

**NO NEW BEACH RULES, YET!**  
by Alison Pride

A recent Document issued by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation has caused a few rumors concerning a list of beach regulations pertaining to Oregon beaches.

In a statement released in February of this year, the Department of Parks and Recreation identified individual cities along the Oregon coast which had requested the power to enforce their own city ordinances.

According to Cannon Beach City Manager John Williams, the move was intended to give local communities official control over already-existing ordinances. Currently, any violations on the beaches must be reported to the Department of Parks and Recreation before any citations can be issued, since the beaches are public and under state jurisdiction. The cities of Cannon Beach and Seaside initiated the move toward local control, said Williams, to simplify the process of enforcing city ordinances on the beach.

Contrary to some rumors, the city of Cannon Beach is not seeking to prevent beach fires, shell collecting, kite flying or horseback riding. The city does want the authority to enforce ordinances pertaining to dogs at large, camping on the beach, launching certain flotation devices and outdoor merchandising. Also the city is considering an ordinance that would prohibit the use of windsails.

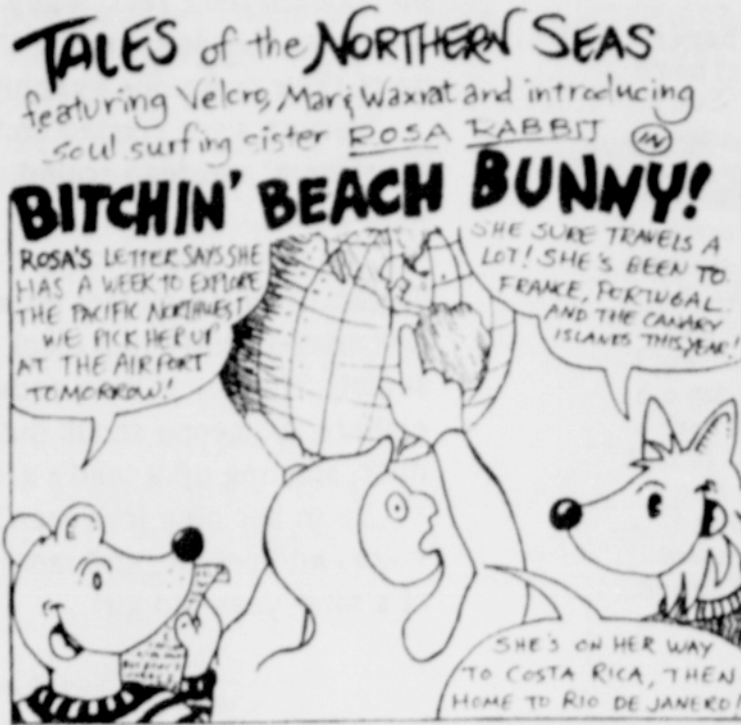
Asked if the process would mean enforcement of the leash law for dogs on the beach, Williams said that there are no plans to change the current Cannon Beach city ordinance, which is less restrictive than the state ordinance. The Cannon Beach city ordinance requires dogs to be under voice command on the beaches, and Williams "doesn't see that policy changing." Owners will be cited, he said, only if dogs are running loose with no supervision or are becoming a nuisance.

As part of the process to give cities jurisdiction over their beaches, the Department of Parks and Recreation has asked cities to hold public hearings. The public hearing in Cannon Beach will be June 8 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Oral and written statements will be taken at that time.

In Seaside, the public meeting will be held June 14 at 7 p.m. in the Seaside City Hall Council Chambers. According to Dick Pearson, Seaside City Planner, there are no new regulations the city of Seaside is attempting to enact. Pearson said Seaside wanted the power to enforce local ordinances particularly to have more control over both consumption of alcoholic beverages on the beach and special events occurring within city limits. Contrary to other rumors, Seaside is not planning to ban surfboards or limit their use except in already-designated areas, said Pearson.

Following the individual city hearings, the Department of Parks and Recreation will hold at least one public hearing. Interested residents should watch for information regarding this meeting in their local papers.

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Dr. George Crane



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