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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a local sportsman, I've spent a large portion of my life in and around this mountain range. The Ruby Mountains are the crown jewel in a state filled with mountains. It is an island of rich and unusual biodiversity, surrounded by high desert. People come from all across the country to hunt, hike, fish, snowmobile, ski, and camp here. It is truly a sportsman's paradise and, as it becomes more well known, it brings in large amounts of tourist dollars from people looking for an unspoiled western experience. The road building and industrial activity are completely at odds with that experience.

The northern most of the proposed leases cut a swath across some of the highest and most rugged alpine terrain in the range. This area is home to populations of mountain goats, himalayan snow partridge, mule deer, bighorn sheep and golden eagles. The activity proposed creates an ever shrinking ecosystem that these species depend on to survive.

It also includes the Harrison Pass/ Pearl Peak area that is traditionally some of the best mule deer hunting in the county. This industrial activity would close a great deal of this area to its traditional use and cause added stress to the deer herds there.

Granting these leases would compromise thousands of user visits each year for the benefit of the few. I urge you to reject these parcels for oil and gas leasing.

Thank you,
Kevin Madigan