

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/10/2025 6:15:12 PM

First name: Lori

Last name: O'Neil

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Lori O'Neil and my family, and I used to live nearby this proposed geothermal project in Rhododendron. We spent many wonderful years exploring the ancient forest of the area that are still intact. Unlike most of our forests in Oregon that have been clearcut and turned into tree farms, this area remains what it is meant to be- a healthy connected ecosystem of thriving flora and fauna. It should remain protected from development of any kind as it is a critical habitat for endangered species, such as the spotted owl. I've had personal experiences seeing these owls and witnessing their amazing presence in this forest. If you had a similar experience, perhaps you would understand why this project should be moved to a place that does not endanger old growth forests that are needed to protect these animals, as well as other threatened wildlife, such as salmon (another honored lifeblood of our region).

Please strongly consider these reasons as very important and do not dismiss the real concern of protecting what we have left. Nature is part of us, and it should be considered just as important as this project. I believe that you can find what you are looking for elsewhere. Please do.