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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the Elko or Spring Creek, Nevada area for 25 years and truly love it here. There are many reasons why I choose to call the area home; without question the number one reason is the Ruby Mountains. The beauty, solitude and serenity the range offers is beyond compare. I can't wrap my head around the idea of exploration drills cutting in roads and clearing out drill pad locations adjacent to the largest water source in the range and on the largest mule deer winter range in the entire state. I also can't believe this is even being proposed by the Forest Service - seriously, what is happening? The Rubies have often been described by outdoor magazines as "the most pristine mountain range in the entire US" and with other exploration sites nearby yielding no results, one has to ask "what on earth are we doing?" I work in the mining industry and understand the need for growth and development but this is completely unnecessary and will permanently scar this amazing mountain range. I know they'll give a dog and pony show about how they'll hide the roads and after reclamation "you won't even know we were there" but let's be honest, we both know that is absolute garbage. It's not hard to drive around our state of Nevada and see all the "reclaimed" sites from both metal and oil exploration, laughable is the word. The BLM and Forest Service are still fighting these types of battles. Please, don't let this happen. Tens of thousand of people look to the Rubies each day with awe and wonder at their beauty and chose that few view over city life. Don't let them/us down, don't turn parts of the Rubies into the Pinon range just 10 miles to the west - picture attached. We don't need to drill here at this time, maybe the day will come but right now is not that day. 264 billion barrels of oil reserve in the US - it's not needed. Keep the Ruby Mountains as they are!!!

Sincerely,

Ryan Honea