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First name: Greg

Last name: Patterson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Don't Allow Fracking in the Ruby Mountains

Dear Ms. Elliott,

The Ruby Mountains are one of the most spectacular landscapes in Nevada. With abundant big game, robust trout fisheries and dense sage grouse habitat, the Rubies are a critical resource for wildlife. I grew up in Nevada and spent many memorable camping trips with my family in the Rubies. I also have watched some wonderful areas of Elko ruined for camping because of mining and oil and gas exploration, including the presence of a huge slag heap exactly where I got my first deer. Imagine our shock when we went to go camping there only to find it had been buried in mining waste. What do we leave our children if this is all gone? Especially since we are trying to move forward to obtain an energy supply less and less dependent on petroleum based products. Climate change demands new thinking.

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 deers' 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,

Greg Patterson

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