

Dennis Ghiglieri

619 Robinson Ct
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Josh Nicholes, Acting District Ranger
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
660 South 12th St. #108
Elko, NV 89801
comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-mtn-city@fs.fed.us

Dear Acting Ranger Nicholes,

The following are my scoping comments on the Ruby Oil and Gas Project.

As a native Nevadan who spends many days every year in the Ruby Mountains and the Ruby Lake Wildlife Refuge, the prospect of drilling damaging this special mountain range and nearby wildlife areas is extremely concerning. The US Forest Service has a serious obligation to protect the area from the damage that will occur to this 54,000 acres. Alternatives to the proposal must include leasing smaller numbers of acres to reduce the serious impacts that could result from the proposal.

- eliminate from the lease Priority Habitat Management Areas for Sage Grouse that covers more than 30,000 acres
- eliminate from the lease General Habitat Management Areas which includes summer and winter ranges for Mule Deer and migration corridors that covers almost 16,000 acres
- eliminate from the lease streams occupied by Lahontan Cutthroat Trout or are part of the recovery plan for LCT
- avoid impacts to the National Forest by not leasing PHMA, GHMA, or lands with streams rather than relying on mitigation
- require the company seeking the lease for oil and gas exploration post a bond that covers full restoration of all disturbance
- eliminate from the lease all parcels which will or could negatively impact the water or wildlife of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

The Ruby Mountains are a spectacular mountain range winter and summer with wildlife in abundance. It is the responsibility of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to set strict requirements to protect the range from damage from the proposed lease and to avoid leasing PHMAs and GHMAs.

Thank you for considering my scoping comments.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ghiglieri /S/

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