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First name: Jane

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ruby Oil and Gas

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposal to make leases available for oil/gas exploration in the Ruby Mountains. I was born and raised in Elko County and my family has lived in the area for generations. The Ruby Mountains are invaluable to the ecology of the region and the possibility of exploratory and potential extraction will threaten this profoundly.

The environmental, economic, recreational, and cultural benefits that come with maintaining the unaltered integrity of these lands cannot be overestimated. Such benefits should not be bargained away by the theoretical possibility of short term monetary gain.

As a physician, I am well aware of the physical and psychological benefits that wild spaces afford individuals. I would hope that the Forest Service, who for long has protected such areas, would abandon this proposal to continue to safeguard the future.

Sincerely,

Jane Simonsen, MD

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