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First name: Peter

Last name: Ruprecht

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I'm writing to voice my extremely strong opposition to any oil/gas drilling leases in the Ruby Mountains. Any short-term economic gain from drilling or other exploration in the Rubies would be minuscule in comparison to the long-term damage to fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and wild scenery.

I have spent a lot of time in the Ruby Mts and surrounding areas and consider it to be an absolute jewel in the Great Basin. I'm appalled that this public land, enjoyed by thousands of Americans each year, could be despoiled for the enrichment of a few people. It's not like the US is so desperate for new oil reserves that rare environments like the Rubies should be considered for new drilling.

Even a few test wells can have a disproportionate impact. The area I currently live in has undergone substantial drilling over the last few decades and even "small pad" operations have had an outsized effect on the surrounding area. Putting rare fish and wildlife in the Rubies in a similar mess just defies any kind of logic.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ruprecht