

April 18, 2018

Josh Nicholes

Acting District Ranger

660 South 12th Street

Suite 108

Elko, NV 89801

Re: Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis for USDA Forest Service

Dear Ranger Nicholes,

This letter is to express my adamant objection to any gas and oil exploration or extraction from all lands in the Ruby Mountain portion of the District.

Some of these proposed acres for possible lease are in direct view of the entire Spring Creek Community. This view of the Rubies was the precise reason we relocated to Spring Creek, built a home for our parents here, and moved our business to Elko.

We are active outdoor enthusiasts and spend a great amount of time in these mountains**.** We recognize the delicate habitat that any intrusion beyond footsteps could be devastating.

The 1986 Humboldt Land and Resource Management Plan is 32 years old. It’s difficult to believe you would comply with an outdated plan that in no way could have predicted the popular development of Spring Creek.

Please take the time to understand the value of protecting the Ruby Mountain public lands from industrial development. It should be apparent that there is far more value to many more citizens in preservation than selling our amenities to a few profit seekers.

I would be very happy to speak with you and others, in person, concerning this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Hayward

241 Holyoke Place

Spring Creek, NV 89815

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