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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 writing to urge that you deny the request of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management that you open up the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to oil and gas leasing.

The Forest Service evidently, fortunately has absolute discretion to withhold its consent to allow federal oil and gas leasing beneath National Forest System lands. The agency is under no obligation whatsoever 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 represents a terrible idea.

The fact that the Ruby Mountains provide the source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge raises serious concerns that any future oil and gas development would pose unacceptable risks to relevant and other related surface and ground-water.

No pressing need of any kind exists to lease the Ruby Mountains.

Right now, there is barely any oil and gas production in the State of Nevada, and all related leasing appears to be completely speculative. I urge strongly that the Forest Service not allow our public lands to be used to fuel mere industry speculation.

Please, reject any and all oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Your attention and consideration would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Arthur Powers

Denver, Colorado

Sincerely,

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