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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Nicholes, Acting District Ranger,

Today's Reno Gazette Journal (April 13, 2018) contains an article noting the comment period for proposed oil leasing in the Ruby Mountains has been extended. The gazette Journal article notes more than 7,000 comments, "virtually all of them in opposition" to the proposed leasing, have been received to date.

While current administration may not recognize it, some things are more important than oils and gas, coal and dollars. The Ruby Mountains and surrounding area are enjoyed by hikers, fishermen and women, hunters, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts. These lands provide critical habitat for wildlife. And one of their biggest draws is their wild, unspoiled nature.

Once a drilling operation is undertaken, the affected "public" land is de facto no longer public. That land becomes inaccessible to those same hikers, fishermen and women, hunters, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts, should they wish to enter an active drilling area in the first place. And in our arid landscape, the scars left by such activities will remain for a long, long time. Fly over some of our valleys and you can see the straight tracks of seismic lines that were put in forty years ago, and those lines are a relatively mild disturbance.

While the current administration may never understand the value of wild land and wildlife, a great many of us do. Please don't sell out by these values allowing our most precious public lands to be sold or leased to highest bidder. They hold much more value as they are.

Sincerely,

David Worley