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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 23, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

It would be a tragedy for the Forest Service to grant BLM's request that you open up the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to oil and gas leasing.

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. There is currently a glut of oil and gas on the world market, and in the domestic market. We are even exporting both to other countries. Under those conditions, there is no justification for despoiling the Ruby Mountains when less than half of Federal eased oil and gas acreage is being actively developed.

The Ruby Mountains provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for our American heritage of public lands. They will be much less valuable for all of those uses if they are leased wholesale to the oil and gas industry. 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.

Please, reject any and all oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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