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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.

These lands are sacred religiously, culturally, and in a way more than words can convey to people whom do not share the identity of the Te-Moak Shoshone, and to lesser yet equal way on it's own to the other indigenous peoples of Nevada and the Greater region. The Ruby Mountain range is a place I have been blessed to visit briefly, specifically the area in question within this proposal, and once again I am at a loss for word to describe the feeling I got being there. There is a sense that one is entering a wilderness not yet touched by man. One gets the sense that you are entering a place that is not meant for anything modern, not vehicles, not buildings, not urban development, much less any oil and or gas development.

Thank you,

Christian Gerlach

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