

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2018 9:14:25 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil & Gas

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to leasing this forest for oil & gas extraction. We need to stop prioritizing the short-term interests of fossil fuels corporations over environmental & personal health & long-term concerns, & consider the following:

- 1) Extracting our natural wealth, especially the non-renewable kind, means that we won't have them in the future when they'll be scarcer & likely much more valuable & essential than they are now. Conserving our resources as much as we can means we are keeping our wealth & leaving these resources in reserve for a future time when their availability for use could be urgent
- 2) Deforestation is a huge problem & exacerbates other critical environmental problems such as carbon emissions, climate disruption, soil erosion, water pollution, air pollution, desertification, ecosystem fragmentation & disintegration, & mass extinction. We need to preserve as much forest as possible & reverse this process by reforestation & afforestation. It is key to avoiding the worst of these looming environmental catastrophes.
- 3) We need to convert from fossil fuels to renewable energy & institute pricing on greenhouse gases as soon as possible to avoid the worst of the projected climate chaos. Renewable energy is far more job intensive than oil, gas or coal, & by retraining people in these industries to work in renewable energy, they will have a safer job & live a longer & healthier life, & you will still have jobs left over for other workers in the renewable energy industry.
- 4) Always remember that in reality, water is more valuable than oil, & trees are more valuable than coal & even gold, for we need water & trees to survive. We'll need to work with, not against, nature, if we are to survive to the end of this century.

Thank-you!

Sincerely,

James Rankin