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First name: Andrew

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on geothermal leasing on the Mt Hood national forest.

I frequently visit the area as a lifelong Oregonian from Eugene that treasures our forests and hot springs. I volunteer my time to field check proposed projects such as this with Cascadia Woodlands. I visited the project area recently while also visiting Terwilliger Hot Springs, Belknap Hot Springs, Bigelow Hot Springs, and lower Britenbush Hot Springs on my way to Bagby Hot Springs on the weekend of 4/27/2025. I went to both proposed areas on the southern end, near the Willamette National Forest Boundary. I hiked the red lake trail through burned area and traveled up near Bald mountain as well, in the project area.

I think geothermal is a great clean potential power source and am generally supportive of such a project near existing BPA transmission lines.

I hope that the public can access the facility or experience the geothermal waters/heat with safe, heated "expelled" water that may be generated as part of operations of this stage in the process or during any proposed power plant. This could look like a swimming pool, or soaking pool, perhaps even a public foot bath or something would be great.

The area hot springs are a treasure and I have concerns about how this may impact nearby hot springs such as Britenbush and Lower Britenbush hot springs in particular.

Additionally 95% of parcel OROR-70802 contains designated northern spotted owl critical habitat and large mature and old growth characteristics, and USFS should not lease this parcel.

USFS should also meaningfully consult with tribes, in particular Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for this project and proposed lease.

The geothermal resources in our PNW can be great for our energy future if done right.

Thank you for the opportunity again to provide comment.