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Comments: As someone who understands the pressing need to replace fossil-fuel dependency with innovative renewable energy sources, I am also wary of any misguided or short-sighted use of our public lands toward that end alone. And as someone who relishes the time I spend in the forest, including public lands up and down the Clackamas River, I also take heed to journey lightly or not at all, to know when a forest needs to heal.

That said, I have some serious, early-stage concerns regarding USFS plan "Consent for Geothermal Leasing #67700" in Mt. Hood National Forest, not least of all since both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Energy post some formidable reservations about geothermal exploration and development as regards potentially disruptive, even dangerous environmental outcomes. Just as important, the designated area proposed for leasing would seem inappropriate since it runs counter to USFS guidelines to protect and enhance critical wildlife habitat and Late-Successional Reserve forests.

In particular, 95% of parcel OROR 070802 is designated critical spotted owl habitat, and some 25% of the total area proposed for leasing is designated Late-Successional Reserve. The proposed area also includes critical habitat - Cub Creek and Berry Creek watersheds - for salmon and steelhead trout species. The conceivable unplanned impacts of follow-through geothermal exploration and development - water consumption, land use, geological events, heat or chemical pollution, invasive flora encroachment, loss of cultural resources, or disruption of natural post-wildfire ecology - should make this project a no-go from the start, a misguided plan for the wrong place at the wrong time. Sympathetically, considering the Service's long list of stipulations in tandem with recent federal agency staff reductions, Consent #67700 could become a daunting industrial endeavor whose compliance with federal law and standards would be difficult to monitor effectively.

Thanks as always for receiving public comments.