



Recreational Immunity

Priority

Ensure that employees, officers and other agents of landowners, including cities, are exempt from liability under Oregon's recreational immunity law.

Background

Landowners in Oregon are immune from civil liability in the event a person is injured on their property provided that they were recreating and that the property owner did not charge a fee for access to their land. However, the Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that the employees or other agents of the landowner may be liable if a person is injured as a result of their actions. For public agencies that are required to indemnify and defend their employees against such claims, recreational immunity has been stripped away.

Without effective recreational immunity, cities will expose themselves to unwarranted risks if they expand recreational opportunities in their community. Indeed, some have been forced to close parks. Oregon's recreational opportunities are utilized to a high degree by its citizens, contribute to quality of life and should not be compromised by the possibility of such lawsuits.

Outcome

Restore the civil immunity landowners and their employees had against tort actions for injuries sustained while recreating.