

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/24/2018 1:50:59 AM

First name: Linda

Last name: Rossin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 23, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am 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.

Fortunately 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, indigenous peoples and for outdoor recreation on public lands, leasing in the Ruby Mountains is a terrible idea.

It is simple common sense that tells us the Rubies are the source of water for the nearby Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge and leasing these lands raises serious concerns that any future oil and gas development will pose unacceptable risks to surface and groundwater, which all life depends.

There is no 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. I urge the Forest Service not to allow our public lands to be used to 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,

Ms. Linda Rossin  
13 Alpine Drive  
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849  
(973) 663-0318  
lindarossin@mac.com

