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First name: Casey

Last name: Minter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up with the Ruby Mountains as my backdrop. I no longer live in Nevada, and haven't for around eight years, but the Ruby Mountains land right below my family as the main reason I return home nearly every year. I've had the pleasure of thru-hiking the Ruby Crest Trail three times in the last ten years, have always found intense pleasure simply staring up at the triumphant walls of Lamoille Canyon and I have uncountable memories fishing with my uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and grandfather at the Ruby Marshes. To consider selling off one of the most beautiful, economically useful and pristine areas in an otherwise dry and drab landscape is insane. Moderation is key in everything we do, and not far from the proposed lease Nevadans are already blasting miles into the Earth to mine its resources. We must resist the temptation to pave paradise.

Since I've left home, my brother and his wife have returned and are raising two beautiful little girls. I want them to have the same love I carry with me daily for Elko. It is truly a beautiful and unique home, filled with culture and tradition. To potentially sacrifice one of the key features of the area with this shortsighted money grab could threaten one of the admittedly few places of beauty the people of Elko and NE Nevada have is never worth it, no matter the price we can be paid.

Thank you, and please consider my comments in your decision.

Casey Minter