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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Prohibit Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 23, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I strongly urge you to oppose the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's request that you open up the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to oil and gas leasing. Our public lands are intended for the preservation of the ecological biodiversity that sustains all life on this planet, including us humans. Every day, uncounted millions of acres of pristine land are being destroyed forever by mining and other industrial operations. The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are supposed to be offsetting this destruction, not heralding it in!

The Forest Service has absolute discretion to withhold its consent to federal oil and gas leasing beneath National Forest System lands. The agency is under no obligation to allow any leasing.

Given the importance of the Ruby Mountains for fish and wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for our American heritage of public lands, leasing in the Ruby Mountains is a terrible idea.

The fact that the Rubies are the source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge raises serious concerns that any future oil and gas development will pose unacceptable risks to surface and groundwater.

There is no need to lease the Ruby Mountains. Right now, there is barely any oil and gas production in the State of Nevada and all leasing appears to be completely speculative. I urge the Forest Service not to allow our public lands to be used to fuel industry speculation.

It is your duty and responsibility to reject any and all oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and anywhere else on or inside of our nation's public lands!

Signed,

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Sincerely,

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