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Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

I know that my one email out of the 10,000+ that have already been submitted will likely go unread and may not make a difference even if it is, but I still feel that I have to send my comments regarding the proposed oil and gas exploration in the Ruby Mountains. This is especially sad news to me, not only because of the possible negative environmental impact on such a treasured piece of Nevada, but because The Ruby Mountains and Lamoille Canyon is the final resting place for my mother. In 2016, on the 20th anniversary of our mom's passing, my brothers and I knew we couldn't find a more beautiful, serene and safe place for her ashes. We chose a beautiful open meadow with two ponds and Aspen trees at the very top of a trail where the peaks of the Rubies would forever look down upon her and protect her for what we hoped would be for all eternity. Each year we are able to hike to that same spot to sit and visit with her, knowing that her resting place is safe from ever being violated by commercial development or land swap or simple greed. At least that's what we thought. I'm sad beyond words that this area could be disturbed now. When I think of what the Forest Service is and what it does, I think protector of natural habitats and resources, not oil and gas leases. I question the intent of opening one of the most beloved and pristine natural landscapes in Nevada for this type of venture.

Susan Nugent, Reno NV