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First name: Jessica
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Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Title: Section 106 Program Manager
Comments: The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Heavener Coal Leasing Project in Scott and Sebastian Counties in the Ouachita National Forest. There are many previously recorded archeological sites in the proposed area of potential effects (APEs), and we request that any areas where ground disturbance is proposed that have not been thoroughly subjected to a cultural resources survey be investigated for historic properties. This includes the location of a 161kV powerline, construction of access roads, and a right-of-way for the powerline. We have concerns about surface ground disturbance caused by the proposed below ground mining. Although surface mining is not proposed on forest lands, there is still a possibility of ground disturbance as the landscape shifts when coal is removed from the 3,077 acres proposed for the mining. Based on the provided information, the AHPP requests that the EIS address our concerns for ground disturbance across the entire APE. We thank you for allowing us to comment and look forward to working with the USFS regarding this undertaking in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to review this submission. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Jessica Cogburn of my staff at 501-324-9357 or email jessica.cogburn@arkansas.gov