

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 2:47:52 PM

First name: Sara

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear BLM Representatives,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to geothermal leasing within the proposed project area, particularly parcels OROR-70802 and OROR-70803.

I live near the area and am familiar with this land and wish to protect it from geothermal leasing for a variety of reasons.

This area includes critical habitat for coho and steelhead within the project boundary, and just downstream lies critical habitat for Chinook salmon. These species-and the ecosystems they depend on-should be protected, not put at further risk. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to uphold its trust responsibilities by conducting meaningful consultation with affected Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Additionally, a quarter of the proposed area is designated as Late-Successional Reserve, meant to protect old-growth forest ecosystems and species that rely on them. Geothermal development, even with stipulations, would threaten these sensitive habitats.

Parcel OROR-70802 is especially concerning, as 95% of it overlaps with designated northern spotted owl critical habitat (and 41% of OROR-70803 does as well). A no-surface occupancy stipulation should mean no leasing in these areas-so why is parcel 70802 even under consideration?

Given the presence of critical habitat, the high concentration of older forests, and the need for Tribal consultation, I urge you to withdraw parcel OROR-70802 from leasing consideration entirely.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.