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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Reject Ruby Mountains Oil and Gas Leasing

May 30, 2018

Jenna Padilla, U.S. Forest Service

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing to 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.

No, no, no, no, No. I respectfully urge you to stop this misguided action immediately.

When we deny animals their God-given right to move, deny their right to eat, or deny their right to be alive in the world, it is morally wrong.

America First is to understand that our economic well-being rests upon our environmental well-being. Outdoor recreation, and those who want to see wildlife (rather than hunt and kill or frack and exploit the environment), generates \$646 billion dollars in annual spending and it creates 6.1 million jobs each year. Only a tiny slice of this comes from hunting. Outdoor recreation provides \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue. In addition to those significant monetary benefits, the right thing to do---is to protect our precious environment and finite natural resources. This is America First.

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 our American heritage of public lands, leasing in the Ruby Mountains is a terrible 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. 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. Robyn Weber
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