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First name: Vincent

Last name: Brancato

Organization: Environmental Stewardship Committee - NYSEC

Title: Co-Chair

Comments: Re; Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing Availability Analysis #52443

The land in question is unique and priceless. Reasonable preservation of forest land is the purview and responsibility of the Forest Service.

Opening this land to the degradation of mining, hydrofracking or other traditional methods, could, in my view, only be justified for national security or health or similar reasons.

With the USA now being a leading producer of both oil and shale gas there is no reason, except to feed some greedy people or corporations to degrade this land - and endanger the water and air quality, and likely contribute to climate change in a negative way - I see no justification for Forest Land to be made a cheap resource for any entity.

I urge you to defend our forests and see that they are managed in a responsible way to continue to contribute responsibly to our timber resources and not lose the gift that these forests are to us all.

Thanks much

Sincerely

Vincent Brancato