

FROM Robert Samuel White

TO [Volunteer Services Lead]; [Park Supervisor]; [Park Manager]; [Program Manager];
Director Lisa Sumption

CC Deputy Director JR Collier; Denise Warburton, OPRD; Interim Director Stefanie Coons;
Governor Kotek; [Kotek Campaign Chair]; OPRD Commissioners

DATE March 29, 2026, 2:38 PM PT

SUBJECT **The Firestorm You Created**

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You have had thirteen months to correct this. You chose not to. Now you will watch what that choice built.

My name is Robert Samuel White. I am a U.S. Forest Service volunteer caretaker on the Oregon Coast, and I am writing to you because what Oregon State Parks did to me — and what they did when I wouldn't stop talking about it — is a story that needs to be told.

What they did.

In February 2025, I was a volunteer at Honeyman State Park on the Oregon Coast. I sent an email at 6AM asking for operational clarity during a power outage. My supervisor responded dismissively. I named her tone in a follow-up email.

That email became the origin of everything that followed.

Over the next two months, Oregon State Parks subjected me to a systematic pattern of abuse and retaliation:

They sat me down at a public picnic table for over an hour. The park manager told me to chew glass and swallow it. He admitted I was never given the benefit of the doubt from day one. He suggested repeatedly that I leave. He framed my emails as unprofessional and my interactions with everyone as problematic, while never once engaging with a single fact. I recorded all 62 minutes.

While I was cleaning yurts alone — while all rangers were away at a regional event — an unidentified man arrived out of uniform, with no credentials, in an unmarked state vehicle, with the demeanor of an off duty law enforcement officer. He interrogated me about how leadership was treating me. He reframed the questions each time I refused to answer them. I documented the encounter the same day. Oregon State Parks provided a cover story within hours and then that man appeared on a Forest Service trail a year later — he is local, not IT, and has not returned since he realized who I was.

They dismissed me by phone six days before my scheduled completion, citing a homeless man's lost journal. One hour later the park manager arrived at my RV to collect the keys and admitted on camera that no formal documentation existed. I immediately recorded a video recounting the retaliation I experienced over the previous two months and posted it online.

The following day, their regional coordinator called to contain the situation. She weaponized personal disclosures I had made in trust to paint me as unstable. She ignored every declaration I made about the inappropriate treatment I had received and instead framed me as paranoid and delusional. And this from someone with explicit DEI training and employment background. I recorded 30 minutes and 56 seconds of that call.

The day after, they permanently expelled me from every Oregon State Parks volunteer program in the state. The expulsion letter — on agency letterhead, signed — cited my public documentation of the abuse as the sole reason. Every excuse they had made for two months, and every justification they made about why I was removed, absent from that letter. And at the bottom, a designation the letter was to be kept secret.

That is First Amendment retaliation. In writing. On state letterhead.

Why they did it.

They expelled me because I documented what they did. That's not an allegation. That's what the letter says.

What happened when I tried to get accountability.

I spent a year trying every legitimate channel available to me.

I wrote to every named individual. No substantive response. No response at all. From any of them.

I escalated to Director Lisa Sumption with full documentation, asking three direct questions about the

surveillance. She ignored it completely.

I submitted a comprehensive public records request. Oregon State Parks remained silent for 90 days in violation of state law. When I issued a formal Notice of Violation they claimed to have posted a response to an inaccessible internal portal. The cost estimate for the records: tens of thousands of dollars. I withdrew the request and documented their lack of transparency.

I sent a formal open letter to the Director. She responded with procedural language and no commitments. And then several months later, she closed communication by calling my comprehensive documented evidence emotional processing. She used the same pathologizing language to avoid accountability that their regional coordinator used to justify the retaliation.

I filed formal complaints with Governor Tina Kotek's office. Her office has never responded. Not once. Not even an acknowledgement they received anything. Her campaign manager has been CC'd on every significant piece of correspondence for months. She has been totally silent.

I served formal §1983 notices to the Director and the regional coordinator individually, citing personal liability for First Amendment retaliation.

They sent Deputy Director J.R. Collier to redirect all correspondence away from the named individuals. His letter characterized documented constitutional violation as dissatisfaction with a volunteer management decision.

Then they went silent.

For a full year.

And then.

What they did on the anniversary.

On March 24, 2026 — the one year anniversary of my dismissal from Honeyman State Park — three officers arrived at a locked federal gate on restricted federal land where I serve as U.S. Forest Service caretaker.

This is not a public road. It is restricted federal land. The gate is marked with signage citing 36 CFR 261.9(E).

They did not identify their agency. They told me they were concerned about what I was posting online. They said I was not in trouble.

I declined to speak without an attorney and closed the door. I recorded them leaving. One license plate is clearly visible on camera.

Twenty minutes later, an officer identifying himself as Forest Service called me. He was hostile. He told me this wasn't going away and that they wanted to talk to me. I told him this was intimidation and

retaliation

on the anniversary of my dismissal from Oregon State Parks. He acknowledged the visit could have been handled differently.

When I called back two days later to request the names and contact information of all three officers, he refused. He gave me his name as Matt Oliver, badge number 555, stationed in Springfield. He claimed the restricted federal land was not restricted. I corrected him and cited the federal statute. He hung up.

I have filed an official Siuslaw National Forest Host/Caretaker Incident Report documenting the visit as intimidation. The license plate — 731 QRV — is documented. The federal statute violation is cited.

The Forest Service responded immediately with First Amendment auditor guidance. And I now know Matt Oliver is stationed in a wholly separate forest service district. He was operating entirely outside his jurisdiction.
And I am actively pulling on that thread.

What this case is actually about.

There was no mechanism that kept me safe in their parks.

That sentence is the whole story.

Volunteers have no protection from institutional retaliation anywhere in this country. No HR. No

grievance process. No due process requirement before removal. A state agency can sit an unpaid laborer down at a picnic table, tell them to chew glass and swallow it, expel them for speaking publicly about it — and then send police to their door a year later on the very anniversary of their retaliatory dismissal — behind a locked gate on restricted federal land.

The void is not an oversight. It is a deliberate design choice that serves every institution that depends on unpaid labor. And that some institutions, like Oregon State Parks under the leadership of Director Lisa Sumption, exploit to the absolute maximum potential, with complete disregard for the humanity they are harming in the process.

I am seeking an attorney willing to take this case to the United States Supreme Court to establish that volunteers retain First Amendment protections and cannot be subjected to institutional retaliation without recourse.

I am not seeking a settlement. I am not willing to sign an NDA. I want the structural gap closed. For everyone.

The record.

Everything described above is documented, independently verifiable, and publicly accessible.

The full archive:
oprdivolunteerabuse.org

Robert Samuel White

U.S. Forest Service Caretaker

Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area

Siltcoos Corridor

Founder,
Autonomy Realms

Owner, eNetwizard Inc. Since 1998

Former Oregon State Parks Volunteer

Steward,
oprdvolunteerabuse.org