

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/17/2026 12:08:15 AM

First name: Bernadine

Last name: Shoemaker

Organization: La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers

Title:

Comments: Official Public Comment

2026 Newberry Geothermal Consent to Lease Draft Environmental Assessment

October 16, 2026

Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor

Deschutes National Forest

63095 Deschutes Market Road

Bend, OR 97701

RE: 2026 Newberry Geothermal Consent to Lease Draft Environmental Assessment - Project

No. 387325

Dear Supervisor Jewkes:

When considering leasing more land around the National Monument we need you to please have consideration of All aspects that include -

*Change how historically leased land has taken away usage of our trail system and not been replenished with alternate routes. This needs to be a key component of any lease agreements and land use.

*The boundaries of proposed land leases includes land within the National Monument, which investigated would state that no drilling exploration or otherwise will be allowed within the National Monument - per the creation of the National Monument in 1991. It was the reason it was created - to stop the drilling within the monument.

*It is imperative that the balance of recreation be kept and when these leases happen we lose access that we have had for 55 years. It takes away the revenue that is brought to the community in Jobs, small business, lodging, fuel, food etc

*With history, as in the current 2 - Mazama & QuaiZe our outdoor use needs have been completely ignored. Tell us what we need to do to have a voice that is not just listened to, but has an impact.

*Ensure all users do not lose more access share - cross country skiing, dog sleds, snow shoeing, snowmobiling, and ATV's.

*Research having the National Monument expanded to the skirts of the mountain would be more beneficial for everyone that accesses & supports the land. Versus adding more commercial business that takes away from the structure of the land

*40% of our trails have been lost. That means our grooming funds that is based on miles groomed cuts that revenue by 40% - it has a direct financial budget impact to our ability to groom even the smaller area.

*Hold lease holders to not just clearing roads for their operation, but include paying for clearing re-routes. Such as QuaiZe has pledged that they would pay the cost to clear a re-route, but the Forest Service has not done anything in making this happen.

*We were told that the Forest Service does not hold lease on the mineral rights, but BLM does - please explain what these leases you propose will plan to accomplish.

*The snowmobile industry brings an estimated \$15 million to \$18 million in direct spending statewide to Oregon. While localized data specifically isolated to Central Oregon is not independently published, the region captures a massive share of this revenue due to its concentration of premier trail networks.

Central Oregon-specifically around Bend, Sisters, and the Deschutes National Forest-serves as the primary hub for winter motorized recreation in the state. Over 95% of Oregon's groomed snowmobile trails sit on National Forest lands, with Central Oregon playing host to top-tier networks like Wanoga, Dutchman Flat, and the Newberry Caldera

The Economic Breakdown

*Total Statewide Trip Spending: Resident snowmobilers account for roughly 352,500 riding days annually, spending about \$15 million per year on day and overnight trips. When out-of-state tourists are added, that

number climbs over \$18 million. [1]

*Job Creation and Wages: Statewide, the niche industry directly supports 155 full-time equivalent jobs, generating around \$5 million in labor income and \$7.7 million in added economic value. [1]

*The "Spin-Off" Effect: Snowmobilers heavily impact small-business winter revenues. Because snowmobiling is a equipment-heavy sport, expenditures flow into local economies via gas stations, specialized mechanics, winter gear retailers, resort lodging, and restaurants. [1]

*Macro Winter Impact: To put it in perspective, tourism is Central Oregon's largest overall industry, injecting over \$1 billion annually into the local economy. Snowmobiling serves as a critical stabilization driver during the winter months, ensuring that rural and outdoor-dependent businesses stay profitable year-round.

In closing, I would like to see the Forest Service include and make it more transparent with communication to our club, and the users of the forest - the public, not by posting on the FS website that there is a proposal, we don't look at that page for regular updates on a daily basis.

Regards,

Bernadine (Bernie) Shoemaker

President, La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers

Po Box 3053, La Pine, Oregon 97739

Lodgepoledodgers1972@gmail.com