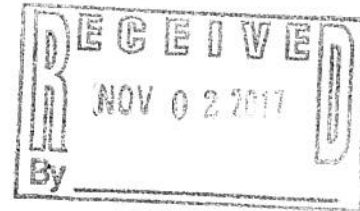




WESTERN SHOSHONE DEFENSE PROJECT

c/o 401 Railroad Street, 3rd Floor, Elko, NV 89801
Ph: (775) 753-4357 Fax: (775) 753-4360

November 1, 2017



USDA Forest Service
Attn: Susan Elliot, Project Lead
660 South 12th Street
Suite 108
Elko, NV. 89801

Re: Ruby Valley Comments Oil and Gas

Dear Ms. Elliot,

On behalf of the Western Shoshone Defense Project, a 501(c)(3) affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples and the below signed individuals with respect to the Environmental Assessment being prepared for the Ruby Mountains Oil & Gas Leasing Availability Analysis we, submit the following comment in opposition to any and all leasing exploration, mining, drilling and any manmade destruction caused to our homeland.

The Western Shoshone people have inhabited the greater area of Nevada, the Ruby Mountain Range and Ruby Valley since time immemorial; our creation story says the Creator placed us here, this is the home of our ancestors and the home of our unborn grandchildren. Through prayer and ceremony we are able to connect to the Creator where He teaches us the importance of all things living together. One of our most spiritual ceremonies, the Sundance, is still performed today in Ruby Valley, Sundancers and spectators from many Indigenous communities attend this ceremony. Through ceremony such as this, Creator taught us which plants to use for medicines, how to understand the movements of animals, when to hunt and how to read the seasons for gathering and harvesting. He taught us that humans are only one element in the equation and He continues to teach us lessons of understanding and how we are to live today. The poisoning and destruction of our water, plants and animals is equivalent to spiritual genocide as all living things in this "church" are connected and serve a purpose in this life as Creator has a plan for us all.

We have received support from two separate international human rights bodies upholding our rights to these lands and reprimanding the United States for their actions. In March 2006 the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its first decision 1(68) of many in response to a request for urgent action on behalf of Shoshone communities. This Committee upheld the concerns of the Shoshone petitioners and instructed the United States to cease and desist from further destructive

The Western Shoshone Defense Project is an affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples

