

Dear Michelle Lombardo,

My name is Chris Berry. I have been a Portland resident for the last two years, and have spent much of my time in Oregon exploring the lands of Mount Hood National Forest (MHNH). I have also used my time here to begin volunteering for Bark doing restoration and groundtruthing work, and educating myself on the plants and wildlife that call this region home. The experience I have gained has allowed me to learn about how important these ecosystems are to us.

As someone who advocates for the preservation and continued functionality of MHNH's ecosystems, I urge you to demand the US Forest Service to take Alternative 1 (no action) to allow consent for the BLM to lease both nominated parcels (OROR 70802 & OROR 70803) for potential geothermal energy exploration and development (Consent for Geothermal Leasing #67700). I also demand the USFS to employ their trust responsibilities by conducting meaningful consultation with relevant Tribes, specifically the [Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs](#).

While decarbonizing Oregon's electricity sources is extremely important, the projected activity and development could significantly threaten the health, functionality, and biodiversity of the diverse vegetation zones and habitats contained in the nominated parcels of land. Both of the parcels (10,130 acres) contain designated northern spotted owl critical habitat (95% of Parcel OROR 070802 and 41% of Parcel OROR 070803). Approximately a quarter of the parcels are also designated as Late Successional Reserves (forests managed to protect and enhance conditions of mature and old-growth forest ecosystems), and much of the area contains designated critical habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. I also noticed on the proposed action that there are "two Forest Service Region 6 sensitive species (vascular plants)" that reside within the lease parcels, which include mountain moonwort/mountain grape-fern and pale blue-eyed grass. Development of and the result of having a geothermal facility in the area (increased foot & vehicle traffic) would also increase the potential for the spread of invasive species, which could severely damage the area's sensitive habitats that has proven to be extremely difficult to recover.

Other sensitive species have also been documented adjacent to the area (based on the botany section of the proposed action), including cold-water corydalis, Gorman's aster, and a fungus called noble polypore. Much of land within both parcels has been impacted by the 2020 Lionshead Fire as well, and these sensitive areas would only degrade over time as development in the area accelerates. The presence of these species and land features should be taken seriously when considering the impacts of progressing development in the region.

For the sake of local communities, the preservation of threatened ecosystems, and the wellbeing of any living thing in the area, please do not allow the USFS to lease parcels OROR 70802 and OROR 70803 for geothermal development. You can also take a look at the maps (formed by Steve Cole) to get a more detailed image of the extent of specific habitats and the status of the varying forested areas within the parcels.

Geothermal Lease Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Types

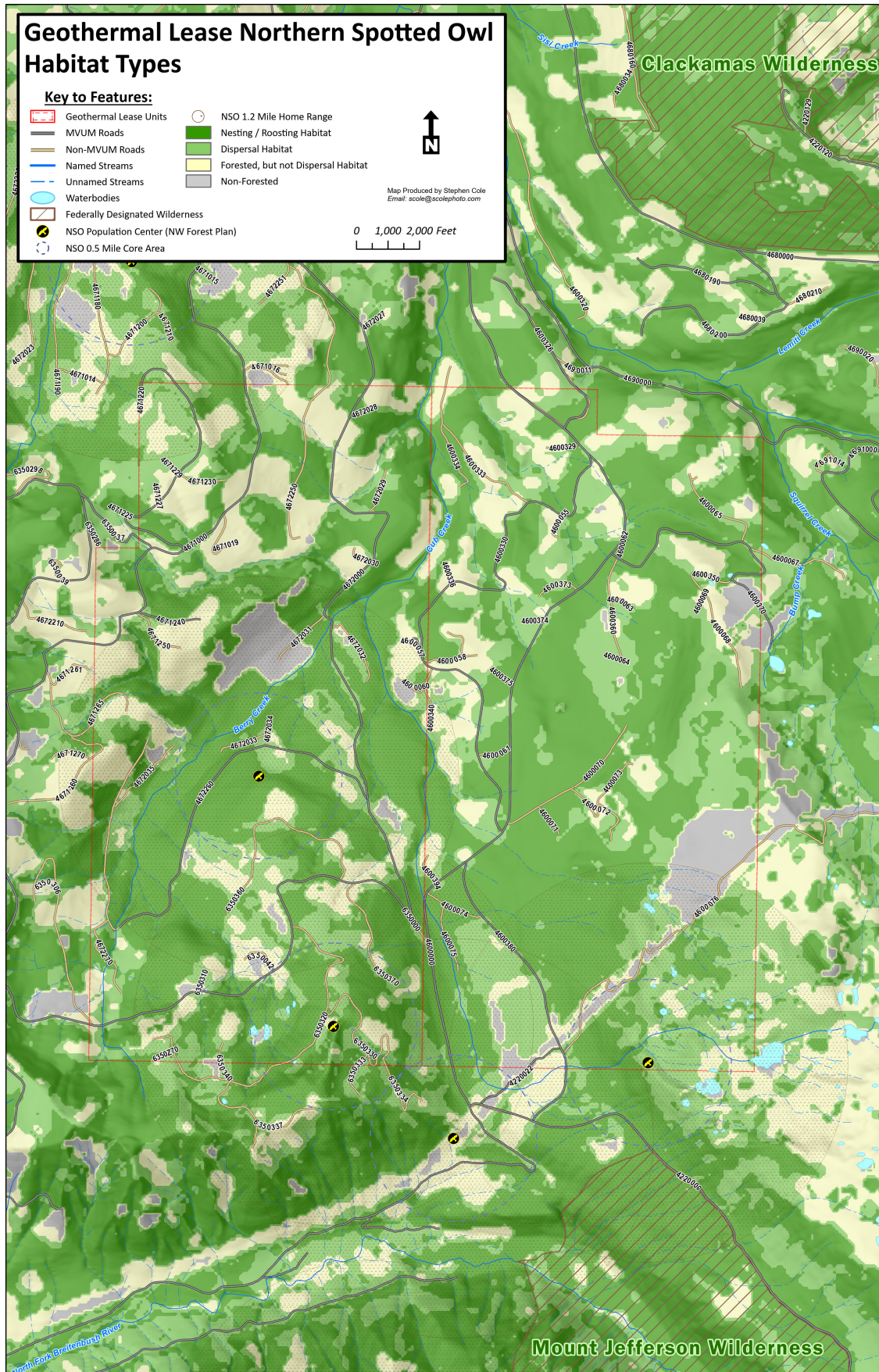
Key to Features:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Geothermal Lease Units |  NSO 1.2 Mile Home Range |
|  MVUM Roads |  Nesting / Roosting Habitat |
|  Non-MVUM Roads |  Dispersal Habitat |
|  Named Streams |  Forested, but not Dispersal Habitat |
|  Unnamed Streams |  Non-Forested |
|  Waterbodies | |
|  Federally Designated Wilderness | |
|  NSO Population Center (NW Forest Plan) | |
|  NSO 0.5 Mile Core Area | |



Map Produced by Stephen Cole
Email: scole@scoplephoto.com

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Geothermal Lease Northern Spotted Owl Nesting / Roosting Suitability

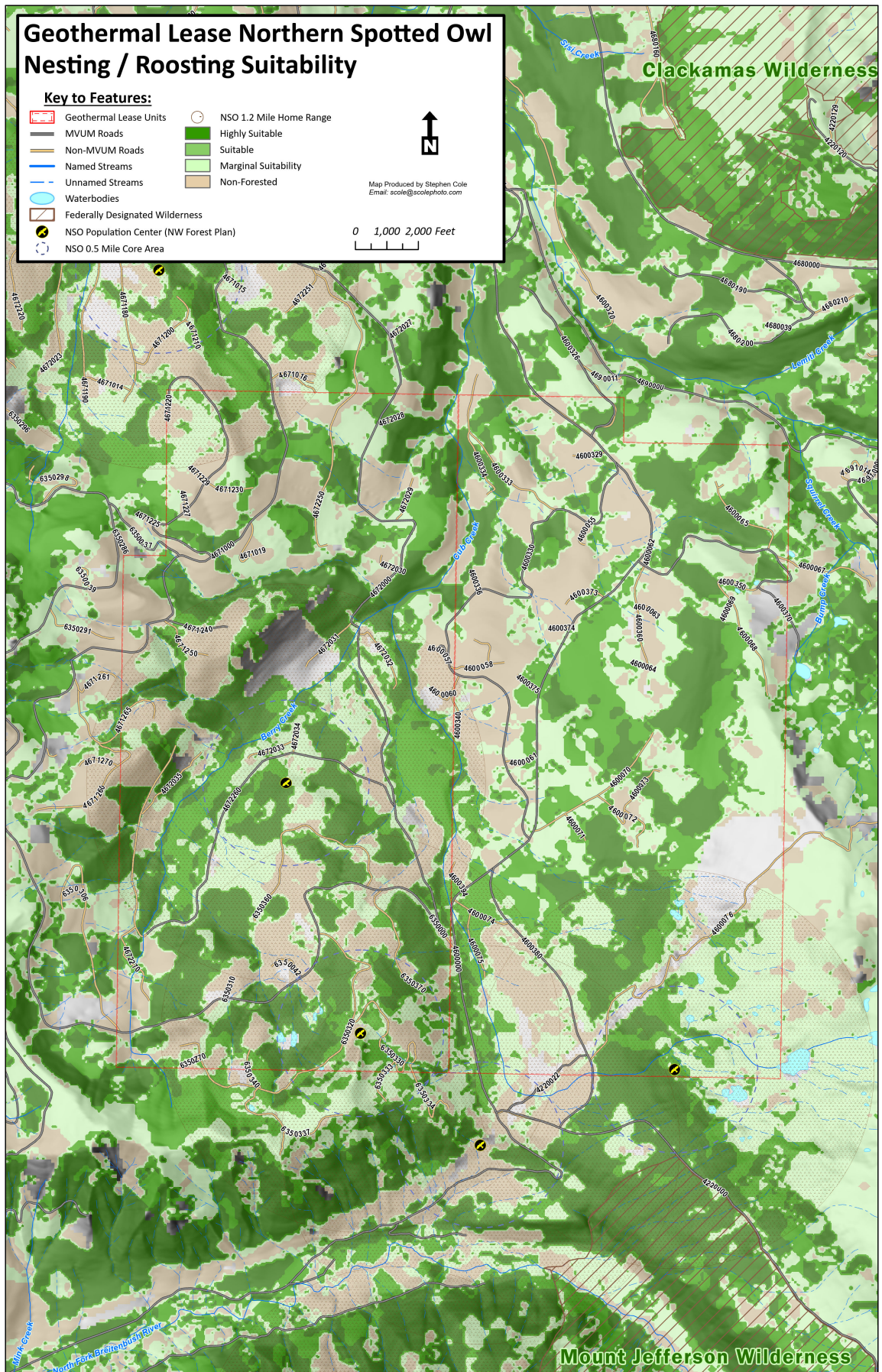
Key to Features:

- Geothermal Lease Units
- MVUM Roads
- Non-MVUM Roads
- Named Streams
- Unnamed Streams
- Waterbodies
- Federally Designated Wilderness
- NSO Population Center (NW Forest Plan)
- NSO 0.5 Mile Core Area
- NSO 1.2 Mile Home Range
- Highly Suitable
- Suitable
- Marginal Suitability
- Non-Forested



Map Produced by Stephen Cole
Email: scole@scoleshoto.com

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Geothermal Lease 2021 LEMMA GNN

Stand Age Information

Key to Features:

- Geothermal Lease Units
- MVUM Roads
- Non-MVUM Roads
- Named Streams
- Unnamed Streams
- Waterbodies
- Federally Designated Wilderness
- NSO Population Center (NW Forest Plan)
- NSO 0.5 Mile Core Area

NSO 1.2 Mile Home Range

LEMMA GNN Age Dominance (2021)

- 40 Years & Younger
- 40 - 80 Years
- 80 - 120 Years
- 120 - 160 Years
- 160 - 200 Years
- Above 200 Years

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Email: scole@scophoto.com

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