

Submitter:	Robert Feiler
On Behalf Of:	Sutherlin Water Control District
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB179

As a maintainer of the public trail around Cooper Creek reservoir, I see firsthand the positive impacts access to this trail has on the community. Since the Umpqua Velo Club completed the loop around the reservoir in 2022, use of the trail has quadrupled. I see many families and individuals enjoying the beauty and peacefulness of this easy to access jewel in Douglas County. The reservoir was mainly used by anglers and water enthusiasts years ago, but with the opening of the completed loop, there are more and more hikers, runners and bicyclists. I get so many compliments on how thankful the public is for having this trail open. This upcoming bill is so crucial in keeping trails like Cooper Creek open to the public. The Rotary Club of Sutherlin was instrumental in getting the trail started on the southside of of the reservoir and the Sutherlin Water Control District allowed the Umpqua Velo Club and the Land of Umpqua Mountain Bike Riders to finish the loop. Passing this bill to remove the sunset clause will give land managers, both public and private, a peace of mind against frivolous law suites, while allowing the public to enjoy the great outdoors of Oregon. I support this bill, and ask you to consider getting it passed and signed as soon as possible. Thank you for all your dedicated work in making Oregon a wonderful place to live and play.