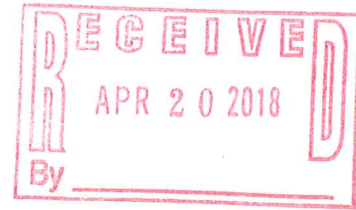


April 18, 2018

Josh Nicholes, Acting District Ranger, US Forest Service  
660 S. 12th Street, Suite 108  
Elko, NV 89801



RE: Ruby Oil and Gas

To Whom It May Concern:

Really? In the most arid state of the union, someone actually thinks allocating critical water resources to hydraulic gas and oil drilling is in the best interest of Nevada? Gas and oil reserves are at an all time high with the industry currently utilizing less than half its leases on federal lands and “yawning” at new drilling. Water, on the other hand, is at an alarmingly all time low. Alternatives to fossil fuels abound but a substitute for water just doesn’t exist. In the West--water is disappearing.

As debates continue over whether hydraulic drilling causes earthquakes, or that disposal wells degrade and foul groundwater, or whether it contributes to problems with human health, or creates environmental hazards; there is one issue related to hydraulic drilling that is not open for debate--hydraulic gas and oil drilling leads to the wasteful consumption of billions upon billions of gallons of water. What isn’t open for debate is that the western United States is experiencing a water crisis. Consider the long term impacts of depleting water resources in the arid West and especially in Nevada. We are all stakeholders when it comes to managing limited water resources. Lake Mead keeps shrinking and ground water supplies are being depleted faster than rain and snow pack can replenish them. The forecast for water needs in the Las Vegas valley is so dire that the Southern Nevada Water Authority continues to develop strategies to tap into water resources located in Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties.

I am asking policy and decision makers to educate themselves on critical water issues in the American West in order to competently guide land management processes that are in the best interests of the millions who live in these arid and drought prone areas of our nation. Let common sense prevail when it comes to industries that threaten our already at high risk water resources. Gulping up to nearly 10 million gallons of water per well is unacceptable. Frankly, it is well beyond unacceptable, it is grossly negligent and irresponsible to put food production and fresh drinking water at risk in arid states and especially in Nevada. The harsh reality--basic human water needs are already outstripping water availability. Using water for oil and gas drilling may not be a big deal where water is plentiful, but in the arid West it is. In Nevada, it is a very BIG deal.

Managing water use in the West is not a new concept. Sometimes it is forward thinking. In 2004, Arizona adopted a drought preparedness plan. Sometimes it is in response to a water crisis. California governor, Jerry Brown, early last year declared an end to the water emergency and the steep cuts to water use put in place three years earlier. The Southern Nevada Water Authority promotes conservation and actively mines for water across the state. Communities throughout Nevada and in neighboring states have been doing their part to deal with what has become our “new normal”. We need the US Forest Service to do the responsible thing and become a water partner in this growing crisis. I respectfully request that any Nevada areas proposed for oil and gas exploration, sale, and/or leases be declined.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurellyn Wren". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laurellyn Wren

PO Box 241, Moapa, NV 89025