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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

Dear Susan Elliot,

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to the Ruby Mountain oil and gas lease.

There are some places so beautiful that they should be left un-developed. There are some places that contain crucial habitat necessary for certain animals to prosper. The areas mapped out for the oil and gas leases contain both.

I've layered the sections of proposed leases in orange onto an existing landscape photograph to illustrate the potential toll on the landscape the leases will take.

This is unconscionable.

The largest portions of the leases fall on both sides of the Harrison Pass road. This is crucial wintering range for Nevada's largest mule deer herd. There are numerous references the habitat value of Harrison Pass . I'll list just a few:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5157644.pdf

http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/Wildlife_Education/Publications/2014-Mule-Deer-Migration-Bald-Mountain-Mine-Report.pdf

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/htnf/home/?cid=stelprdb5239022>

At a time when mule deer numbers across the West are in decline, these gas leases only will serve as an additional and unnecessary burden to these animals continued success. Again, unconscionable.

I encourage the forest service to do everything possible to keep this from happening.

Thanks for your consideration,

Paul Stimac