

## **Public Correspondence**

**Public comment received as of 12/22/10**

**Julie A Hansen**

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**From:** Michelle Tate  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 07, 2010 11:31 AM  
**To:** Nancy Breuner  
**Cc:** Julie A Hansen; Liz Dreith  
**Subject:** FW: State Wildlife Area parking fees  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

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**From:** Jean Baecher Brown [mailto:jeanbb24622@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2010 7:32 PM  
**To:** ODFW Commission  
**Subject:** State Wildlife Area parking fees

Hello, I am a birding enthusiast from Portland and do visit some of the wildlife refuges around the state. I understand that you are/or have taken comments regarding establishing parking permit fees in some of these areas. I realize the permit system is probably a good way to fund some of the needed projects on the wildlife refuges; heaven knows the State's financial ability to do so is quickly dwindling. However, I must admit that I mixed feelings about expanding the refuge fees for the following reasons:

**Pros** - It is a means to generate revenue for state wildlife refuges for things such as habitat maintenance, public rest rooms (I do have an annual parking permit (\$22) for Sauvie's Island and several of the parking sites do have port-a-potty facilities which is nice...it keeps people out of the bushes!), can provide for better access with graveled parking areas, trails, viewing platforms and informational displays and possibly, if funded properly, there may be some element of security.

**Cons** - I am concerned about how much the fee would need to be to pay for the administration of the fee system and still have money left to do some good? Already, there are too many special fees (whether it's federal, state or local government). Literally, to go out and view nature and identify birds, you need parking permits for everything (snow park, trail permits, park entrance permits, day use permits, wildlife viewing permits). As far as I can tell, none of it is integrated (with just one fee to pay for everything) and frankly, it is a deterrent to folks who may just want to stop in for a quick view..or a deterrent to those who are retired and/or low income. If we want to encourage folks to get out and view nature, taxing everything is probably a bad idea on some level. Also, I have found that often state/federal/local permits may not be widely distributed/hard to find and not available on-site.

I do appreciate the work of the ODFW. I am sure it is very difficult to satisfy all the wants of your customers and the needs of wildlife. I just hope that if a statewide permit system is implemented that it is economical to the consumer, judiciously planned and implemented to improve the sites and that it does not result in the withdrawal of other state funds from your budget.

Thank you,

Jean Baecher Brown  
7068 SW Windemere Loop  
Portland, OR 97225  
[jeanbb24622@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbb24622@gmail.com)

12/9/2010

## Colleen R Munson

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**From:** Jon Bigman [bigman\_const@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 27, 2010 10:57 AM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Proposed fees at wildlife areas

ODFW Commission:

We strongly oppose the proposed fees for non-hunters at state wildlife areas. This opposition is based upon what has happened at other areas such as Suavie Island when fees have been implemented - hunters are squeezed out as hikers, bird-watchers, fishermen, animal activists, nudists, etc. demand spaces set aside for their activities. It is a short step from hunting to no hunting when all these others are allowed to influence the activities at the state's wildlife areas. These areas have been set aside for hunters and paid for by hunters.

Where has the comment period for this sweeping change been? The decision that would have huge impact on hunters is going to be made Dec. 3 with no public notice or input? Outrageous!

Jon and Joanne Bigman  
1327 Birdseye Creek Road  
Gold Hill, OR 97525  
541 582-0403

## Colleen R Munson

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**From:** Bob Koca [bkoca@marquess.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 28, 2010 11:43 AM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us; ODFW Commission  
**Cc:** gilmoudr@jacksoncounty.org; smithdc@jacksoncounty.org; WalkerJW@jacksoncounty.org  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 12-3-10 meeting - Wildlife Area Parking Permits  
**Attachments:** Letter Against Parking Permits at Wildlife Areas.PDF

Please see attached letter regarding Parking Permits for Wildlife Areas in Oregon. This is a terrible idea and recommend a vote for Option 3 - Reject Staff Modification.

Thank you,

Robert Koca  
Medford, Oregon

November 28, 2010

Dear Commission Member,

I was appalled to read in the local newspaper that ODFW is considering parking fees at wildlife areas in Oregon.

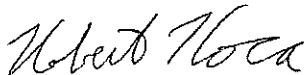
I live in Medford, Oregon and frequent the Denman Wildlife Area near White City and have visited several of the other wildlife areas slated for parking fees. There are not many trails within the Rogue Valley where one can take a short hike. The Denman Wildlife Area is a quiet, peaceful, scenic area that can be accessed within minutes from my home or work.

When I take a walk through Denman, I am not impacting the infrastructure or resources. I don't "harvest" fish or game, I don't litter, and I don't need an information kiosk.

I don't believe a comparison can be made between Denman and Sauvie Island Wildlife Area referenced in the proposal. I chose not to live in a metropolitan area such as Portland because I prefer the slower pace and convenience of a smaller town. It's great that fees worked at SIWA, but improvements or crowd control are not needed at Denman. In fact, visitation will drop if fees are implemented, and the projected revenue will be less than anticipated. One must also assign a cost to implementing, administering, and enforcing the fees. If ODFW can not operate and manage the 16 existing wildlife areas with the resources it has, perhaps it should consider turning them over to the respective counties, or repeal the Pittman-Robertson Act. If parking fees are implemented, ODFW will become a bigger bureaucracy with greater budget demands, requiring fee increases which will outstrip increases in taxpayer disposable income (example #1: Oregon State budget).

Fees are undemocratic, discriminatory, exclusionary, and a regressive double tax. I am adamantly opposed to recreation access and use fees on all public lands, including those proposed at ODFW wildlife areas.

Sincerely,



Robert Koca  
1493 Elaine Way  
Medford, OR 97501

**Colleen R Munson**

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**From:** Sarah Koca [sarahkoca@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 01, 2010 5:25 PM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us; ODFW Commission  
**Cc:** bkoca@marquess.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment for 12-3-10 meeting - Wildlife Area Parking Permits  
**Attachments:** Fee Leter.docx

Hello,

I respectfully request that my letter be added to the public comment record for the meeting on 12/3/10 in regards to wildlife area parking permits.

Sarah Koca  
Medford, OR

# Sarah Koca

1493 Elaine Way • Medford, OR 1 • Phone: 541-734-9829 •  
E-Mail: sarahkoca@yahoo.com



Date: December 1, 2010

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I am writing in regards to the proposed parking fees at several wildlife areas throughout Oregon. I recommend that you vote Option 3 - Reject Staff Recommendation.

- 1) Where is the science and research to back up the recommendation that charging fees would directly lead to better maintenance, care, and infrastructure?
- 2) Where is the research and science to back-up the idea that a fee structure that worked in Oregon's most populated area is appropriate for more rural locations?
- 3) Where is the research that says recreational users of these areas want more infrastructures like a kiosk? And where is the research that clearly demonstrates rural users will pay these fees?
- 4) There is absolutely no correlation between user impact controls (fees) in Portland area wildlife preserves and the user impacts of the less populated areas. In other words, we don't have a crowd control issue at the less populated locations.

I believe that you are forcing a metropolitan user impact control mechanism on rural areas that neither need nor want the "amenities" that staff says fees will provide. I'm not against managing impacts, and I absolutely do not oppose science-based management decisions. The decision to take parking fees statewide is not wise. It will lead to additional layers of bureaucracy that are not necessary or self-sustaining.

I also take issue with the idea that hunters are the only people who purchase ammunition. There are plenty of people who purchase ammunition, but do not hunt. So, the argument that hunters have already paid their fare share when the lands were acquired, but other users did not, is flawed.

Bottom-line, access to these rural wildlife areas must remain free. The economy hit the smaller population areas hard, and most people cannot afford to pay a fee for the pleasure of viewing wildlife. If ODFW can no longer maintain these areas with their current budget, then give them to the counties. I would rather put my energy in volunteering to maintain free access, then paying an entrance fee.

If the fees are implemented, I will not pay them, even if that means I have to stop visiting my local place of refuge the Denman.

Sarah Koca  
MS Forestry Recreation Management, The University of Montana

## Colleen R Munson

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**From:** Joel Geier [joel.geier@peak.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 06, 2010 9:05 AM  
**To:** ODFW Commission  
**Cc:** Will Wright; Russ Namitz  
**Subject:** Parking fees at state wildlife areas

Dear Commissioners:

As an Oregon resident who visits state wildlife areas primarily for the purpose of birdwatching, I endorse the concept of parking fee permits for non-hunting users of SWAs. Many birdwatchers like myself are keenly aware of the need to contribute our share to wildlife habitat restoration and maintenance, particularly as our interest group is expanding demographically while hunting and fishing permits, which have traditionally funded such work, are in long-term decline.

Further, I urge the Department of Fish & Wildlife to develop point-of-sale methods for tracking revenue from these permits, so that the contribution of birders and other non-hunting interest groups will be measured. I'm concerned that this information will not be gathered, if parking permits are sold only through existing vendors of hunting/fishing licenses.

I suggest that the Commission consider additional venues for parking permit sales, including:

- 1) Via Oregon's Audubon chapters and ornithological/birding groups (perhaps as blocks of permits which could then be resold individually to members at cost);
- 2) Via retail stores that cater primarily to birdwatchers (e.g. Wild Birds Unlimited and Backyard Bird Shop).

Also, please consider adding a "primary interest" question to the information gathered at points of sale, so that purchasers of parking permits can indicate whether they are primarily buying them for fishing, birdwatching, or other recreational access.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
Joel Geier

Coordinator, Willamette Valley Birding Trail  
Member, Audubon Society of Corvallis  
Member, Oregon Field Ornithologists  
Member, Luckiamute Watershed Council  
Past ODFW Volunteer, E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area & grassland bird surveys

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Joel Geier, Ph.D.  
38566 Hwy 99W  
Corvallis, Oregon 97330-9320  
tel: +1 541 745-5821  
e-mail: [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org)

cc: Will Wright, Audubon Society of Corvallis  
cc: Russ Namitz, Oregon Field Ornithologists



**Michelle Tate**

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**Subject:** FW: Parking fees at state wildlife areas

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tel: +1 541 745-5821  
e-mail: [joel.geier@peak.org](mailto:joel.geier@peak.org)

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cc: Russ Namitz, Oregon Field Ornithologists