



Oregon

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State Land Board

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Permanent Restrictions on Vehicle Use and Discharge of Firearms at the Sandy River Delta: New Rule Effective April 1, 2024

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

A new rule under OAR 141-088 from the Oregon Department of State Lands permanently restricts the use of vehicles and discharge of firearms from Oregon-owned lands, including islands, in the Sandy River Delta.

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

The use restriction area extends from the mouth of the Sandy River to the I-84 bridge crossing, including the Columbia River side channel. This rule grants the Department the authority to temporarily prohibit, from the Sandy River Delta, individuals who violate these restrictions or who commit criminal acts within the Sandy River Delta. These restrictions are necessary to protect public health and safety and the environment.

The rule becomes **effective on April 1, 2024**, and the temporary emergency restrictions enacted on August 1, 2023, will remain in place until March 31, 2024. Some exceptions will apply, see the rule language at www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx

Questions? Contact dsl.rules@dsl.oregon.gov.

Community Involvement

A Rulemaking Advisory Committee was convened in October 2023 to advise on draft rule language, representing the interests and expertise of local government, land managers, local business owners, public safety and enforcement, hunters, and other recreationists. As a result of this process, the proposed rules more accurately reflected the exception needed by waterfowl hunters. A public comment period was held from November 1, 2023 – December 1, 2023, and a hybrid public hearing was held at the Kellogg Community Room in Troutdale. The rule was approved by the State Land Board on February 13, 2024.

Additional Background

The Department of State Lands oversees the beds and banks of the Sandy River, as well as approximately 50 acres of natural area adjacent to a 1,500-acre U.S. Forest Service natural area extensively used for recreation. The Department and partners have been receiving increased reports of vehicles being driven and parked on Oregon-owned lands, and of firearms being discharged. Concerns with these uses include:

- *Firearm discharge* puts people living and recreating in the natural area at risk. Thick brush reduces visibility past 100 yards in most places. In addition, Troutdale Airport is directly across the river and aircraft frequently fly directly overhead.
- *Driving and parking* in the natural area creates safety and health risks. Trails are unlit and for pedestrian use only; vehicle use increases the risk of injury and damage. Fire risk is also increased when vehicles with hot mufflers access the area. Because there are no maintained roads, vehicles park over brush. Additionally, vehicles introduce fuel, oil, and exhaust, affecting human and environmental health.



Area outlined in yellow hashmarks is the closure area. [See a full map here.](#)

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For the latest news on proposed changes to administrative rules, subscribe to receive email updates or see the DSL website: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx