



January 9, 2024

**To the US Forest Service concerning Project 64897 –Heavener Coal Mine in Ouachita National Forest:**

The Sierra Club Executive Committee of Central Arkansas has the following concerns about USFS Project 64897 Heavener Coal Mine that we would like to see further addressed in the upcoming Environmental Assessment:

- Impact to surface and subsurface water runoff
- Depth of mine and impact to water table
- Waste product management at treatment facility
- Power Line placement and disruption to USFS
- Methane emissions and capture
- Powerline reclamation plans – are there any?
- Subsidence impact to surface land above mines – drainage and habitat issues?
- What kind of bond will be set for mining company to offset reclamation costs?
- What reclamation cost will be borne by the state of Arkansas (AR)?
- AR road wear and infrastructure repairs, is it estimated to be more than potential AR severance tax to cover this additional usage?
- AR will have community and financial impact from additional healthcare issues related to miners' high-risk health care needs.
- Impact to Cherokee lands? Drainage and run-off issues?
- This coal is not for US markets since there is no local need for coal and coke supplies. Impacts to state are significant but the product is not for local use. We are phasing out coal use in AR and the US in general. And, over the next 30 years, is there a need anywhere considering the high impact of fossil fuels to the environment?

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