PETITION FOR A PUBLIC RECORDS ORDER: OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TO	Oregon Department of Justice, Public Records Orders
FROM	Robert Samuel White, P.O. Box 334, Reedsport, Oregon 97467
DATE	November 4, 2026
RE	Petition under ORS 192.411, ORS 192.324(6), and ORS 192.407; Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; public records request of September 5, 2026

To the Attorney General:

I petition for a Public Records Order under ORS 192.411, ORS 192.324(6), and ORS 192.407. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, a state agency, has denied my public records request of September 5, 2026 with a fee. Its estimate of $1,728 for the records of two custodians is a constructive denial. It has not decided the fee waiver my request asked for, after two written requests for a decision. The burden is on the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to sustain its action [ORS 192.411(1)].

THE PETITION

- **Petitioner:** Robert Samuel White, P.O. Box 334, Reedsport, Oregon 97467, rsw@rswfire.com.
- **Public body:** Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Records:** Every record concerning me, from February 1, 2025, to the present, held by, sent, or received by Director Lisa Sumption and Deputy Director J.R. Collier: their communications, the communications between them, the notes, memoranda, summaries, and calendar entries either authored, and any record of a direction or instruction either gave concerning me.[1]
- **Requested:** September 5, 2026, at 3:55 PM, by email to oprd.publicrecords@oprd.oregon.gov, with the Director and the Deputy Director copied.[1]
- **Denied by:** the External Relations Manager, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.[3]

THE FEE IS A CONSTRUCTIVE DENIAL

The request names two custodians, one date range, and one subject.[1]

On September 11, 2026, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department wrote that it would "respond by September 22 with an estimate for staff time and costs to gather the documents."[2] On September 18, 2026, it sent the estimate: "Approximately 50-54 hours at $32 per hour for a total of $1,600 to $1,728."[3] It priced the Director's communications concerning me at six hours, and the notes, memoranda, and calendar entries of the two officials at forty: "This will take an estimated 40 hours of staff time at a reduced rate of $32/ hour to search through OPRD document database, file content searching, document retrieval, review."[3] It names no system, no search, and no count of records. It offers to discuss "how the scope of this request could be narrowed to reduce the estimated fees."[3]

The Attorney General's manual states the test:

> *While there is no provision in the Public Records Law that authorizes a person to petition the Attorney General to review the reasonableness of an agency's fees, state courts do possess this authority. And the Attorney General's authority to enforce the inspection provisions of the Public Records Law may require evaluation of an agency's fees where the amount of the fee in comparison to the nature of the request suggests that the true purpose of the fee is to constructively deny the request, rather than to recoup the agency's actual costs. This evaluation typically requires the public body to explain how it calculated its fee.*[4]

The nature of the request is the records of two people about one person. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department priced them at fifty-four hours, gave no search behind the hours, and offered a smaller request in their place. A fee set so that the request is narrowed or abandoned is a denial of the request.

THE WAIVER WAS REQUESTED AND NEVER DECIDED

My request asked for a waiver of all fees under ORS 192.324(5): "These records concern how the two highest officials of a state agency handled a documented complaint of retaliation by their own staff, and the conduct that followed. I have no commercial purpose. All records produced will be published in full, at no charge, at oprdvolunteerabuse.org."[1]

The estimate does not mention the waiver.[3] On September 18, 2026, I wrote that the waiver "is still pending and it requires a written determination."[5] On September 26, 2026, I wrote: "Oregon Parks and Recreation: decide the fee waiver of September 5 in writing, at the level of your custodian, as ORS 192.324(5) requires."[6] The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has not answered either letter.

The custodian who decides the waiver is the Director. Items 1 and 3 of the request are her own communications.[1]

The Attorney General's manual states that "public bodies should promptly consider requests for fee waiver."[7] It states that the decision considers "(1) the character of the public interest in the particular disclosure, (2) the extent to which the fee impedes that public interest, and (3) the extent to which a waiver would burden the public body," and that public bodies "should also determine whether a more modest fee reduction is appropriate."[8] [9] The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has stated no public interest, no burden, and no reduction. A demand for the fee before any work, on a request that asked for a waiver, is a denial of the waiver [ORS 192.324(6)].

THE PUBLIC INTEREST

I wrote to the Director of a state agency and to the Governor. The agency sent me to the police for it. The records requested are what its two highest officials wrote and directed about me while it did.

On March 3, 2026, OPRD Emergency Manager Jamen Lee sent my letters to Captain Kyle Kennedy, the press captain for Oregon State Police, copying Deputy Director Collier. His email gave one reason: "Fyi - sharing for situational awareness since he is now including the Governor as well as our Director."[10] It named no crime and no threat. Oregon State Police opened a "threat assessment" anyway.[14]

On March 6, 2026, at 1:14 PM, their detective, Jake Hyde, a Task Force Officer with the Portland FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, reported that he had found nothing: "I wanted to update you on what I was able to learn from my end, it wasn't much unfortunately." He wrote: "Based on the website nothing is standing out to me more than what Parks and Rec sent you."[10]

At 2:21 PM, Lee sent him more: the dismissal letter, OPRD's "timeline of events," and a February 2026 email chain, copying Deputy Director Collier again: "If your department would like to see any of the add'l correspondence that's been directed to JR recently just let us know."[10] On March 11, 2026, an analyst at the Oregon TITAN Fusion Center wrote: "Jamen Lee with OPRD shared the information about Mr. White's activities with the fusion center."[10]

On March 23, 2026, Oregon State Police opened its event: "Threat assesment investigation for a former State Parks volunteer who was terminated from position and not is sending concerning emails," a claim that names no email, quotes no sentence, and states no concern, "to former supervisors in parks department and publicly airing grievances."[11] On that, it named me "Suspect."[11] The same day, the detective sent his sergeant the "Hasty Plan for Robert White knock and talk."[10] Their own event gives its basis in two acts, and both are speech: writing to the officials of a state agency, and speaking in public.

On March 24, 2026, two state detectives came to the Siltcoos Work Center, the Forest Service facility where I live and work. The road in carries "do not enter and FS Only signs."[10] The gate is locked. A "knock and talk" depends on public access: it is the visit any member of the public may make, to a door any member of the public may reach. No member of the public may reach mine. Oregon State Police could not either. The District Ranger of the Forest Service's Central Coast Ranger District wrote to me on July 24, 2026, that "OSP does not have keys to Forest Service gates, work centers, or other secured facilities," and that the Forest Service's law enforcement officer "accompanied them solely to facilitate entry and ensure they reached the correct location."[13] They came through a gate closed to the public, to do what only public access allows. I answered the door, said I would not speak without an attorney, and shut it.[14]

The dispatch record entered that morning reads: "FOR THE FOREST SERVICE // FOLLOWUP INTERVIEW W/ ROBERT WHITE."[12] The District Ranger wrote: "I am unsure why that wording appears, as the Forest Service did not initiate the interview."[13]

On April 15, 2026, Oregon State Police closed its file: "there is no evidence White has committed any crimes." The file stays: "Case and assessment to be documented for information only at this time."[14] Its words about me remain in a government file I cannot correct: "Suspect." "Threat assesment."

That file violates ORS 181A.250:

> *No law enforcement agency, as defined in ORS 181A.010, may collect or maintain information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business or partnership unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct.*

Oregon State Police collected my letters and my public speech on an email that named no crime and no threat. Its own file states that there is "no evidence White has committed any crimes," and it maintains the file anyway.

The dispatch record names a federal agency as the reason for the visit. The federal agency states in writing that it did not initiate it. The state's own emails show where it began: at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, with its Deputy Director copied on both emails that sent my letters and the dismissal letter to Oregon State Police. When the detective reported that he had found nothing, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department sent him more that afternoon, and offered him the Deputy Director's correspondence. What the Director and the Deputy Director wrote and directed while their agency did this is what this request asks for. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has not produced one page of it.

Writing to a state agency and speaking in public are protected by Article I, sections 8 and 26 of the Oregon Constitution and by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department sent me to the state police, a fusion center, and an FBI task force officer for doing both, and the police came to my door behind a locked federal gate posted against public access, for a "knock and talk" that depends on public access.

If what the two highest officials of a state agency wrote while their agency did this is not a matter of public interest, no record of a state agency's conduct toward a member of the public is.

RELIEF REQUESTED

I ask the Attorney General to order the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to:

1. Sustain its fee: state how it calculated $1,728, in tasks, hours, and rates, and the search those hours are for [ORS 192.411(1)].
2. Produce the records within seven days, the fee being a constructive denial of my request [ORS 192.411(1); ORS 192.407(3)(a)].
3. Waive the fee [ORS 192.324(6); ORS 192.407(3)(c)].
4. Pay the penalty of $200 for failing to respond to the fee waiver my request asked for [ORS 192.407(3)(b)].

Every record of this request, and this petition, is published at openrecordsoregon.org. The order will be published beside them.

Respectfully,

Robert Samuel White
rswfire.com
openrecordsoregon.org
autonomyrealms.com

Sources

1. My request, September 5, 2026
2. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's letter, September 11, 2026
3. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's estimate, September 18, 2026
4. Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual (2024), p. 18
5. My letter, September 18, 2026
6. My letter, September 26, 2026
7. Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual (2024), p. 12
8. Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual (2024), p. 20
9. Attorney General's Public Records and Meetings Manual (2024), p. 21
10. The Oregon State Police production, PR27478, September 3, 2026: the electronic communications
11. The Oregon State Police production, PR27478: CAD record SP26096984
12. The Oregon State Police production, PR27478: CAD record SP26097765
13. The District Ranger's letter, July 24, 2026, Exhibit 26 of my supplemental filing

14. The Oregon State Police production, PR27478: report SP26096984