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First name: Susan

Last name: Hubbard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The area of the proposed project is biologically important with many species endemic to Rich Mountain/the Quachita Mountains and/or Arkansas. I request that you place a high priority on protecting all of these species of plants and animals. This should include species considered in need of protection by the State of Arkansas regardless of whether or not they have federal protection.

When I have visited this area I have, of course, really enjoyed the views. There is no question that chairlifts are unsightly with tall towers and strips of land with no trees that can be seen for many miles. I request that you give weight to this in your considerations so they do not infringe on the viewshed that already draws many visitors to the area. In particular the views around Queen Wilhelmina and the Fire Tower should be protected.

Finally the issue of invasive plant species should be taken seriously. I request that if this project goes ahead it is with a requirement that invasive species be controlled in disturbed areas created by this project, including areas cleared for chairlifts, so that this project does not lead to the degradation of surrounding biologically rich areas.