Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2017 6:08:10 AM

First name: M

Last name: Goddard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Do Not Allow Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

Fracking and drilling for oil and gas would irreparably harm this undisturbed and ecologically important area. Some of the best trout fisheries, including those harboring threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, are in the creeks cascading down from the Ruby Crest. The waters that our trout rely on have a likely potential to be poisoned by a toxic cocktail of chemicals from 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.

Fracking destroys everything around it. And with the effects of climate change already being felt throughout our country and the rest of the world, it is extremely irresponsible to continue our use of fossil fuels. 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,

M Goddard

92882