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https://elkodaily.com/news/local/getting-the-word-out-trout-unlimited-and-other-groups-discuss/article_3ed9595d-0f4a-5b08-8ab2-6aa7b95eeb7c.html

Mary Gibson explains the 1863 Treaty.



Getting the word out: Trout Unlimited and other groups discuss Ruby Mountain oil drilling **TONI R. MILANO** t milano@elkodaily.com **Jan 18, 2019**

ELKO – What impact would drilling or fracking have on the Ruby Mountains? Trout Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation discussed the possibilities in a meeting that brought attendees of various political affiliations together.

Nearly 70 people attended the Jan. 17 meeting in Dalling Hall. It was hosted by the two conservation groups and included placards of maps, graphs and information describing the location of parcels within the Ruby Mountains and the impact of drilling and fracking on wildlife habitat.

The goal was to inform the community and encourage discussion ahead of a U.S. Forest Service decision on whether to open portions of the Ruby Mountains to oil and gas leasing, said Pam Harrington of Trout Unlimited.

“I think we provided people what they were seeking,” she said. “It couldn’t go any better than that, as far as I’m concerned.”

Lands north of Sherman Creek and south of Lamoille Creek are designated for leasing under a 1986 management plan. In 2018, the Forest Service opened two public comment periods and garnered 13,000 comments in opposition to the proposal.

The release of draft decision has been delayed, with the latest setback attributed to the shutdown of the federal government.

Trout Unlimited, along with other conservation groups including the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity, scheduled meetings in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko this week in hopes of keeping the issue at the forefront of people’s minds.

“This is the time to make your voice heard, not after you’re upset when the hunting’s not there,” said sportsman Justin French. “That’s the wrong time to come into the argument.”

Patrick Donnelly, state director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said thanks to opposition from the Legislature last summer and U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, the draft decision has already been delayed a year, but he wants to see the Rubies fully protected with oil and gas leasing taken off the table permanently.

“How do we prevent this from happening again? Are there long-term protections that the Rubies can have so that this doesn’t happen again?” Donnelly asked.

Some of the area — “not a ton of acreage” — targeted for leasing was burned in the Range 2 fire, Donnelly said, which “adds to the idea that these places are just too important to drill.”

“We need to let these places heal, do restoration,” Donnelly said. “So the idea you would take a freshly burned area and then potentially expose it to road building and drilling is just crazy.”

However, should the Forest Service approve the leases, Donnelly said that as a last resort, the organization would fight the decision because the Rubies are “worth fighting for.”

“If they lease, rest assured, we will take them to court,” Donnelly said.

Te-Moak Tribe response

Treating the Ruby Mountains with respect was the theme of speakers from the Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone, who issued a resolution on Jan. 2 that asked the Forest Service “not to offer a single parcel of the Ruby Mountains for any oil or gas leasing now or at any time in the future,” stating that exploration “would possibly and irreversibly damage waters, streams, springs, aquifers, wildlife habitat and traditional gathering sites ... and potentially limit access to Harrison Pass.”

After the meeting, Davis Gonzalez, chairman of the Elko Band Council, said anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 groups of Shoshone used to roam the Ruby Mountains in the 1800s, explaining that there are sacred blessing spots and burial places that could be disturbed by someone searching for oil.

“The fracking and drilling [is] going to destroy all of that,” Gonzalez said. “They don’t know what they’re going to do. They’re going to damage that beautiful mountain that we have.”

Tribe member Mary Gibson held up a sign throughout the meeting that read “Newe Sogobia is not a resource she is our lifesource” and “Get the frack out of Daca Doya.” She said that everyone, both tribe members and non-tribe members, have something to lose if drilling and exploration were allowed in the Rubies.

“This is Western Shoshone Land. This is Newe Sogobia, the people’s mother earth,” Gibson said. “This is what Indian people depend on to live as Shoshone people.”

“All of us here know we need water, air and land to exist,” Gibson continued. “We all depend on it, so we have to stop this in some way.”

A learning opportunity

Others in attendance were from a mix of political parties and affiliations. Congressional representatives for U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei and senators Catharine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen watched the presentation from the audience and talked with constituents, many of whom stated they were not in attendance to represent a political party but to learn more about the issue.

“It’s beautiful,” said Harrington. “[P]eople are coming together that don’t necessarily sit on the same side of the table. The Rubies are ‘a spot on the wall’ that we can all agree on being protected.”

An Elko County Democrat who declined to give his name said he attended to learn about both sides of the issue, but that he was “definitely biased against” oil exploration in the Rubies.

“I’m here to learn who are pro or con, and have some discussion in the process,” he said. “The Rubies are way too majestic and I don’t quite understand.”

Getting the facts was one of the reasons Bert Gurr, chairman of the Elko County advisory Board of Wildlife, attended Thursday night's meeting.

"I want to see what they're talking about so I can get an idea of where to fight, what to fight and whether there's a reason to fight," Gurr said before the meeting started.

Gurr said that as a Spring Creek resident who has hunted in the Rubies, he was opposed to seeing drilling structures dot the landscape of the Ruby Mountains.

"The last thing I want to see is derricks along the foothills of the Rubies," Gurr said.

Donnelly said it has been "an eye-opening experience" discussing the issue with those who would normally oppose his organization. He added that he knows some consider his organization to be "a left-wing extreme environmental group," but that his and his organization's fight for the Rubies has created new relationships.

"We've been able to make connections with other people who we may disagree with on other issues, but we all agree that the Rubies are worth fighting for and putting our differences aside for."

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### [Conservationists fight Ruby Mountain drilling](#)



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In Defense of the Rubies (from Sierra Club)

Since 2017, the Forest Service has been considering whether to allow oil & gas exploration in Nevada's crown jewel mountain range, the Ruby Mountains.

Nevadan's like you delivered more than 13,000 comments opposing the proposed lease sale. To underscore public opposition to the

proposed leasing, and to advocate for permanent protection for our beloved mountains, the Sierra Club has teamed up with [Center for Biological Diversity](#), [Trout Unlimited](#), the [National](#)

[Wildlife Federation](#), [Nevada Conservation League](#), and [Nevada Bighorns Unlimited](#) to speak in defense of the wildlife habitat, watersheds, recreational value, and cultural importance for the indigenous people of the region (above, Larson Bill speaks to the audience at the [Patagonia Outlet](#) in Reno on January 15). Other meetings were held in Las Vegas on 1/16 and in Elko on 1/17.

We ask the US Forest Service and/or our Congressional Delegation (Senator Cortez Masto, Senator Rosen, and Congressman Mark Amodei) to deny oil exploration and provide permanent protection for these mountains.

If you would like to learn about upcoming opportunities to protect the Rubies and other public lands, [click here to sign up](#).

[Colorado Court: Oil, Gas Drilling Decisions Can't Hinge on Public Health](#)

Nicholas Kusnetz, Inside Climate News

Kusnetz writes: "In a case that had threatened to sharply curtailed oil and gas drilling in Colorado, the state Supreme Court ruled Monday that state regulators cannot put health and environment above all other considerations when approving new fossil fuel development under the current state law." [READ MORE](#)

Government shutdown hitting Indian reservations harder than most places
<http://strib.mn/2CAUSvH>

GrantStation

National Opportunities

[Support for Initiatives to Address Environmental Challenges](#)

The Resilient Communities program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with support from Wells Fargo, is dedicated to helping communities prepare for future impacts associated with sea level rise, water quantity and quality, and forest conservation.

[Programs for People Affected by Autism Funded](#)

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

[Mini-Grants for Youth Service Projects](#)

The Power of Youth Challenge, an initiative of America's Promise Alliance, invites youth from across the country to bring positive change to their communities by leading social service projects.

[Award Celebrates the Innovative Work of Seniors](#)

The AARP Purpose Prize honors extraordinary individuals 50 years of age and older who use their life experience to make a better future for all.

Regional Opportunities

Grassroots Social Change Efforts Supported in the Northwest

Social Justice Fund Northwest is a member-funded foundation working to strengthen grassroots initiatives in the broad-based movement for progressive, systemic social change throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

Funds to Increase Employment Options for New Jersey Citizens with Disabilities

The Kessler Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities caused by stroke, multiple sclerosis, injuries to the brain and spinal cord, and other chronic conditions.

Grants Strengthen Opportunities in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi

The Foundation for the Mid South was established to bring together the public and private sectors and focus their resources on increasing social and economic opportunity in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Support for Watershed Conservation Efforts in Pennsylvania

The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds supports nonprofit organizations that are addressing watershed conservation issues in Pennsylvania from the Ohio border to the Susquehanna River's main stem.

Federal Opportunities

Environmental Justice Efforts Supported

The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program supports and empowers communities working on solutions to local environmental and public health issues.

Funds Available for Efforts to Combat and Learn About Opioid Use

The HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative is an aggressive trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis.

50 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL INSTEAD OF "HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

- What made you smile today?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
- What did you do that was creative?
- Who did you sit with at lunch?
- Was anyone in your class gone today?
- Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
- Did you like your lunch?
- What was the hardest rule to follow today?
- If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
- What made your teacher smile?
What made her frown?
- If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
- What kind of person were you today?

See full list at HerViewFromHome.com

Hosting Opportunities

Saudi Judges for Valentines?

A delegation of fifteen judges from Saudi Arabia will visit Reno to learn about the administration of justice in the US. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on February 14 or 15.

STEM Teachers from Kazakhstan for Dinner

Five STEM teachers from Kazakhstan will visit Reno to learn about STEM and STEAM education. They would like to be hosted for dinner on February 15, 16, 17 or 18th.

Judges from Moldova for Dinner

A delegation of four Moldovan Justice and Law Enforcement officials will visit Reno to learn about the rule of law. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on February 20 and 21.

Journalists from Around the World for Dinner

A delegation of ten journalists from all over the world will visit Reno and the Reynolds School of Journalism to learn about fake news. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on March 1,2, or 3.

Open World Group for Overnight Stays - Women Political Leaders

A delegation of women political leaders from Russia will be visiting March 8-16 to meet with women's advocacy groups and meet the first female majority legislative body in the country. We are looking for home hosts that have a spare bedroom for the 10-day stay in Reno.

Interfaith Representatives from Various Countries for Dinner

A delegation of eleven interfaith religious officials from Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan will visit Reno to learn about the amazing efforts on the topic in our community. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on March 8,9, or 10.

Women Political Leaders from Around the World for Dinner

A delegation of nine international women politicians from all over the world will visit to meet with women legislators. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on March 13 or 14.

Entrepreneurs from Africa for Dinner

A delegation of eight Sub Saharan African entrepreneurs will visit to learn about Northern Nevada's awesome entrepreneurial ecosystem. They are looking for a home hospitality dinner on March 29, 30 or 31.

Contact Carina Black at cblack@unr.edu if you are interested in hosting these delegates for dinner or overnight.

EHS Basketball Player Alumni Updates

Devyn Courts

Played 3 years of varsity basketball. Went on to play one year in Lassen College- Susanville, California. Currently works at the Elko Colony Gymnasium.

Lorena Torres

Played all four years on the EHS varsity basketball team. Went on to play two years in Lassen College- Susanville, California. Went to play her last two years of eligibility in Division 2 Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon. Now she is in her 3rd year as the Assistant coach for Warner Pacific. She is also a full time kindergarten teacher at NAIA in the city of Portland.

Alicia Marin

Played J.V. her freshman year and was moved to Varsity for regionals that year. She played 3 years of Varsity basketball where she received 2 time All Region 2 time All State. She is now playing her first year for Whatcom Community College, in Bellingham, Washington.

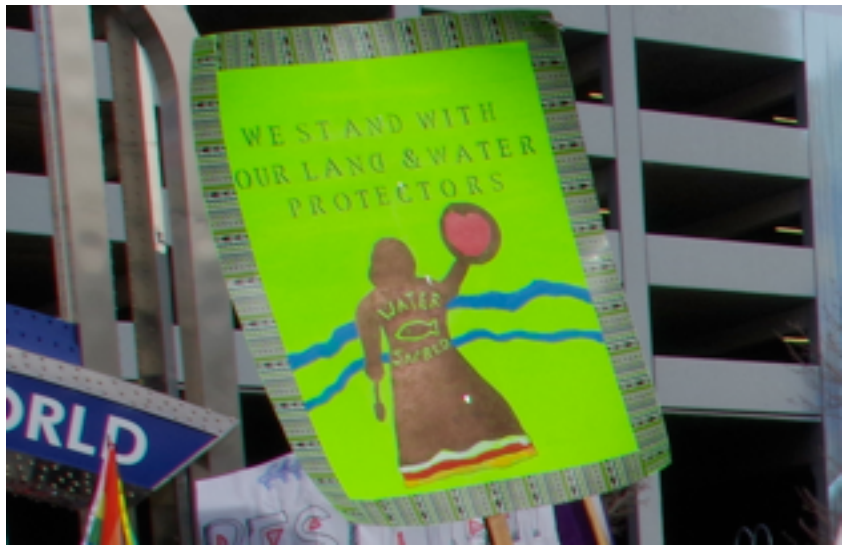
Nadina Delgado

Played 2 years varsity basketball. She is now attending Weber State University Francisco Mendoza. Played two years of Varsity basketball.

Branden Jenkins

Played 2 years of Varsity basketball.

Submitted by Lance Stevens, Elko Colony Health and Wellness Center Director



National Poetry Gathering Line-Up That Matters to You

Article and Front Page Photos by Victoria Jackson

Western Folklife Center - 501 Railroad St

Elko Convention Center - 700 Moren Way

Elko, January 17 - Dates for the 34th National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is set for January 29-February 3.

This year, Natives of many backgrounds will have a strong presence at the event.

Nephi Craig, White Mountain Apache/Navajo, will be featured during the keynotespeech titled, "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things."

Craig is the founder of the Native American Culinary Association, primarily focusing on "the development and preservation of Native American foodways.

According to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering book, Craig has taken his knowledge from culinary school "home to Whiteriver, Arizona, to establish a Western Apache Cafe' and Learning Center to provide local opportunities for nutritional recovery, training and employment."

During the keynote speech, a three-minute preview for "How We Teach, How We Learn, Shoshone Language with Alfred Jackson 2017," will also be featured. The keynote address is scheduled for Thursday, February 1 from 9:15 - 10:30 am at the Convention Center Auditorium. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

According to the Gathering book, "Non-ticketed shows and events takeplace during the day, February 1-3, only. These require the purchase of a 3-Day Deluxe Pass (\$80) or a Single Day Pass (\$30)." These passes can be purchased on the National Cowboy Poetry website, or at the Ticket Desk in the Lobby of the Elko Convention Center. Seating can be limited, purchase tickets early and arrive to shows early to ensure entrance into the shows.

Craig will also be hosting a Humanities Talk on Thursday night at 5:30-6:45 pm at Great Basin College Greenhaw Technical Arts Building, Room 130. This discussion is FREE to the public.

Crow Indian, **Henry Real Bird** will also be performing in several daytime shows. The first is on February 2 from 12 pm to 1 pm. "Writing from the Rural Outback," features poetry from Real Bird and several other western poets. This session will take place in Ruby Mountain Ballroom #1 at the Elko Conference Center.

"Stories from Buckaroo Country," follows the format of last year's "Indian Cowboys," story telling session. This year, the show will feature local Native buckaroos who will tell stories, including **Ted Howard**, from Owyhee, Nevada and **Joe Blossom**, Shoshone-Paiute buckaroo from Owyhee/Lee.

Non-Natives that will be featured in the panel include retired YP RanchCowboss Jerry Chapin, Battle Mountain; buckaroo Doug Groves, who worked for the IL, YP and TS ranches; and buckaroo/packer Ross Knox.

The first show is scheduled for Friday, February 2 from 1 pm to 2:15 pm at the G Three Bar Theater inside of the Western Folklife Center. The second show will occur on Saturday, February 3, from 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm at the Turquoise Room at the Elko Convention Center. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

Craig will also be featured in the session, "Native American Cuisine and Culinary Culture" on Friday, February 2 from 2:15 to 3:15 in the Lamoille Room at the Elko Conference Center. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

Students from Owyhee Combined Schools will make an appearance again this year to display their videos. "Deep West Videos" will feature new films produced with the mission of telling stories about their personal history, or documenting events from the Duck Valley Reservation, in Owyhee, Nevada. Filmmakers featured this year will be: **Talliah Hancher, Destiny Max, Gage Johnson, Lance Owyhee, Isabella Pasqual, Dilan Bill and Devin Baker.** According to

Production Manager, Colene Paradise, the productions involved many hours of work, "Talliah's took twenty plus hours to format each individual shot at a time." The first showing is scheduled on Friday, February 2 from 10 am to 11 am at the G Three Bar Theater inside of the Western Folklife Center. The second show will occur on Saturday, February 3 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Turquoise Room at the Elko Convention Center. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

Real Bird will also be featured in "Senses of Place" featuring cowboy poets. This show will also feature Marie Lisa Eastman, Shadd Piehl and Sean Sexton. This session will occur on Saturday, February 3 from 11 am to 12 pm at the G Three Bar Theatre inside of the Western Folklife Center. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

Finally, several Natives and tribal members from different reservations will be featured in the discussion, "Images of the Buckaroo - On the Ranch and in the Arena." Western Photographer, Mary Williams Hyde, has compiled photographs of working buckaroos and rodeo cowboys. The first show is scheduled for Friday, February 2 from 11 am to 12 pm at the Black Box Theater, Wiegand Gallery inside of the Western Folklife Center. The second show will be on Saturday, February 3 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in the Lamoille Room at the Elko Conference Center. A Deluxe or Day Pass is required to attend this show.

To purchase tickets on-line, or for more show information, go to: <http://www.nationalcowboypoetrygathering.org/buy-tickets/>

Featured Artists to See Article by Victoria Jackson

Elko, January 17 - The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is not only about the poems written out on the range around the campfire. Local Native artists also have an opportunity to display and sell their art.

As with the performances throughout the Gathering, several Native Artists are promoted. The Western Folklife Center and the National Cowboy Poetry gathering asked **James Shoshone**, Owyhee, Nevada, to feature his drawing, "All Part of Mak'n a Cowhorse - Buckaroo gett'n the colt use to the Reata" on the back of the National Cowboy Poetry book, which is provided to all attendees of the Gathering.

Shoshone will have a booth, displaying and selling his art at the High Desert Western Art Show and Sale, at the High Desert Inn, 3015 Idaho Street. The show runs February 1 through 3 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Shoshone's art is also featured on the main poster promoting the High Desert Western Art Show and Sale.

February 1, 2, & 3, 2018

14TH Annual Great Basin Natives Headline Gathering

The 14th Annual Great Basin Native Market will also run in conjunction with the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Artists from various regions and reservations from the Great Basin area will be at the Historic Girl Scout House at 561 14th Street in Elko.

The Market will feature vendors selling beadwork, t-shirts, woven baskets, jewelry, Shoshone language videos, traditional and modern Native medicines and fine art.

Among the artists in attendance will be Micquela Jones, Shoshone, Elko, Nevada. Jones will once again feature original paintings, calendars featuring her art, prints and note cards, among other products.

Not only will Jones be featured at the Great Basin Native Market, but she will also sell at the Western Folklife Center Gift Shop in the Elko Convention Center. Jones will also feature the ledger art work of her son, Myles Micquela Jones displaying her fine art at the 2017 Great Basin Native Market. Crouch and handmade necklaces by Seth Jones, also of Elko.

The Great Basin Native Market is still looking for vendors.

The Market will be held from Thursday, February 1 through Saturday, February 3. The doors will be open from 10 am to 6 pm daily.

The reception, featuring an artist meet and greet and Native foods will be held Thursday, February 1 from 11 am to 2 pm. Artists will be on hand to answer any questions the public may have.

For interested vendors, the cost for a 4 foot by 6 foot vendor space will be \$75. The City of Elko is charging a \$6 vendor's fee per day. The total cost for the weekend is \$93.

Vendors will also be responsible for collecting and paying sales taxes by money order or cash prior to the end of the event.

For more information, contact Lois Whitney at 775-340-9897 or Stephanie Sam at 775-397-3910.

Also, look for information in the new Great Basin Market Facebook page.

Photo Contest Now Open!

The National Wildlife Photo Contest celebrates the power of photography to advance conservation and connect people with wildlife and the outdoors.

[ENTER YOUR PHOTOS TODAY](#)