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First name: Paul

Last name: Ruprecht

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposal to lease federal public lands on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in the Ruby Mountains near Jiggs, Nevada for oil and gas exploration and development.

This area is part of a remarkably scenic landscape and development would mar it permanently and irreparably. Mule Deer, Sage-grouse, Lahontan cutthroat trout, migratory birds, and many other native wildlife species depend heavily on these areas. As a Nevada resident, hunter, angler, hiker, and conservationist, I am insulted by the Forest Service even considering oil and gas development on these lands.

I personally use the affected areas, as well as nearby areas such as Ruby Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, frequently for camping, hiking, and other recreation recreation and enjoyment. I plan to hunt in these areas in the future and believe that this project will greatly harm my ability and desire to do so.

Please consider the area's value for wildlife and recreation, scenery, clean water, and open space instead of solely as an opportunity for industry to make a buck.

I believe that if you lease these lands to oil and gas development that you will have committed a wholesale abdication of your responsibility to the public and the residents of Nevada to properly manage public lands. I also believe that you will have violated federal laws.

Stop this proposal now in its tracks--there is no reason to proceed with any further consideration. The Ruby Mountains are not an appropriate place for this kind of development.

If you continue with this senseless project, you must undertake an EIS that fully considers all impacts of the development on all of the public values that will be lost.

Please continue to keep me informed on this project at every possibility for public input.

Paul Ruprecht