\$686 month Full Hook-up campsite Retail value (\$22.87 day 30 day mo.)
\$50.00 month Propane (varies)
\$1,936 Estimated value per month

Cutsforth Park Host:

[Service Contract](#)

\$50.00 per day (\$1,500 – 30 day mo.)
\$686 month Full Hook-up campsite Retail value (\$22.87 day 30 day mo.)
\$50.00 month Propane (varies)
\$2,236 Estimated per month

OHV Park Host:

[Service Contract](#)

\$65.00 per day (\$1,950 – 30 day mo.)
\$686 month Full Hook-up campsite Retail value (\$22.87 day 30 day mo.)
\$50.00 month Propane (varies)
\$2,686 Estimated per month

OHV Park Host Asst.:

[Service Contract](#)

\$40.00 per day (\$400 – 10 day mo.)
\$0 month* Full Hook-up campsite Retail value (\$22.87 day 30 day mo.)
\$0 month* Propane (varies)
\$400.00 Estimated per month
*\$0 as Host Asst. is usually a spouse or significant other of host

Willow Creek RV:

[Unknown](#)

\$50.00 per day (\$1,500 – 30 day mo.)
\$780.00 month Full Hook-up campsite Retail value (\$26.00 day 30 day mo.)
\$830.00 Estimated per month

Umatilla County (Harris Park):

[Volunteer Service Agreement](#)

\$75.00 per week (\$300.00 per mo./4 weeks)
Campsite included with utilities
\$300.00 Estimated per month

USFS (Bull Prairie):

[Volunteer Service Agreement](#)

\$30.25 per day (food) (\$907.50 – 30 day mo.)
Unknown rate for site but campsite also included
\$0.58 per mile for campground maint., resupply nearest town every 2 weeks
42 miles Bull Prairie – Heppner (\$24.36 per trip x 2 = \$48.72)
\$0.17 per mile from home to campground at start and end of assignment
(Varies – estimated \$50.00 each way)
\$50.00 Propane Estimated (based off OHV) as propane included on site
\$1,006.22 Estimated per month less start and end mileage

Boardman Park & Rec. District and Wallowa River RV Park:

[Volunteer Service Agreement](#)

- Volunteer
- No stipend or payments
- Campsite included with utilities with set hours to work

State of Oregon:

[Volunteer Service Agreement](#)

- Volunteer
- No stipend or payments
- Campsite included with utilities with set hours to work

Curry, County - Lobster Creek Campground:

[Volunteer Service Agreement – Order to record documentation](#)

- \$500.00 per Month (\$16.67 per day avg.)
- \$0.05 per mile from park for authorized park business – with park mgr. approval
- Campsite included with utilities
- \$500.00 Estimated per month

