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First name: Lora

Last name: Minter

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Susan Elliott, Project Lead

660 South 12th Street, Suite 108

Elko, NV 89801

Dear Susan,

I am writing to you in response to the legal notice posted in the October 3, 2017, issue of the Elko Daily Free Press regarding possible oil and gas leasing on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest near the Ruby Mountain.

As a native Nevadan, born and raised in Elko, the Rubies have been a recreational refuge for me and my family for decades. This area is unique to those who like to hike, watch birds, fish, hunt, take photographs (as you know), camp and otherwise enjoy the peace and quiet surrounded by some of the very best Mother Nature has to offer.

Some people may believe that disrupting wildlife, birds and recreational use throughout these 54,000 acres of Forest Service land is not a problem. I disagree. Because we as citizens do not know exactly where companies may decide to explore, we do not know what uniquely beautiful areas may be at risk.

It is my belief that drilling is inherently disruptive to wildlife, birds and the natural state of the land. I also know that several exploration wells have already been drilled along the Ruby mountain range and, for whatever reason, have not been developed. It appears these exploration companies have determined that it is not economically viable to proceed. How much disruption should be allowed if past attempts have proven futile?

I am writing to ask that these parcels near the Ruby Mountains be exempted from any possible oil and gas exploration. I would recommend the Forest Service protect these lands for recreational and wildlife use.

Sincerely,

Lora Minter