Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2017 7:12:27 PM

First name: Sandra Last name: Rakestraw

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Don't Allow Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

The Ruby Mountains are one of the most spectacular landscapes in Nevada. With abundant big game, robust trout fisheries and dense sage grouse habitat, the Rubies are a critical resource for wildlife.

Are you people serious?? Americans neither want nor need more oil fracking, drilling, and related pollution. This is 2017 - we aren't looking backwards for the old forms of dirty energy! Please look forward to the sensible future and leave dirty oil in the ground where it best belongs!

Fracking and drilling for oil and gas would irreparably harm this undisturbed area. The waters that our trout rely on could be poisoned in spills or well failures after fracking. Mule deer habitat would be fragmented, and the deers' ability to safely overwinter would be compromised. Vulnerable sage grouse, known to be negatively affected by oil and gas development, will inch steadily closer to extinction.

I urge you not to permit any leasing for oil and gas in the Ruby Mountains. Non-surface occupancy stipulations do nothing to protect our precious aquatic resources from the harms of fracking. The only way to protect the fragile resources of the Rubies is to forbid leasing on all of these parcels.

Thank you,

Sandra Rakestraw

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