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To Whom It May Concern:

I hope the fear of environmental degradation and level of public concern regarding a proposal to make oil and gas leasing available in the Ruby Mountain will be enough to prompt the Forest Service to abandon any consideration to make said lands available.

While consideration may be given to such concerns as ecological impacts; the adverse affects on wildlife; cultural impact; and the aesthetic blight of drilling sites, there really can be no way to foresee the long-term impacts of leasing and the ensuing development.

The construction of well pads, roads, and other associated buildings would certainly lead to an immediate loss of habitat. In the long term there should be additional concerns regarding invasive weeds, how water resources might be impacted, and the greater likelihood that wildlife would avoid lands around well pads.

Reflecting upon the habitat value and the impacts to native wildlife should be enough to stop this proposal now. However, the multi-use recreational benefits and beauty of the Humboldt National Forest cannot be dismissed. Despite efforts to "identify reasonable and necessary stipulations to avoid or minimize impacts to resources[hellip]" there simply is no way to quantify the "non-commercial" value of the acreage being considered for leasing, especially when it would seem the oil and gas markets exhibit considerable volatility and the "exploration" may yield nothing more than a scar on the landscape for many years to come.

Respectfully,

Sheree Carson