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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Reject Oil and Gas Leasing in Ruby Mountains

May 24, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to urge strongly that you please deny the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's request for 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 for federal oil and gas leasing beneath National Forest System lands. It is under absolutely no obligation to allow any leasing at all.

Allowing fracking in the Ruby Mountains would devastate the habitats of local fish and wildlife, as well as destroying the area's suitability for outdoor recreation. This is why public lands were set aside in the first place.

Furthermore, since these mountains are the source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge any future oil and gas development would pose unacceptable risks to surface and groundwater.

There is no need to lease the Ruby Mountains anyway since there is currently hardly any oil and gas production in the State of Nevada, and all leasing appears to be completely speculative. I urge the Forest Service to please withhold our public lands from being used to fuel pointless industry speculation.

So please quarantine our beautiful and much loved Ruby Mountains from any oil and gas leasing whatsoever so that we, the public, can continue to enjoy them as they are. Thank you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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