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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Ruby Oil and Gas

Dear Forest Service Managers, April 21, 2018

I am writing this letter as a citizen from New Mexico, just south of the Chaco Canyon, Four Corners Region. We live just a few hundred miles from a heavily fracked area where 100's of land leases have already been sold and many are active.

Our communities, in Northern New Mexico have banded together and educated ourselves about the dangers of fracking, not only to our aquifers and land, but to the general health of our communities. From cancer to damage to our water, earthquakes, to wildlife and all animals and people coming into contact with fracking - the list is long and deeply disturbing.

We hope you have studied deeply the recent many hundred page document recently published called the Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating the Risks and Harms of Fracking, 5th Edition, from Concerned Health Professional of New York and Physicians for Social Responsibility. If not, you should, immediately. Here is a link for downloading.

<http://concernedhealthny.org/Compendium/>

<http://www.psr.org/resources/fracking-compendium.html>

The Science is laid out in this document in great detail. The Science is real.

We who live downstream from many fracking sites are living near the largest methane cloud in our region (and quite possibly the country). It both worries us and makes us angry, that corporations and continually placed before the health and safety of our communities. We will not sit back and allow ourselves to be poisoned, as the people of Oklahoma and other states have.

Isn't it the duty to support the lands entrusted to your organization, to manage the wildlife and land resources which are our national treasures? Isn't it a job of our Forest Service to keep these places for the citizens of the U.S. to use and enjoy? To allow us, the citizens access to these unique lands which once chopped, destroyed and poisoned, can never be replaced for future generations?

We all know the current administration is mandating the slicing and dicing of our country to fill our oil coffers up and so the oil and gas producers may benefit. Well, some of us believe that the "old ways" are not the future. We believe in sustainable renewable energy and have data which could fill volumes to support the rise and success of sustainable energy worldwide. We live it as well, every day. We live off grid and walk lightly upon our wooded land myself and my husband own, surrounded by the national forest.

Regarding the Ruby Mountains specifically - doesn't it form a link in the Grand Canyon-Central Idaho wildlife corridor, which provides passage for mule deer, cougar, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats? In critical wildlife areas like the Rubies, the Forest Service should prioritize wildlife connectivity over fracking and energy extraction.

Shouldn't the amount of water needed to for fracking extraction, AND the resulting contaminated waters be taken

into consideration, when managing the watersheds of the Ruby Mountains? When considering the spills, leaks and well failures, which DO happen again and again (please read the data provided) it should be a no brainer that fracking in such areas is a dangerous proposition. The affects listed above could and will taint and degrade mountain streams, including several inhabited by the Lahontan cutthroat trout?-?a species protected under the federal Endangered Species Act as threatened. The Forest Service should be restoring watersheds to help recover threatened species, not pushing them closer to extinction.

The points made above are only touching on a few of the reasons that Fracking leases should NOT be granted in the Ruby Mountains, and we, the people who are watching will be taking note of the outcomes. We oppose this Fracking Land Lease Sale!

This issue is life or death to us, as we view our lands as something sacred, and not to be simply handed over to corporations to destroy. We, the People, are here to fight - be it for fracking to end in Chaco Canyon, the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, or in our back yard.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,  
Carolyn Riege  
Resident, El Rito, New Mexico, 87530