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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 and those pursuing natural recreation.

Fracking and drilling for oil and gas would irreparably harm this undisturbed area. The carcinogenic nature of the fluids would widely distribute the pollution through the aquifer and the land spills would remain toxic for an unknown period of time. 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.

There are far better alternatives for energy production now available: domestic, renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass. Energy projects developing renewable capability by design don't require any disturbance of these pristine lands

Please change course and protect our natural heritage for the next generation.

Don Robinson

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