

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/24/2018 4:21:24 AM

First name: Monica

Last name: Koziol

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 23, 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 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 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, for outdoor recreation, and for America's heritage of public lands, leasing in the Ruby Mountains is a dumb idea.

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

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. The Forest Service should not allow our public lands to be used for fuel industry speculation. These wild places are not things to be destroyed then abandoned when another catastrophe strikes, yet there are no offers of reparation. It is morally wrong to desecrate our public lands and speculation should be disregarded.

Please, reject any and all oil and gas leasing in the Ruby Mountains of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Monica Koziol
13192 West Cross Place
Littleton, CO 80127
(303) 549-4629

teagoddess@msn.com