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First name: george

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Padilla,

I am George Skivington, a junior in student council at Spring Creek High School. I am a runner, hiker, biker and mountain recreationalist. The Rubies are my home. Today we are going to State in Cross Country (last year's champions). Our team trains in the Rubies. My friend John Hughes and his father are competitive, nationally ranked bike racers. Sunday we have Area 10 and my Dad and I are braving the cold and snow to complete our mule deer tag (my Dad hasn't scored a tag in over ten years).

My Mom and Dad grew up in Elko and graduated from Elko High School. My great-grandfather a Basque immigrant at the turn of last century ran sheep through the Rubies, panned for gold!, and fished its mountain lakes. We have a EDFP clipping from 1925 spring in which he caught 5 rainbow trout with other city leaders.

I love the Sage Grouse, I do.

This is our habitat too!

The oil and gas exploration is a slippery slope and you know it.

My great grandfather built the first Basque hotel in Elko in 1906 and half of downtown. Where did it go?

We all know the Rubies will eventually become co-opted by cooperate interests and be absorbed---and ruined for hunters, athletes, families, recreationalists....and the sage grouse.

**STOP IT NOW.**

Please feel free to contact my group at Spring Creek High School through this email.

I am running for student body president next year and am presently the valedictorian.

We are the future.

Youth wants to preserve the Ruby Mountains for our children and our children's children.

Sincerely,

George Skivington