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Kati Baker
Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
84505 US 101
Florence, Oregon 97439

Re: Application for Seasonal Park Ranger Assistant

Dear Kati,

I recognize this might not be the application you expected to land on your desk. But here we are.

Over the past few months, I've been deeply immersed in the rhythm of Oregon's state parks. From working directly with guests in the Welcome Center to managing volunteer responsibilities at key interaction points, I've come to understand not just the operational structure but the *human dynamics* that keep this place running.

I wasn't always sure OPRD had room for someone like me. My background is in systems thinking, programming, and artificial intelligence—fields that seem far removed from the day-to-day work of a ranger assistant. But if there's one thing I've learned from my time here, it's that this job isn't just about maintaining facilities and enforcing rules. It's about *understanding people, adapting to situations, and creating a positive experience* for everyone who passes through. That's where I thrive.

I've spent my career solving complex problems, anticipating challenges before they escalate, and building long-term relationships with people who value integrity and clear thinking. My approach is simple: I see patterns, I analyze systems, and I adapt to make things work better. Whether it's handling guest interactions, supporting team operations, or taking initiative in high-pressure situations, I bring the same mindset to everything I do: *observe, adapt, and improve*.

Here's what I bring to the role:

✓ **Guest Engagement:** Decades of experience working with clients, handling unpredictable situations with professionalism, and ensuring people feel heard and supported.

✓ **Problem-Solving Under Pressure:** Whether it's troubleshooting technical issues, building complex software, or defusing tense customer interactions, I don't flinch—I *solve*.

✓ **Commitment to the System:** I respect the structure, learn its rhythms quickly, and look for ways to contribute meaningfully within it.

✓ **Active & Capable:** I live an active lifestyle, hiking an average of five to ten miles per day. I'm not afraid of hard work, and I thrive in roles that require both physical endurance and mental adaptability.

But here's what I suspect you *really* want to know:

Yes, I'll clean the yurts and the bathrooms. And yes, I will grumble about it (mostly to myself, but also to you if you're in earshot)—because that's who I am. But I will also do the job well. Because I bring my work ethic to *everything*, whether it's something I love, something I tolerate, or something that tests my patience.

I test edges—I always have. Not to defy the system, but to *understand* it. You've seen this in action already. You've seen me navigate an escalation, adapt in real time, and reset with professionalism. You've seen me hold my ground while staying engaged. What you *haven't* seen is the full fractal of who I am. You've seen me as a volunteer. But I know that's only one piece of this, and you know that too.

I live in an RV because I value mobility and independence. I thrive in roles that offer variety and adaptability—which is exactly why seasonal work makes sense for me. I'm not here for a stopgap job. I'm here because I *want* to be. Because I *chose* Oregon's coast. Because I've built a life around navigating this structure—understanding the rules, adapting to the movement required, and finding my place within it while still maintaining my freedom.

I've been doing this for a year now. I know how to manage the transitions, the park expectations, and the balance between structure and autonomy. I know what it takes to integrate into this system successfully because I *already have*. I understand I can't volunteer as an employee, and I will manage my own movements. But I would come back year after year—because this is where I want to be.

I know that stepping into a role like this means understanding the system *as it is*, not just as I see it. I don't expect special treatment. I don't expect shortcuts. I'm here to work—and to work *well*.

You need people who can handle unpredictability—who can manage guests, problem-solve, and think beyond the immediate task at hand. And I need to know if OPRD has room for someone who can do all of that *while still being himself*. I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you further if you see value in my inclusion—because it was our conversation by the lake that made me believe this was worth pursuing.

Sincerely,

Robert Samuel White