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First name: Ashley

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Don't Allow Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

"This is the most beautiful place on the earth. There are many such places. Every man, every woman, carries in heart and mind the image of the ideal place. The right place. The one true home. Known or unknown. Actual or visionary. A houseboat in Kashmir. A view down Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn. A gray gothic farmhouse two stories high at the end of a red dog road in the Allegheny Mountains. A cabin on the shore of a blue lake in spruce and fir country. A greasy alley near the Hoboken waterfront. Or even, possibly, for those of a less demanding sensibility, the world to be seen from a comfortable apartment high in the tender, velvety smog of Manhattan, Chicago, Paris, Tokyo. Rio, or Rome. There's no limit to the human capacity for the homing sentiment. Theologians, sky pilots, astronauts have even felt the appeal of home calling to them from up above, in the cold black outback of interstellar space."

For Edward Abbey, this place was Moab. For myself, I take the Ruby Mountains.

Up until 5 years ago, I honestly didn't know this place even existed. But by sheer luck, I spent the summer of 2013 building trails in the Ruby mountains. That summer forever changed me. It brought me home.

The Ruby Mountains are one of the most spectacular landscapes in Nevada. With the 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 deer's 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.

Thank you,

Ashley Hudson

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