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First name: Janet Last name: Maylen Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Ponderosa Exploration Drilling Project (#64551). This project poses significant and irreversible harm to land that is sacred to Indigenous peoples, whose ancestral and spiritual connections to this area must be honored and protected-not desecrated by extractive industry.

The proposed drilling would disrupt critical habitats, threaten the region's biodiversity, and put native wildlife at risk. The area is home to a delicate ecological balance that cannot withstand the noise, pollution, and physical disturbance caused by exploration and drilling activities. Furthermore, contamination and overuse of land and water resources will negatively impact not only wildlife but also surrounding communities that rely on clean water and a healthy environment.

This land is not just an undeveloped resource-it is a living landscape with cultural, ecological, and spiritual value that cannot be measured in monetary terms. Allowing exploration drilling here is a direct violation of the principles of environmental stewardship and tribal sovereignty.

I urge the Forest Service to reject this proposal and uphold its responsibility to protect public lands, safeguard sacred Indigenous territory, and preserve the ecological diversity of this area for future generations.