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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Robert Bastien captures my sentiment perfectly.

The Ruby Mountains and all the foothills surrounding them are a national and natural treasure. They are one of Nevada's best kept secrets. A true gem in what most outsiders believe Nevada to be, somewhat a desert. Any intrusions by man that damages or destroys either or both the actual mountains or the surrounding foothills is unacceptable and abhorrent! In my experience, mining operations are not particularly responsible when it comes to environmental impacts. Even when mining operations are "responsible" the intrusion is damaging. Heavy equipment, exploration (drilling) equipment and the like don't really "leave no trace".

I grew up in Elko. Our family enjoyed our outings, picnics, hiking and camping in the Rubies. Being young, I tended to take the Rubies for granted. However, as an adult, whenever I drove through Elko, I always made it a point to take in the scenery of the Rubies. They are really fantastically gorgeous mountains! Truly gems! Whenever I stopped in Elko to visit with old friends, I made it a point to go out to the Rubies, usually for a quick hike up to Island Lake or Lamoille Lake or at least a drive up Lamoille Canyon.

My mother's ashes are scattered between Thomas Canyon and the turn-around in what we called the "High Meadows".

Upon a return for my 40th high school reunion, I vowed to return the next year and hike the Ruby Crest Trail. A year later I did indeed return and hiked the RCT from Harrison Pass/Green Mountain trailhead via Overland Lake, over Wines Peak to Castle Lake and ultimately to the "High Meadows" (turnaround) of Lamoille Canyon. I did this with a couple of high school friends in September, 2011. It was a wonderful experience.

Each subsequent year, I have returned to again backpack some trail in the Rubies; Overland Lake from Ruby Valley, Hidden Lakes in the Soldier Lakes Basin, Goat "Lake" up Right Fork Canyon and of course a return to Lamoille, Liberty, Favre, Castle Lakes and on to North Furlong Lake. I have been sharing these beautiful mountains with other backpacking friends. This has occurred every year since 2011. What a wonderful pristine monument of nature.

The thought of allowing mining interests to "explore" and exploit this area is truly depressing. The Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt Range and all the surrounding areas must be preserved and protected! Please preserve and protect these mountains! Do NOT allow any mining exploration or mining operations to encroach upon or impact the Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt Range or any of the surrounding areas. For that matter, do not let any interests whatsoever that would do harm to this area into this area! If you do, you will be destroying something extremely precious and irreplaceable. Preserve these areas for future generations. Thank You.