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First name: Erin
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Please do not disturb our national forest on behalf of mining efforts. The potential impact of mining activity in this area will be difficult to project and could last for generations. Wildlife habitat, native forest, and water recharge are invaluable for our Ouachita communities.
In addition, the City of Hot Springs and several federal agencies have worked for nearly ten years to secure water rights from Lake Ouachita and the new treatment plant has just opened. This project has been done though the lense of conservation and sustainability. Disturbance of the surrounding area could have negative consequences to the water project due to change in run off or sediment increases. These could also have a negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem.
Our area is rich with quartz and with some creativity, I am certain there are private tracts where mining would have fewer unintended consequences.
Lastly, our public lands are exactly that, public. Please preserve this public direct for generations to come.