

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/23/2018 7:22:16 PM

First name: Aimee

Last name: Mendes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 23, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to urge you to deny the current U.S. Bureau of Land Management's request to open up the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to needless 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.

Given the importance of the Ruby Mountains for fish and wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for our heritage of public lands, leasing in the Ruby Mountains for soon-to-be-redundant fossil fuels makes no sense.

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 the greedy oil and gas industry.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Aimee Mendes

432 Foundry St

North Easton, MA 02356-2724

(508) 230-0101

amendes789@verizon.net

