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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Keep Oil and Gas Leasing out of the Ruby Mountains!

May 23, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am in strong opposition to fossil fuels leasing in the Ruby Mountains. Our public lands are too valuable to allow continued unmitigated exploitation and woefully inadequate royalties to the U.S. Treasury. I strongly urge you to deny 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.

The Forest Service (USFS) has absolute discretion to withhold its consent to federal oil and gas leasing beneath National Forest System lands. The USFS must consider other uses along with habitat and wildlife protections, climate change and future needs for a balanced ecosystem and recreational needs. The USFS is under no obligation to allow any leasing. Fossil fuels are killing us and polluting the planet and jeopardizing our future, it is past time to stop this destructive, exploitation of our public lands.

The Ruby Mountains are of significant importance for fish and wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for our American heritage of public lands; leasing in the Ruby Mountains is a terrible idea. Weak environmental protections, unenforced reclamation, and negligible royalties make oil and gas leasing an unacceptable use of our national forests.

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 USFS not to allow our national forests to be used to fuel polluting, destructive and rapacious industry speculation.

It is imperative and of utmost importance that the USFS reject any and all oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

For our health, forests, wildlife and future,

Sincerely,

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