

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/23/2018 9:50:54 PM

First name: Sandra

Last name: Shilko

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 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.

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.

If the land is constantly defaced there won't be any wildlife, places to go camping, fishing, show children wildflowers & what the land is supposed to be like & not a country with NO Place to just take a walk to observe beauty, there isn't another chance we only have this one to do the right thing, don't let it slip away from everything that the Forefathers died for trying to make a new life in a new country. don't let it be for nothing but a piece of stripped land.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandra Shilko  
7004 N W 77th St  
Kansas City, MO 64152  
(816) 206-5190  
sandra\_shilko@yahoo.com