



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office  
Humboldt River Field Office  
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921  
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Email: wfoweb@nvblm.gov  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>



In Reply Refer to  
NVN-74276  
NVN-76458  
NVN-85717  
3260 (NV0100.29)

**JUL 27 2010**

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is seeking public input as it initiates the Environmental Analysis (EA) process for a geothermal exploration project being proposed by Ormat Technologies, Inc. (Ormat) on three federal geothermal leases owned by Ormat. The project will be known as the Ormat/Leach Hot Springs geothermal exploration project.

The proposed project is located on the west flank of the Sonoma Range approximately 25 miles south of Winnemucca, Nevada. The proposed exploration project area would be within the boundaries of these three Federal geothermal leases in Pershing County, Nevada. More specifically, the proposed geothermal exploration project area would be located in (see enclosed Figure 1):

- T. 31 N., R. 38 E., section 1, MDM;
- T. 32 N., R. 38 E., sections 25 and 36, MDM;
- T. 31 N., R. 39 E., sections 5 and 6, MDM;
- T. 32 N., R. 39 E., sections 30, 31, 32 and 33, MDM.

The proposed exploration project would consist of:

- A maximum of 12 well pads, each sized to accommodate the drilling of each of three different types of geothermal exploration wells: temperature gradient wells, observation wells, and production wells (the drilling of each type of well may not necessarily occur on each well pad). Each drill pad and reserve pit would be up to approximately 4.2 acres in size for a total of 50.4 acres of disturbance.
- New access roads and improvements to existing roads for on-lease access beginning off of Pershing County's Grass Valley Road. There would be a total of 3.5 miles of 20 to 25 foot wide roads totaling approximately 9.19 acres of disturbance.

The proposed total disturbance associated with the project would be approximately 60 acres.

The purpose of the exploration drilling would be to evaluate the geothermal resources that potentially exist within the leases and to investigate the development potential of those resources on BLM administered lands. The drilling is proposed to begin in the fall of 2010.

Each geothermal well would be drilled with a large rotary drill rig. During drilling, the top of the drill rig derrick may be as much as 175 feet above the ground surface. The typical drill rig and associated support equipment would be brought to the prepared well site on 20 or more large tractor-trailer trucks.

Water for drilling operations, construction and compaction of roads, pads, reserve pits, and dust control would be obtained from up to two temporary wells that would be drilled on one or two of the proposed well pads located in the lease area. Approval would be obtained from the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the BLM respectively, prior to development of water sources.

The well pads and roads would be graveled. Approximately one foot of gravel would be used as road surface since roads would be utilized during all seasons. Gravel would be obtained from the Pershing County Free Use Permit BLM Serial Number NVN-081087 located in the Lots 1 and 2 of T. 31 N., R. 38 E., section 1 in the southeast corner of the project area.

Ancillary equipment required for the project would include service trucks, small utility trailers, portable toilets, and 4X4 pickups. Temporary man camps are also being proposed on the drill pad locations during exploration. These temporary quarters would be provided by the drilling contractor and would include sleeping areas, galley, water tank and septic tank. Any trash generated would be contained in on-site dumpsters and hauled by a local commercial disposal company to an approved land-fill. No trash would be buried on site.

Materials brought to the site would be limited to fuel, lubricants and standard drilling additives, and secondary containment structures would be provided. No hazardous materials would be utilized in the proposed drilling operations, but a hazardous material spill and disposal contingency plan would be submitted to and approved by the BLM and made available onsite before operations begin.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR 1500, for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Humboldt River Field Office, will be preparing a NEPA document for the proposed project. This document will disclose the environmental impacts expected to occur should the project be implemented. The BLM requests public participation in the process to help identify potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, issues and concerns.

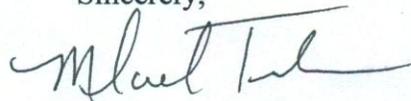
Written comments are encouraged and may be submitted through August 30, 2010 to Marcie Purkey, Attn: Ormat's Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Project EA, BLM Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca NV 89445-2921.

Comments may also be submitted by email to: [wfoweb@nvblm.gov](mailto:wfoweb@nvblm.gov). Email messages should reference "Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Project (Purkey)" on the subject line.

Public comments submitted for this project, including names and street addresses of commenters will be available for public review at the Winnemucca District Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

If you need additional information please contact Marcie Purkey, Project Lead, at the Winnemucca District Office at 775-623-1500.

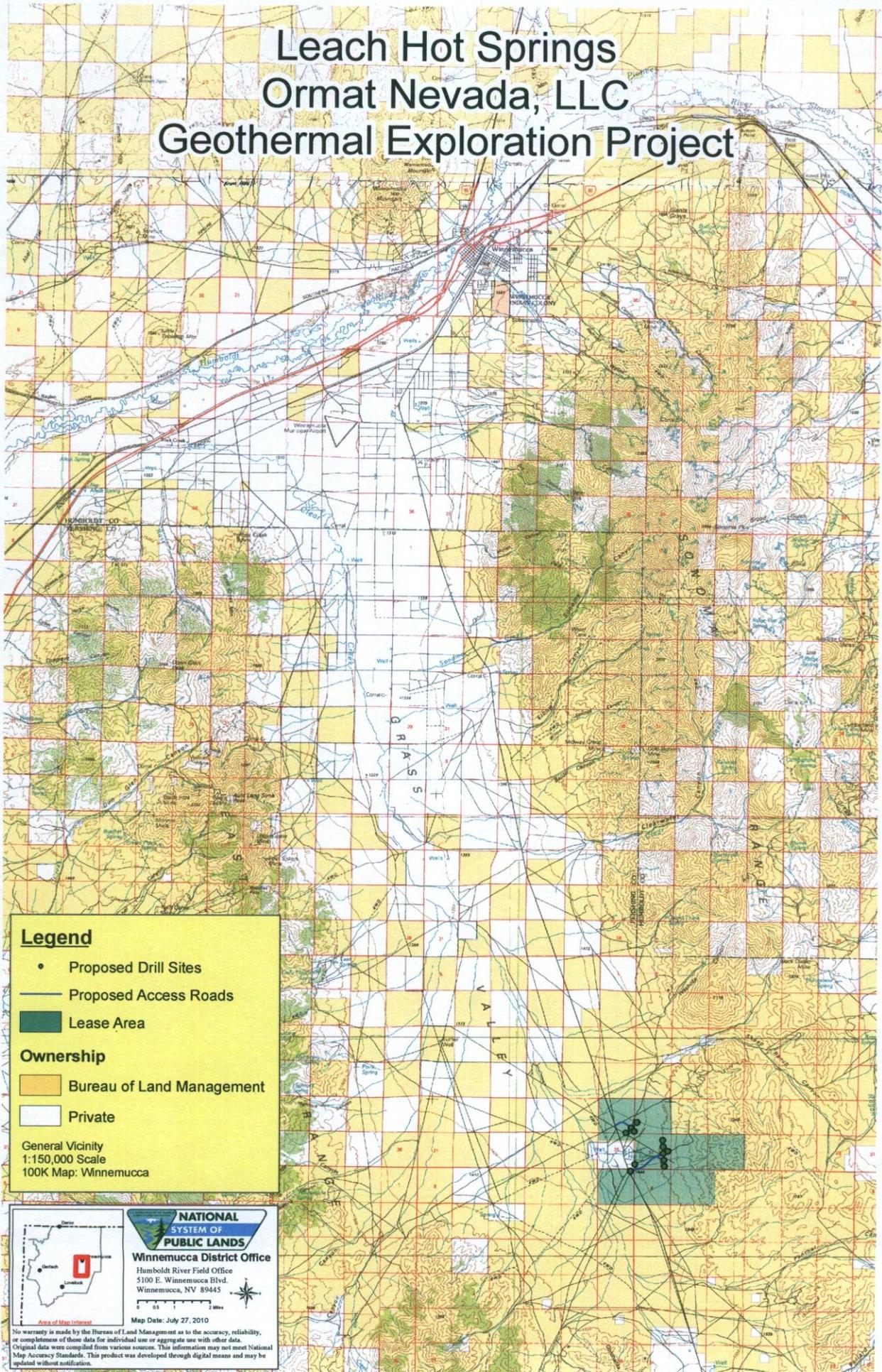
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Truden", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Truden  
Field Manager  
Humboldt River Field Office

Enclosure

# Leach Hot Springs Ormat Nevada, LLC Geothermal Exploration Project



## Legend

- Proposed Drill Sites
- Proposed Access Roads
- █ Lease Area

## Ownership

- █ Bureau of Land Management
- █ Private

General Vicinity  
1:150,000 Scale  
100K Map: Winnemucca

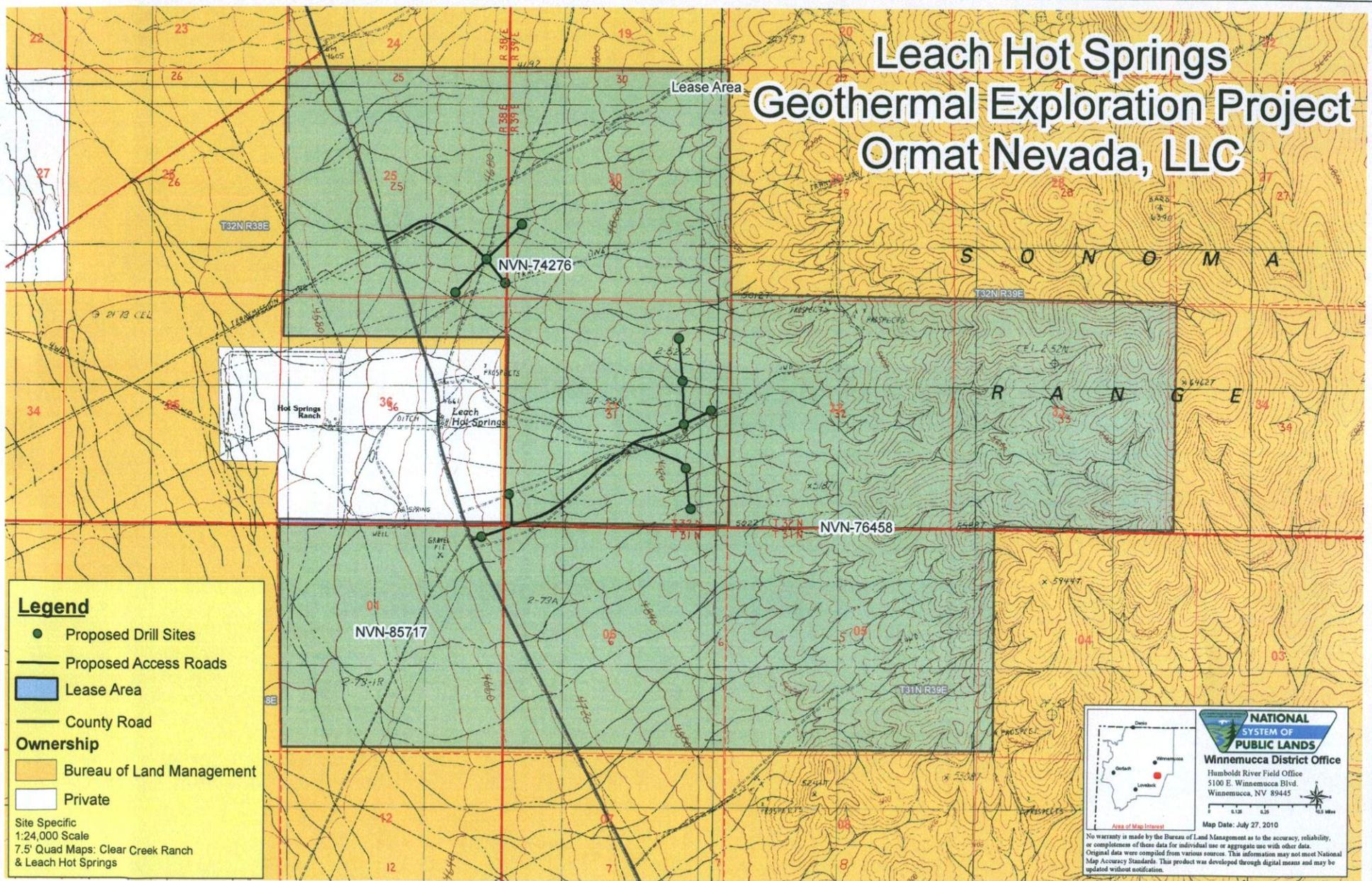


**NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS**  
**Winnemucca District Office**  
 Humboldt River Field Office  
 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.  
 Winnemucca, NV 89445

Map Date: July 27, 2010

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# Leach Hot Springs Geothermal Exploration Project Ormat Nevada, LLC



**Legend**

- Proposed Drill Sites
- Proposed Access Roads
- Lease Area
- County Road

**Ownership**

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private

Site Specific  
1:24,000 Scale  
7.5' Quad Maps: Clear Creek Ranch  
& Leach Hot Springs

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