

Josh Nicholes  
Acting District Ranger  
660 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 108  
Elko, NV 89801

April 7, 2018

Dear Mr. Nicholes:

I'm writing to comment on the Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis Project.

I've lived in Elko for 38 years and have hiked, camped, hunted and traveled through many portions of the affected Forest Service lands, so I'm a strongly invested local stakeholder who has actively used these particular public lands.

Here are a few of my many concerns:

- A least 5 of the allotments are within the Wilderness area and should be immediately rejected as incompatible with that designation.
- A large section in the Harrison Pass road area is on the eastern side of the mountains, making drainage of water/solvents/petroleum products into the Ruby Marshes a frightening possibility.
- The northernmost sections abut on the approach to the Lamoille Canyon Road, which is the crown jewel of the Ruby Mountains and makes the experience accessible to the disabled and day travelers. These lands are of particular high value for recreation, and should be sequestered from development.
- The southernmost sections by Sherman Creek constitute a rich wildlife resource over a large contiguous area, and deserve consideration for higher protection, perhaps a southern portion of the Wilderness area.
- All these lands are crisscrossed with streams and springs, and experience periodic flooding with snow run off, making chemical spills a serious downstream problem, and fracking a frightful prospect.

There are many other specific concerns about the impact leasing would have,, but suffice it to say I am appalled by the concept of leasing these public lands, which have such extraordinary recreation value, for private speculative development.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,



David Hogle MD  
1025 Barrington Ave  
Elko, NV 89801

