


Letter: Restore recreational immunity

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January 19, 2024



It's simple, really. Oregon is an outdoor lover's paradise. We each have our favorite trail, beach, or pathway that offers us comfort, adventure, and a place to unplug. Now, imagine being unable to access those spots. Sadly, the notion isn't too far-fetched.

Use of trails, paths and beach access points across Oregon is under threat with the end of Recreational Immunity in October, a move that could have a devastating snowball effect on outdoor recreation in the state. This raises the specter of trails and access points across Oregon possibly being shut down. This, of course, would have a ripple effect on recreation economies, including tour operators, lodging, restaurants, attractions, and more. That's to say nothing of the damage to individuals' physical and mental health who rely on outdoor recreation as part of their personal well-being.

Already, three trails on the Tillamook Coast have been closed down due to this issue – Harborview Trail in Garibaldi, and Short Beach and Tire Trail in Oceanside. More may follow.

What's next? The League of Oregon Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties intend to bring a bill to the Legislature in 2024 to restore recreational immunity. They are working alongside a bevy of outdoor advocacy groups from across the state.

The people of Oregon who enjoy recreational access to a wide range of properties, including beach and trail access, need to contact their local legislature to express their desire to restore and strengthen recreational immunity.

Tillamook Coast Visitors Association supports the restoration of recreational immunity and we encourage everyone to make your voice heard on this issue.

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Tillamook Coast Visitors' Association