

FAQs

Northeast Oregon Access Permit Program



Why is N.E. Oregon implementing a permit program?

Our goal is to keep properties in Northeast Oregon (N.E. Oregon) available for recreational access while maintaining them as working forests and managing the costs and risks associated with providing access. Over time, Manulife Investment Management (Manulife) has experienced a growing number of unauthorized activities on the lands we manage. This includes unauthorized trails, drug and alcohol use, unapproved events, illegal collection of forest products, dumping, vandalism, theft, unpermitted fires, damage to roads and wetlands, etc. The access program allows us to gain greater control over these activities and cover related costs while keeping our lands accessible for public enjoyment.

Additional considerations included:

- Ensuring recreational users pay a fair share of the costs incurred by allowing public access, including staff administration time, security, gate and road maintenance, dumping clean-up, signage, etc.
- Ensuring value for permit holders. We set the price fairly by comparison to other privately owned natural-resource recreational access programs, as well as other recreational and entertainment opportunities.
- Controlling liability through waivers and purchasing insurance.
- Allowing for safer, faster closure of the property due to storm, fire, or operational concerns.
- Establishing an enforceable system of rules to require appropriate behavior for an increasing number of recreational users, which enhances the experience for everybody.
- Increasing safety for our employees, contractors, stakeholders, and recreational users.
- Tracking the number of recreational users over time.

When will permits be available to buy?

June 1, 2026, permits will be available to purchase on our website maulifeimlanduse.com

What will 2026 permits cost?

- \$400 Annual Individual day-use only (No camping)
- \$500 Annual Individual with camping
- \$600 Annual Family day-use only (No camping)
- \$700 Annual Family with camping

I'm only interested in going on a portion of Manulife lands. Do I still need a permit?

Yes. Your access permit will allow you to access all permit lands in N.E. Oregon, even though you may only be interested in a specific area.

How many permits will be sold?

A limited number of permits will be sold each year. The total number will be determined each year based on historical use of the property and on creating a positive permit user experience.

Who is included in a Family permit?

A Family permit is for the personal use of a single family and is non-transferable. The permit only allows access to the property for the permit holder and his or her immediate family (i.e., a legally recognized spouse and children under age 18). IF PERMIT HOLDER ALLOWS ANY OTHER PERSON TO ENTER THE PROPERTY, THE PERMIT SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY REVOKED. Adult children who are 18 years of age and older must purchase a separate Individual or Family permit. Family permits do not include friends, relatives or other people's children.

Can I travel through Manulife lands on a County or Forest Service Road without a permit?

Yes. Public roads will remain open to travel through Manulife lands. While brief stops along these roads are allowed without a permit, you may not venture off the road onto Manulife lands without a valid access permit.

What lands will the permit be good for?

Most lands managed by Manulife in N.E. Oregon will be in the permit area. Lands excluded from the permit area include areas where an exclusive recreation access license has been issued and on some scattered parcels with poor access. Maps will be available, and signage will be used to identify permit areas.

Will firewood cutting or Christmas tree harvesting be allowed with the permit?

No. Firewood cutting or Christmas tree harvesting is not allowed with this permit.

Can I shed hunt with this permit?

No. Shed hunting with the intent to sell is not permitted on Manulife lands.

Does everyone at my camp need a permit?

Yes. Anyone staying overnight at your camp is recreating on Manulife property and will need a valid permit that allows camping.

Will land be closed during fire season?

Please read the restrictions in the permit regarding campfires and land closures. Land closures may be implemented each year due to fire or other safety hazards. Please call our information line at (541) 962-2184 to get the latest closure information. Protection of recreationists and our land is of paramount importance to Manulife. No refund of permit fees will be issued due to fire or other safety-related closures.

What type of access does my permit provide, and are E-bikes allowed?

Permits are for non-motorized access ONLY, which includes hiking, horseback riding, and biking (no E-bikes.) NO motorized vehicles or electric-assisted bikes (E-bikes) are allowed.

Will roads be closed in the permit area?

Yes. Roads that have been historically closed to motorized vehicles will remain closed. In addition, some new areas will have roads closed to motorized vehicles. Please respect gates and signs that close roads.

Do I need this permit to hike, bicycle, horseback ride, collect mushrooms, or pick berries?

Yes. Any recreation activity on Manulife lands requires a permit. Picking mushrooms or berries for personal use only is allowed. However, commercial mushroom picking, shed hunting or berry collection with the intent to sell to others is not allowed. For commercial activities, please contact the local Manulife La Grande Field Office.

Where can I camp?

Camping is not allowed unless you have purchased an Individual or Family permit with the camping option. With the camping option, backcountry tent camping behind road closures is allowed only by non-motorized travel including walking, horseback or bicycle (no E-bikes). In addition, dispersed camping within **300 feet of an open road** is allowed as long as campers do not block, impede or interfere with land management activities or others use of the open road. There is a 14-day limit on all camp sites.

Can I set up a camp before hunting season, or reserve a campsite?

No. Reserving sites and/or setting up a campsite before hunting season is not allowed and the permit holder(s) must be at the campsite each night. There is a 14-day limit on all campsites.

Will land be patrolled to enforce permits?

Yes. Security will be monitoring users to verify that all recreational users have valid permits.

Can my permit be revoked?

Yes. Manulife may revoke your permit at any time if you violate any of the permit terms and restrictions.