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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

I am a sixty-six year old Elko County native. Throughout my life I have appreciated the pristine beauty of the Ruby Mountains. I cherish my right as a citizen to be a concerned steward of my public lands. I strongly believe it is the duty and responsibility of the United States Forest Service to be my partner in preserving the public land which they oversee.

I feel a sharp betrayal of our government agencies by "caving in" to the interests of the Global Corporate greed. When gold mining companies ravaged and permanently scarred the delicate ecosystem of the Independence Range north of Elko, I was outraged. It astounds me that this kind of devastation was allowed. Because the Independence Range is remote, and "off the grid", there wasn't much opposition to the permanent alteration of this mountain splendor.

For the past 50 years I have traveled over Harrison Pass en route to Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This delicate ecosystem is a natural wonder. Springs that feed the lake originate from the area proposed for exploration. Haven't we learned our lesson about what happens when oil and gas companies gain access to fragile environments? I'm also concerned of the impacts of increased traffic in this area.

As I stated above, my right of access to my public lands is the paramount issue. If I deface the public land, I am subject to reasonable penalties. The United States Forest Service has the "Service" responsibility to preserve the National Forests, not sell leases to the highest corporate bidder. This would be a devastating mistake! Please continue to preserve Ruby Mountains as the prized public gem it is!

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