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First name: Karen

Last name: best

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern

As a 3rd generation Nevadans, this is the most ridiculous proposal to be entertained by the Forest Service. This is one of the very few areas in MY state that is largely undisturbed public land. To agree to this hocus pocus idea would be the beginning of selling out the area for private commercial gain. I speak against this as holder or mineral rights in both Nevada and Texas, and as a former USFS employee. Technologies have developed that enable horizontal drilling...drilling into lands outside of any designated areas. These mining and drilling deals only assess the environmental impact of the surface land that is disturbed or wildlife migrating corridors.

Consideration is seldom given enough more than tongue and cheek lip service when it comes to off site exploration and drilling underground into other areas outside the defined and limited area. Little onsite monitoring is actually done by leasing agencies due to budget limitations. ANY mineral exploration in Any state needs to have a budget for salaries provided by the developer for Federal environmentalists and field engineers to be on site and working with the private developer to protect the public's interest, not sell us out.

Proposed exploration of the The Ruby Mountains, Nevada's Last "gem," is a poor idea whose vision of grandeur needs to be STOPPED before it gets started.

Please do no give this idea any further entertainment.

Thank you

Karen Best