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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.

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.

I believe that continuing to support the oil and gas industry that we are harming the planet, as well as, delaying modernization to alternative and cleaner energy resources. I am embarrassed that our country is not a leader in developing alternative energy. I am 60 years old and when I was in college in the 1970's I studied alternative energy as part of my Environmental Studies minor. I am embarrassed that decades have gone by without our country moving forward in this matter.

Thank you,

Kathryn Morse

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