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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Opposition to Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis #52443

Dear sir/madam:

We are proud of our state's wild places. Not only do they benefit us, but travelers from all over the country and the world come here to rest and recreate. A big part of the experience travelers seek is the wildlife.

We have a delicate ecosystem here in the desert. As has been mentioned elsewhere, the Sage Grouse nearly escaped EPA listing as an endangered species but continues to decline nonetheless. (National Geographic, Birds of North America, Seventh Edition.) The Ruby Mountains' lakes and forests host many species of national importance (The National Audubon Society.) Additionally, this year is designated "The Year of the Bird" to honor the National Migratory Bird legislation that has preserved wild species for a century. If we don't act now we may discover, as Rachel Carson did fifty years ago ("A Silent Spring,") that the birds and other wild animals have disappeared. An then, how will we get them back?

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to protect us from interests that may harm us or our wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.