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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 am a retired Bureau of Land Management Soil Scientist with a comprehensive and extensive background in managing natural resources on Nevada's public lands. I am writing to urge you to deny the Bureau of Land Management's request that you open up the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to oil and gas leasing.

For almost 50 years, I have both recreated and worked in the Ruby Mountains and adjacent areas such as the Ruby marshes and the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. And I can personally attest that there are no finer, wild, undeveloped ecosystems to be found in the entire state.

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.

The Ruby Mountains are some of the most beautiful and pristine regions in not only the state but the entire country. 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 idea.

The fact that the Rubies are the primary source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Nevada State Fish Hatchery, raises serious concerns that any future oil and gas development will pose unacceptable environmental risks to surface and groundwater and wildlife.

There is no practical or economic 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 and politically motivated. Furthermore, the country has a glut of oil and gas reserves making such an action unnecessary. I urge the Forest Service not to allow our public lands to be used to fuel industry speculation and monetary greed.

Please, reject any and all oil, gas, mineral and logging leasing in the

Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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