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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Oil and gas leasing

I wasn't born in Nevada, but I have lived in our beautiful state for 48 years. My children were born here. And actually consider myself a native Nevadan by now.

I lost my beloved husband 10 years ago. On Earth Day. I do miss him a lot, and by being able to hike, climb and walk our majestic mountains I keep on living without him. Nature is where I feel the happiest.

In past years I had the great opportunity to hike Jarvis and the Ruby Mtns. Two of the many jewels in our state. Last July a friend and I backpacked the Ruby Crest.

OMG we were greeted by a magnificent show of flowers. Also we shared this experience with mountain goats, mule deers, birds, butterflies and a night visit of a mountain lion around our tent.

We had the whole trail to ourselves until the fourth day. The silence and peace which allowed us to listen to the creek, the waterfalls and the wind with its continuous melodies are not for sale or lease. I have not only experienced this in wilderness areas, but in unprotected parts of our mountains in public lands.

I have worked in volunteer projects under the BLM or the Forest Service with the Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. I was chosen the volunteer of the year in 2013 by the Friends of Nevada Wilderness. This was a high honor given to me because I believe that when you volunteer you get so much back in return.

For me our public lands are sacred and should be kept as wild as possible for the generations to come.

I do hike a lot. It keeps me young at heart and physically fit for my age. I feel privileged to be able to enjoy these unspoiled lands. I will be gone in the near future. I am 70 years old. I am doing the JMT this July with a friend. Going to Escalante National Monument tomorrow doing a backpack. In May visiting Zion and Bryce. Backpacking Grand Canyon also in May, and much more..

At the present time technologies are going away from coal and oil. European countries are doing a better job than the USA in this field.

"Just take what you need for Mother Earth".

I would like to see a world where my grandchildren and the next generations would have the opportunity to enjoy Nature as I did. They should have the same gift that we are able to enjoy now.

Please deny this lease for drilling for oil and gas.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Lucrecia Belancio

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