

BE IT REMEMBERED, that at a regular term of the Board of Commissioners of the State of Oregon, for the County of Union, sitting for the transaction of County business, begun and held at the Joseph Building Annex in the City of La Grande, in said County and State, on Wednesday of said month and the time fixed by law for holding a regular term of said Commissioner, when were present:

The Honorable	R. Matthew Scarfo	Chair
	Donna Beverage	Commissioner
	Paul Anderes	Commissioner

WHEN, on WEDNESDAY, the 4th of December 2024, among others the following proceedings were had to-wit:

IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDINANCE)	
ESTABLISHING A PARKING PERMIT)	ORDINANCE
PROGRAM FOR THE MT. EMILY)	2024-05
RECREATION AREA (MERA))	Page 1 of 3

Now, it comes to the attention of the Union County Board of Commissioners the need to establish a parking permit program for the Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA).

WHEREAS, Union County acquired the MERA for the development and maintenance of parks, forest and other recreation and providing the means for public access to recreational trails, historic sites, streams and other natural areas and to operate, maintain, protect and improve a park system and conduct a recreational program. The intent was to develop MERA and associated systems to allow MERA to be self-sustaining without the use of County general funds.

WHEREAS, Union County desires to establish a parking permit program for MERA to generate fees and allow MERA to be self-sustaining without the use of general funds in order to maintain trails, staging areas, and related facilities within MERA to promote safe, enjoyable, responsible, legal and appropriate forms of recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, any parking permit system should not impact motorized recreation users on the Fox Hill areas of MERA. Motorized users have already directly and indirectly provided funding to MERA by purchasing OHV permits, which makes it possible for MERA to receive O&M funding; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance 2009-01, In the Matter of an Ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the Mt. Emily Recreation Area and declaring an emergency, on June 18, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioner adopted Ordinance 2021-05, amending Ordinance 2009-01 in order to maintain safe, enjoyable, responsible, legal and appropriate forms of recreational activities within the MERA; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Board of Commissioners finds it necessary to establish a parking permit program for MERA in order to generate funds to allow MERA to be self-sustaining.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF OREGON:

SECTION 1: DEFINITIONS

The definitions of Ordinance 2021-05 shall apply to this ordinance.

SECTION 2: FEE AREAS

The following areas shall be subject to the fee program:

- A. Owsley Canyon Trailhead parking area;
- B. Lower Igo Trailhead parking area;
- C. Upper Igo Trailhead parking area.

SECTION 3: PERMITS

- A. Types. There shall be two (2) types of permits:
 - a. Day Use Parking Pass
 - b. Annual Parking Pass
- B. Rates. There shall be three (3) permit rates.
 - a. \$5—Day Use Parking Pass
 - b. \$30—Annual Parking Permit
 - c. \$20—Annual Parking Permit for military, veterans, Emergency Services, law enforcement, and low income families.
- C. Purchasing Permits. Day use and annual permits shall be purchased online at meetmera.org. Permits are not available for purchase at the trail head. MERA users will use the information from their online purchase to fill out the temporary permits provided at each trailhead. Permits should be placed on the rearview mirror with the information from their order facing out. Individuals who order an annual pass shall use the temporary permit until they receive their annual permit in the mail.

SECTION 4. APPLICATION

The MERA Coordinator may grant exceptions for the day-use parking permit requirements under the following circumstances:

- A. Emergency vehicles;
- B. Government vehicles on official business;
- C. Business and delivery vehicles on official business;
- D. Park concessionaires and their employees;
- E. A person entering the park to engage in specially permitted non-recreation activities;
- F. Park volunteers on duty in the park;
- G. A person with a permit issued by another entity with which the department has a written agreement to honor their passes;
- H. Other persons as designated by the Coordinator.

SECTION 5: PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE

Violation of any section of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of up to \$100 per occurrence. Offenders will have the option to receive an annual pass upon payment of any citation. Citations shall be enforced by Union County Parks staff and shall be payable at meetmera.org.

**IN THE MATTER OF AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A PARKING PERMIT
PROGRAM FOR THE MT. EMILY
RECREATION AREA (MERA)**

)
)
)
)

**ORDINANCE
2024-05
Page 3 of 3**

SECTION 6: CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

If any provision of this Ordinance is deemed to be in conflict with any other existing Ordinance in Union County, the provisions of this Ordinance shall govern.

First Reading Date: _____

Second Reading Date: _____

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.

R. Matthew Scarfo, CHAIR

Donna Beverage, COMMISSIONER

Paul Anderes, COMMISSIONER