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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 urge you to DENY the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's request to open the Ruby Mountains [of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest] to oil and gas leasing.

I learned that the Forest Service has absolute discretion to withhold its consent on federal oil and gas leasing beneath National Forest System lands. I strongly urge you to use your discretion to deny any leases for oil and gas exploration.

The Ruby Mountains are crucial to area fish and wildlife, for outdoor recreation, and for our American heritage of public lands. Based on the frequent environmental contamination associated with fracking, oil drilling, and pipelines, it would be a terrible violation of the Forest Service's stewardship role if you would allow oil or gas leases in the Ruby Mountains.

The Rubies are the source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and that raises serious concerns that any oil and gas development will pose unacceptable risks to surface and ground water.

Today, 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 all proposals for oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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