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Comments: It is imperative that our country develop multiple forms of renewable energy, including geothermal energy, however, I am concerned that the environmental impacts of this proposed project have not been fully evaluated. This project is near sensitive wilderness areas with steep terrain and important streams. This project should be required to undergo a thorough environmental review before any lease is issued.

My main concerns include:

- * Potentially affected local streams, groundwater, and fish habitat.
- * Drilling and construction that could require new roads, heavy equipment access, and year-round traffic in a fragile area.
- * Permanent disruption of the wilderness character, wildlife habitat, and scenic quality of the area.
- * Fracking in exploratory wells must not be allowed.
- * Strong protections must be required for spills, blowouts, well failures, and site cleanup.
- * Clear financial responsibility must be defined, which includes a substantial bond, so that cleanup and restoration are fully covered if something goes wrong.
- * Any lease should specify a finite time period and should not remain open indefinitely.

A full Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared before any lease is finalized. This EIS should clearly spell out the activities that are and are not permitted. At a minimum, each leasing project should require a closed-loop geothermal system, no new roads in sensitive areas, no fracking, no local stream withdrawals, and full restoration of the site if the project does not proceed safely or successfully.

I support the development of clean energy, but we must take steps to ensure that this development occurs without unnecessary harm to water, wildlife, wilderness values, and nearby communities.