



## Ruby Mountains Protection Campaign



### Proposal Questions

**Mission/History Of Organization**

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is the country's largest coalition of hunting, fishing, and conservation groups, outdoor businesses, and individuals working to advance proactive conservation solutions through policy. With a mission to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish, the TRCP unites and

**JEDI Efforts and Impact**

In March 2024, the TRCP completed a demographic survey of staff. The voluntary and anonymous survey included questions on race, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability and serves as a baseline for DEI efforts. In addition, the TRCP's annual employee engagement survey included a new question: "What DEI issues should the

amplifies the voices of 63 organizational partners and 130,000 individual members and supporters to advance policies, programs, and funding that conserve fish and wildlife habitat and public access. The TRCP was established to unite hunters and anglers with one voice and bring together conservation groups, businesses, and individuals in non-partisan coalitions to advocate for conservation in multiple program areas, including water resources, public lands, agricultural and private lands, marine fisheries, and climate resilience.

**Final Success** Safeguard approximately 264,000 acres of the Ruby Mountains in Nevada from oil and gas development through the passage of durable policy and/or legislation.

**Location Details**

new CEO keep in the forefront at TRCP?” Responses were shared with the executive team and the new CEO in fall 2024. Lastly, the TRCP has an internal DEI task force. The task force includes voluntary representation from each department and meets monthly to pursue opportunities to strengthen DEI and workplace culture. The task force recently developed a scope of work and applied for funding for a consultant to deliver two trainings in 2025. The first is a full staff training on building workplace culture rooted in equity and wellbeing. The second is a training on recruitment and retention of diverse talent. Funding was approved in March 2025.

Often referred to as the Swiss Alps of Nevada, the Ruby Mountains rise from sagebrush benches at 6,000-feet to the alpine zone at 11,000 feet on the summit of Ruby Dome. These mountains support vital habitat for elk, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, sage grouse, eagles, and native cutthroat trout. They are also home to the largest mule deer herd in Nevada and the longest known mule deer migration in the state. They offer unparalleled recreation opportunities on public lands in Nevada, including hunting, fishing, backcountry skiing, and hiking. Beyond their specific habitat and recreation attributes, the Ruby Mountains are important because they encompass a large, undeveloped landscape. Landscapes such as these, replete with migration corridors and flyways, help species move and adapt to changing conditions.

Multiple rounds of proposed oil and gas leasing throughout this ecologically important landscape in 2017 and 2019 prompted Nevada’s decision makers to champion bipartisan legislation to permanently protect 450,000 acres for future oil and gas leasing. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) and Trout Unlimited launched the Sportsmen for the Rubies in 2019 to support these protection efforts, generating 14,000 comments, delivering sign-on letters from partners, and gaining support for protections from extractive industries, including Kinross Gold, and agricultural interests in the area.

After Congress failed to advance the legislation during three sessions of Congress, Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen requested that the Department of the Interior Secretary initiate a 20-year administrative withdrawal to safeguard the Ruby Mountains until a permanent solution could be reached. Throughout 2024, the TRCP, with a small coalition of partner groups, met a wide range of partners to support the withdrawal and on December 30, 2024, the BLM

published a Federal Register notice calling for a 2-year mineral segregation, pausing future oil and gas leasing, as a first step to a 20-year fluid mineral withdrawal. In early February 2025, the TRCP learned that the public meeting on the withdrawal had been canceled, like most federal agency actions at this time, the mineral withdrawal will need to be endorsed and supported by the new Trump administration in order ensure it is completed.

**Biodiversity in Project Area**

First, by eliminating oil and gas development on 264,000 acres, this project could prevent greenhouse gas emissions directly related to climate change. Second, the campaign will support climate resilience by protecting landscape connectivity and across a large swath of northeast Nevada. The Ruby Mountains are home to one of Nevada's largest mule deer herds. In recent years the Nevada Department of Wildlife has compiled extensive GPS collar data showing that each year this herd follows a well-documented migration corridor extending south nearly 100 miles. The corridor extends along the base of the Rubies on both the east and west side of the range. On the east side, deer follow a narrow route right at the toe of the slope between private lands and national forest. On the west side, the corridor is a bit broader but follows a similar pattern, crossing private lands that extend into the forest. In some areas along the route, depending on snow depth, up to several thousand deer spend time in stopover areas with more browse and thermal protection. If development were to occur on this landscape, it could block wildlife movement—hindering the adaptability of migratory wildlife to changing conditions—and the disturbance associated with roads and well pads from development could decrease the function of the habitat and negatively impact the ecosystem by spreading invasive plants.

**Expected Economic & Recreational Impact**

As mentioned above, the Ruby Mountains offer unparalleled recreation opportunities on public lands in Nevada, including hunting, fishing, backcountry skiing, and hiking. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, Nevada's outdoor recreation economy generates 87,000 direct jobs, \$4 billion in wages and salaries, \$12.6 billion in consumer spending and \$1.1 billion in state and local taxes. Figures provided by the Sportsmen's Alliance show, in 2022 hunting alone contributed \$178 million to Nevada's state economy, much of this impact being focused on rural areas, including Elko County. As reported in a 2021 University of Nevada, Reno Extension Nevada Economic Assessment Project publication, hunters in Nevada spend more than \$115 million on hunting related activities annually during more than 650,000 days in the field. Given the diversity of huntable wildlife in the Rubies, including bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mule deer, elk, and Himalayan snowcock, it is easy to draw the conclusion that the Ruby Mountains contribute substantially to Nevada's economy.

**Strategy & Timeline For Final Success**

Given the ultra-conservative politics of northern Nevada, and the Republican Governor, demonstrating support from right-leaning decision makers and stakeholder groups is key to convincing the Trump administration to complete the withdrawal, thus achieving durable conservation in the region. In the coming year, the TRCP, and Sportsmen for the Rubies, will work to secure public statements of support from key decision makers, including the Governor and local elected officials in the area surrounding the Rubies, in particular Elko County Commissioners. Having a history of being very conservative, the Commission has remained publicly silent on the subject. During separate conversations in June 2024 with two Elko County

**Key Decision Makers**

The support of Elko County commissioners, the Nevada Congressional delegation, and Governor Lombardo are key to completing the BLM's proposed fluid mineral withdrawal during the Trump Administration. These parties all tacitly support the mineral withdrawal, and the TRCP will work with an in-state government relations consultant to position Governor Lombardo to make a direct ask of the Trump Administration that the mineral withdrawal be completed.

We will simultaneously work to advance the bi-partisan Ruby Mountains Protection Act through public support from the Governor, local elected officials and Nevada's Congressional delegation

Commissioners, a Sportsmen for the Rubies associate was told that two officials support the withdrawal of the Ruby Mountains as called for in the Ruby Mountains Protection Act. TRCP will work to gain support from the Elko County Manager. Support from Elko County Commissioners to the Governor is key to convincing the Governor to publicly support the action.

to the Trump Administration and Congressional leaders in order to achieve permanent protections.

Goal: By October 2026, the BLM finalizes a two-year mineral segregation, pausing future oil and gas leasing, as a first step to a 20-year fluid mineral withdrawal. The segregation would protect 264,000 acres of the Ruby Mountains in Nevada from oil and gas development during this time period.

- Build and deliver support from key stakeholders including Elko County, Governor Lombardo, Nevada Delegation, Kinross Gold, Sportsmen for the Rubies, other NGOs, and interested public.
- Engage an experienced government relations firm with bipartisan connections throughout the state to share the mission of the TRCP and arrange meetings with key decision makers, particularly the Governor and Congressman Amodei, to gain their public support for the Ruby Mountains mineral withdrawal.
- Schedule and participate in meetings between Sportsmen for the Rubies and Elko County Commissioners to educate them on the withdrawal and gain their support.
- Once support is obtained from Elko County, we will attempt to secure a meeting with Governor Lombardo and request that he ask the BLM and the Trump Administration, through Secretary Burgum, to advance the mineral withdrawal.
- Assess opportunities where public attention would be advantageous and work through our coalition partners to place social and traditional media pieces.
- Meet regularly with agency staff and key stakeholders to gather intel and adjust strategy accordingly.

**Elevate Voices**

The TRCP has also cultivated a working relationship with the Te-Moak Tribe to help advance their priorities within this campaign. Since 2019 we have assisted the Tribe in sending three letters of support to congressional committee leadership and DOI expressing their support for the oil and gas mineral withdrawal in the Ruby Mountains.

**Measurable On-Ground Outcomes**

- Elko County Commissioners request (verbal or written) that Governor Lombardo support a mineral withdrawal.
- Governor Lombardo conveys his support for a mineral withdrawal to the Trump Administration and requests that the BLM advance the withdrawal
- BLM takes steps to complete the withdrawal public input process by rescheduling the required public meeting
- The two-year segregation is approved, and work proceeds towards a 20 year withdrawal.

**TCA Funding Plan**

The TRCP will engage an experienced government relations firm with bipartisan

**How long it took to complete application**

connections throughout the state to share the mission of the TRCP and arrange meetings with key decision makers, particularly the Governor and Congressman Amodei, to gain public support for the Ruby Mountains mineral withdrawal.

**Confidential Items**

We request that our strategy be kept confidential.

**Other Relevant  
Application Details**

