Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2017 4:52:42 AM

First name: Sharon Last name: Morris Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Don't Allow Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

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

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 compromised. Vulnerable sage grouse, known to be negatively affected by oil and gas development, will move steadily closer to extinction.

Please do not 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 any of these parcels.

Thank you,

**Sharon Morris** 

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