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Comments: We strongly object to the proposal to lease 54,000 acres in the Ruby Mtns for oil and gas exploration. Given the geology of the Ruby Mtns it is unlikely that a significant deposit of petroleum exists beneath the proposed lease area. However, if exploration is allowed there will be significant damage to the surface resources from road and drill pad construction and real restoration will be very difficult. Even with best management practices it will be very difficult to avoid introduction of new noxious weeds and to prevent creation of construction caused erosion channels. The Great Basin landscapes are notably fragile and the history of development projects of various sorts is rife with long term problems. Hence, we respectfully request that the lease request be denied.