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First name: John

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

Please consider rejecting any proposed mining operations in the Ouachita National Forest area including the Flatside Pinnacle wilderness area and the areas near the Saline River, its tributaries, and Lake Winona. These areas are pristine forest areas and waterways and should be maintained and protected as such. The benefit to the public from keeping these areas free from mining outweighs any benefit that would otherwise be obtained by allowing mining to occur. Additionally, these proposed mining operations would likely affect the Saline River watershed and thus impact the drinking water supply to both Pulaski and Saline county.

I have spent time in these areas in the Ouachita National Forest. I value the access to nature these parts of the forest provide and plan to spend more time in these areas in the future camping and hiking. I am not alone as I suspect many citizens of Perry, Saline, Garland, and Pulaski county all use these areas frequently for a multitude of outdoor activities. Allowing mining operations would diminish the beauty of the forest, impact the flora and fauna, and I believe cause irreparable harm to one of the state's greatest assets.

For these reasons, please consider denying any requests for new mining operations in the Ouachita National Forest.