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Organization:

Title:

Comments: No 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.

At the same time as we are witnessing massive worldwide extreme weather events due to fossil fuel burning, our government proposes even MORE extraction of these climate destabilizing elements?? This is a ill-logical, ill-considered and unscientifically substantiated mindset on the part of people who KNOW better. This proposal is a profit driven scheme and a suicidal trajectory of stupidity.

Fracking and drilling for oil and gas would irreparably harm the Ruby Mountains, largely a undisturbed area. The waters that our trout rely on would 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. Scientists have been writing for decades of the ongoing degradation and loss of these animals numbers and their habitats. Why do we propose ever more destructive extractive industry on our public lands---which, by the way, belong to EVERYONE, not private corporations.

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,

susan rudnicki

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