

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/24/2018 11:52:31 PM

First name: Barry

Last name: LeBeau

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 24, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I'm writing to 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 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 and lousy 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 only pose unacceptable risks to both surface and groundwater.

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

Mr. Barry LeBeau

97 Phenix Ave

Unit#1

West Warwick, RI 02893

(401) 351-3184

blebeau123@yahoo.com

