

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2017 1:17:36 AM

First name: N

Last name: Houghton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please, NO Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

The Ruby Mountains are one of Nevada's most spectacular landscapes. 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. Trout streams could be poisoned by spills or well failures after fracking. Mule deer habitat would be fragmented; their ability to safely overwinter would be compromised. Vulnerable sage grouse, which are negatively affected by oil and gas development, will be ever closer to extinction.

Please do not permit any leasing for oil and gas in the Ruby Mountains. "Non-surface occupancy stipulations" do not protect vital 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,

N Houghton

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