

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/14/2026 11:42:46 AM

First name: Anon

Last name: Alexandra

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Public Comment on Proposed Quartz Mining in the Ouachita National Forest

You don't often get email from curatolo.alexandra@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express concern about the proposed quartz mining and prospecting across 337 acres in the Ouachita National Forest.

The potential impact to Lake Winona is especially alarming. The Environmental Assessment indicates sedimentation in the watershed could increase by up to 825%, posing a serious risk to a critical drinking water source for Central Arkansas. Protecting water quality must be a top priority.

Additionally, increased sediment and turbidity could harm the upper Saline River, degrading habitat, recreation, and local economic benefits tied to outdoor use. The proposal also risks impacting sensitive species, including the Northern long-eared bat, Indiana bat, and Arkansas fatmucket mussel.

At a minimum, I urge the Forest Service to adopt the reduced-impact alternative and exclude mining near Lake Winona. Given the broader environmental risks, I strongly encourage reconsideration of any new mining in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Curatolo

--

Alexandra Curatolo