

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2017 1:50:45 AM

First name: Carlie

Last name: Teague

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Carlie Teague and I am from Elko, Nevada and I strongly oppose the proposal to make approximately 54,000 acres of oil and gas available for leasing in the Ruby Mountains. I have a few reasons for opposing this:

- 1) It is unclear whether or not the leasing of the land will prohibit access to the mountains directly adjacent.
- 2) The maps provided do not provide a clear depiction of where the leased land is located and the extent to which the land could be exploited (topographic maps or anything other than a basic parcel map would clear this up).
- 3) The Ruby Mountains are a unique treasure to Nevada and are home to numerous endemic and endangered species (Sage Grouse, Himalayan Snowcock, Mountain Goats, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, and many other macro and micro invertebrates). There are a multitude of streams and tributaries that run out of the Rubies through the areas I believe to be in consideration for leases that are vital to the species listed above as well as many others.
- 4) The mission statement of the Forest Service is "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." Allowing the leasing of land to oil and gas could decrease the overall health of the ecosystem and decrease diversity of already sensitive species while prohibiting future generations from enjoying the health, diversity, and productivity it once had. I hope the mission statement is applied when making such drastic decisions.

In closing, the motto of the Forest Service is: "Caring for the land and serving the people." The leasing of this land for oil and gas will destroy the land and will limit access to the mountains we call home, thus defying the motto of the United States Forest Service.

Thank you for listening, I hope the concerns of the residents of Elko will be heard. Community over commodity.

Carlie Teague