

Mr. Josh Nicholes  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
660 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 108  
Elko, Nevada 89801



13 April, 2018

Dear Mr. Nicholes,

Lois and I wish to express our opinion concerning the proposed BLM/USFS sale of gas and oil leases of public lands in the Ruby Mountains. We are strongly opposed to the sale of public lands in this area for this purpose.

We are both retired educators and long-time residents of Elko County, my wife and her family have hiked, hunted, collected firewood, and enjoyed the outdoor experience that the Ruby Mountains provide for over 60 years. I came to Elko county in 1980 and since then have become a part of her family and the community. Together we have raised our boys to enjoy these same activities. Now we have had the opportunity to introduce the natural history of the Ruby Mountains to our grandchildren.

Both Lois and I have conducted several field studies and have taken college students into the Ruby Mountains over the past 32 years involving the study of wildflowers, butterflies, breeding birds, amphibians, and land snails. In the case of land snails, I have published a peer review paper concerning the species and habitat affinities of these little-known invertebrates found in the East Humboldt and Ruby Mountains.

The damage that would be caused by gas and oil development would be significant on these groups of plants and animals. Besides the obvious pads for the placement of such wells, the increase in roads would inhibit the natural movement of animals, there would be an increase in the invasive weeds in these disturbed sites, erosion resulting from these activities would pollute creeks and springs with silt, and the dust and noise from such activities would interfere with breeding by native birds and mammals. This is to say nothing of the impacts it would have on folks who want to get into the mountains and enjoy our public lands.

We hope that you will consider these thoughts and pass them on to the people responsible for such decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mark and Lois Ports  
1050 Sewell Drive  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "Lois Ports" and the bottom signature reads "Mark Ports".

Mark + Lois Pents  
1050 Sewell Dr.  
Elko, Nevada  
~~89801~~

89801

Mr. Josh Nicholes

Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest  
660 South 12th St., Suite 108  
Elko, Nevada 89801

SALT LAKE CITY UT 840

14 APR 2018 PM 11



89801-406633



g the proposed BLM 1525 sale of gas and oil leases  
only opposed to the sale of public lands in this area  
idents of Elko County, my wife and her family have  
e outdoor experience that the Ruby Mountains  
1980 and since then I've become a part of her  
ed our boys to enjoy these same activities. Now we  
history of the Ruby Mountains to our  
ies and have taken college students into the Ruby  
dy of wildflowers, butterflies, breeding birds,  
ils, I have published a peer review paper  
se little-known insectivores found in the East  
development would be significant on these groups  
the placement of such wells, the increase in roads  
ere would be an increase in the invasive weeds in  
activities would pollute to soils and springs with silts,  
interacts with breeding by native birds, and  
ould have on folks who want to get into the  
and pass them on to the people responsible for such  
on

13 April 2018