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Comments: I oppose drilling or fracking in the Ruby Mountains of Nevada. The Ruby Mountains form a critical 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. Fracking requires removing enormous amounts of water from watersheds, which coupled with spills, leaks and well failures, could taint and degrade precious 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.

Rare bighorn sheep live in the Ruby Mountains. They avoid human disturbance, including noise and temporary or permanent structures used in oil and gas operations. Oil and gas facilities fragment bighorn habitat, and reducing habitat connectivity can lead to genetic isolation and inbreeding. Oil and gas development is also likely to harm essential wintering habitat for one of the most significant herds of mule deer in Nevada. Rather than punishing these animals with development and habitat fragmentation, the Forest Service should be working to protect and enhance these iconic species that make the Ruby Mountains such a quintessentially Nevadan landscape.

Nevada offers diverse landscapes and habitat. Don't destroy that to squeeze out every drop of oil from the earth. There are other options available for us to fuel our cars and homes. Spend time developing these. Spend money on technologies that will protect our planet. When the planet is utterly destroyed, no clean water to drink, no air that is breathable, and no land left to grow food, we all die. Think of your grandchildren. Really, think of them. This isn't a cliché. Aren't their lives worth more than the money you make today? That money isn't going to do them any good if they can't breathe, eat, or drink.

God be with you when you make your final decisions. I pray that you do what is right not what is expedient or makes the most money for somebody.