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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby oil & Gas

The Ruby Mountains are one of Nevada's treasures that should remain pristine for generations to come. Opening up approximately 57,000 acres of public land for oil and gas exploration in and/or near the Rubies, a beloved "jewel" of Basin and Range country, would do irreparable and permanent damage. DO NOT ALLOW THIS!

Although no longer residents of Elko, we return yearly to hike and backpack in the Ruby Mountains. A few years ago, we backpacked the Ruby Crest Trail, and were astonished how few people we encountered over the course of 6 days. We were awed by the amazing numbers of wildflowers, alpine lakes, beaver ponds, waterfalls, and stands of old-growth limber pine trees.

Geological surveys have indicated that there is "low to no potential for oil" in this area, and according to government data, no oil or gas has been produced from Nevada federal lands for approximately 15 years. In addition, America's demand for oil has fallen. Mere exploratory studies of these acres will create irreversible damages; however, should oil and gas be found after the exploratory stage, the physical negative impacts will forever mar our treasured mountain area: road building; water table depletion; earthquake danger in a very seismically active area; methane gas pollution; habitat loss to already imperiled mule deer populations, sage grouse, and Lahontan cutthroat trout. How is this land stewardship?

For the sake of your and our children and their children, do not allow permits for gas/oil exploration anywhere in or near the Rubies!

Sincerely,

Mark M. Vietti M.D., Captain (retired United States Public Health Service)

Kyle W. Vietti