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Last name: Patterson & family

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS -- As a sporting family in Nevada, we strongly object to oil and gas leasing on any public lands in or near the Ruby Mountains. We enjoy and spend time in the Rubies and surrounding lands and towns.

Mr. Patterson is active with Nye County Fly Fishers, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers-Nevada, ECV and other public conservation organizations.

The overall public values of these public lands on the HTNF are much higher under stronger conservation and restoration of wild lands and wild habitat. Oil and gas leasing and drilling is simply not a compatible multiple-use in the Ruby Mountains area.

As oil and gas leases convey development rights, USFS and all agencies must fully evaluate all environmental and other effects if proposed lands are leased and developed. It's unacceptable for USFS and other agencies to say 'we'll look at all that later'. Leasing is very significant.

Furthermore, oil and gas resource potential is very marginal in Nevada. This marginal proposal is far too broad and wastes precious time, resources and staff of USFS and other agencies, and distracts from more important land management priorities.

How much money are USFS and other fed agencies spending on this process? How many staff? How many hours? This is an unfair subsidy to the oil and gas lobby.

Finally, the industry-driven leasing process is unwise for US public lands and our global changing, warming climate. What would be the likely CO2 and methane pollution emissions total if all lands up for lease were leased and fully drilled/developed?

USFS should take no action or defer all parcels.

Please keep us fully informed on this process. People want the Ruby Mountains area protected.