Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/31/2017 4:00:07 AM First name: Diane Last name: Madigan Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS: I lived in Spring Creek, NV near the Rubies for 26 years. I originally came to the area as a geologist. When I look at the proposed lease areas, I am well aware of what is being proposed. I have walked the areas that have been outlined for leasing many, many times. Almost all the areas delineated are in a primitive, unspoiled state, and are used by hunters, fishermen, firewood-gatherers, ranchers and recreationalists virtually year-round. The large destructive wildfires in NV in the last couple decades have impacted deer and upland bird populations, making these proposed areas critical to keeping those wildlife populations from intense declines. As a geologist, I can tell you it is a joke to suggest that oil/gas deposits could be located in the intensely folded highgrade metamorphic and igneous rocks near Seitz and Hennen Canyons and Ruby Dome. That's just basic science. Access to most of the parcels is difficult to impossible, and it would require crossing private or tribal land, violating residents' right to private property, and possibly jeopardizing existing grazing allotments--with more roads, come more people and more gates left open. Because fracking does not need to meet Clean Water standards, and production water contents do not have to be disclosed, groundwater in the vicinity is at risk. Multiple studies have shown that fracking impacts groundwater. The sizable populations in Lamoille, Pleasant Valley and Spring Creek will be placed at risk, not to mention the wildlife in the areas of the drill rigs. Also multiple studies show tectonic activity increases with fracking--the Basin-and-Range fault blocks which form the perimeter of the Rubies are at risk of becoming more active. Since public lands need to address multiple use concerns, I believe these leases would violate the historic and current uses of the land, putting wildlife and groundwater at risk, with little expected benefit. There must be better places to find oil/gas than in the beautiful Ruby Mountains. Encourage exploration in more likely areas, and leave these beautiful and relatively untouched areas unleased. Let's continue to change our energy sources to renewables, and conserve and concentrate already our existing oil/gas developments. Thank you, Diane Madigan RN