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Comments: I am writing to oppose the opening of land in the Ruby Mountains to oil and gas exploration. This is a very rugged area and transporting equipment and oil in and out of the area would damage already fragile ecosystems. The Ruby Mountains have many rare and sensitive species and habitats. For instance, it contains the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, a rare wetland oasis, one of the few in the Great Basin. These marshes, meadows, and shrub-steppes support tens of thousands of nesting and migrating waterfowl every year including grebes, sandhill cranes, great blue herons, and white-faced ibis as well as the largest population of nest sites for canvasback ducks in the western US. There are unusual and irreplaceable tree carvings by Basque sheepherders as well as the many species that rely on this untrammled area for survival. The road to Harrison Pass, the main area proposed for development, runs right beside the marshland which itself is only a few miles from where the proposed development would take place. This land is ours, the people who paid for and maintain it, and not the governments to decide to sell. Do not hand our wild heritage to oil and gas interests. Say no to this proposal.