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First name: Janet

Last name: Carter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong objection to any oil and gas development/exploration as proposed for areas in and adjacent to the Ruby Mountains in Elko County.

These areas are prized by hikers, hunters, and sportsmen, and need to be preserved for the enjoyment of all. Many Elko County residents (myself included) consider the Ruby Mountains to be the best part of life in our region. I am concerned not just with the actual drilling, but also with the impact that oil/gas exploration could have on our roads, erosion, accessibility to favorite hiking and hunting locations, etc. It is important to remember that the roads leading to these areas are often unpaved and go through steep terrain. That would make exploration of the area for possible oil/gas development more expensive and difficult than usual. It thus seems unlikely that the exploration leases would prove to be an effective source of revenue. In fact, at least five exploration wells have been dug in nearby lands in recent years, and none have proved to be productive. It seems counter-intuitive to open these areas up to exploration when there is no evidence that they will produce any revenue for the forest service.

The Ruby Mountains provide far more value to our community as a pristine area for recreation than they ever could if opened up to oil exploration. I respectfully ask the proposed exploration not be allowed to proceed.