



The Climate and Conservation Edition

Spring
March 2024

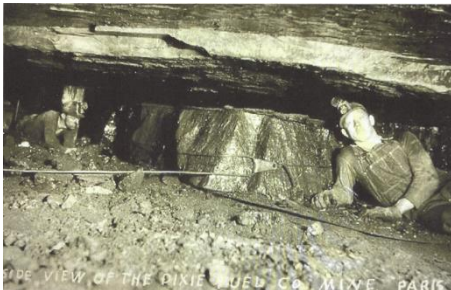
“The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best.” - Dr. Neil Compton

Coal Mining Threat in the Ouachita National Forest

By David Peterson, OS Past President

I read the December 17, 2023 headline in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, “U.S. Forest Service prepping impact statement for coal mine in Arkansas,” in partial disbelief. Ouro Mining Company in Fort Smith planned to mine 3.5 million tons of coal per year for 20 years, half from under the Ouachita National Forest (ONF) and half from old private leases in adjacent Oklahoma. Is this possible in a world which just passed the 1.5 C target for global warming?

In order to have standing in the ensuing permitting process the Ozark Society had until January 25, 2024 to submit comments.

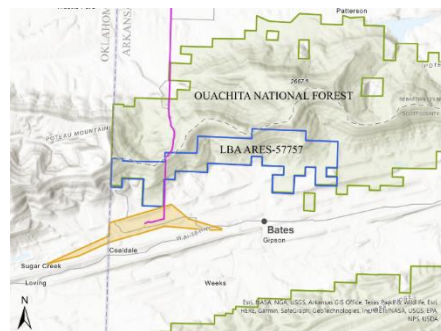


Miners in Paris, AR, 1930's. Ray Hanley, AR Dem/Gaz

History: Coal mining in the western part of the Arkansas River Valley dates back to 1818, but the peak production year was 1909, followed by an erratic, long term downward production slide until the last mine closed in 2017. The mines were never very productive due to coal seams as narrow as two feet. Mining was extremely hazardous (in the 1930's, 14 miners died in methane explosions at Bates, AR), there were miner strikes and violence in the 1910's, the mines

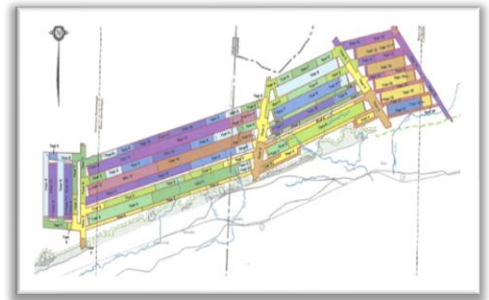
were not near prime steel mill customers in the north, nearby power plants eventually found cheaper coal from strip mines in Wyoming, and finally, climate change implied the demise of fossil fuels - the death knell for Arkansas coal, or so it seemed.

The Arkansas coal mining industry, like those throughout Appalachia, have the bad habit of declaring bankruptcy or just leaving town after mining is completed. There have been 157 expensive, government reclamations of old surface coal mines in Arkansas. There is no evidence of reclamations of underground mines, which would seem to be much more difficult. Rule Number 20 (Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission guidelines for surface reclamation) runs for hundreds of pages, but there is no rule for underground reclamation.



The mining proposal: About half the Ouro mine would be under 3077 acres in the ONF (center blue area in the map), and half from Oklahoma immediately to the west (not depicted). The orange is a loading and processing area on private land. The red line piercing the ONF is a new

power line with a 100 ft easement. The entire area north of Bates is pockmarked with strip mining ponds and slag heaps from previous surface mining. The 11,299-acre Poteau Mountain wilderness is 4 miles to the



northeast of the proposed mine. The automated mining machines, 18 feet wide, will move underground, east from Oklahoma up a 12% grade, creating roomlike corridors through the coal and rock, leaving pillars of rock and bolts to hold up the roof. The ONF mine area is about 4 miles long (see map). Colors indicate active mining years. The company overview admits “Areas subject to underground mining will incur some subsidence, although existing land usage is possible after completion.”

Governance: The permitting system is confusing. Under the 1947 Mineral Leasing Act, the Bureau of Land Management is responsible for coal leasing and regulation, but they can reject an application if “leasing of the land ... [means] environmental or other sufficient reasons, would be contrary to the public interest.” The BLM must have OFS consent before offering the lease for sale.

Continued on page 2....

Coal Mining Threat..... Continued

The **1970 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** requires an environmental study before an OFS decision. In this case, the OFS deemed themselves understaffed in making this coal decision and handed the process off to the Southern Regional Forester, which put it in the hands of its experts. There are many small steps to the process – the OS has taken its first step by submitting our comments before the January 25 deadline.

Ouro: Ouro seems to be a shell company of sorts. In 2014, The BLM accepted a lease application for this land from Emera Corporation, a Canadian conglomerate, in behalf of Ouro. Advertisements for workers appeared (\$16-36/hr), but the application was withdrawn.

Ouro, is a subsidiary of a large Australian mining company, which is then owned by a very large private equity company. According to company reports in 2014, which included wonderful estimates of local economic and job impacts, the ensuing delay in the project was an issue of world economies, and coking stocks in target companies in China, India,

Brazil – up to 10,000 miles away. Ultimately, if the mine opens but fails to return the land to its original use, where does the buck stop? The ONF, BLM other federal agencies?

Environmental Issues: Burning 70 million tons of coal over 20 years would generate 140 million tons of CO₂ in a world battling climate change. Acid drainage from slag piles and surface processing, along with the massive underground mine disturbance, is a long-term control problem for area streams. There might be subsidence and sinkholes around vents. The mine is in an excess methane zone – with forced air venting or flaring into the forest. The 3-mile swath of electric line intrusion. 3.5 million tons of coal represents 87,000 coal truckloads per year, or 33,000 rail cars, resulting diesel fumes and spills, and more dust and road damage. Water table disruption may occur.

Economics: The Arkansas severance tax of 10 cents per ton (1947), with revenue split 25/75 between county and state, is entirely inadequate to keep up with road damage, and eventual reclamation. Mine

production seems to be captive to the decreasing, and widely variable world market, suggesting that mine employment prospects on the application might be unrealistic.

Conclusion: There are no active mines in Arkansas now, and only one pending permit – this one. The OS submitted comments on time, calling for a much more detailed application which addresses our environmental concerns. The next step is the NEPA report from the national forest team - later this summer? **Reference:** Heavener Coal Leasing #64897

Just for fun I suggest a hiking trip to this area and eating at Westfall's in Bates AR. See below.

Westfalls Cafe at Bates (Scott County).



Courtesy of Tu Richardson

Annual Spring Meeting –May 18-19 in Springfield MO By Jennifer Ailor and Barbara Lucks, OS Schoolcraft Chapter

Our annual spring meeting will be hosted by our *Schoolcraft Chapter*, and will be unlike any Ozark Society gathering you've attended in the past. It will be May 18th-19th, and all Ozark Society chapters and members are invited. Saturday's events will take place at the Darr Agricultural Center at Missouri State. The board meeting will be in the morning, with an option for non-board members to attend a native plant sale. There will be a catered lunch exclusive to Ozark Society members (see Eventbrite link to reserve). In the afternoon,

nationally known sustainability and conservation author Doug Tallamy will present "*A Conversation with Doug Tallamy.*" In addition, Springfield Environmental Services will present its yard ethic program.

Post-meeting, there's more: two campsites highlighting spectacular member properties, landscapes and conservation best practices; a potluck in a barn with musical entertainment and maybe even some dancing; a possible reappearance of Henry Schoolcraft himself; and the option of a

tour Sunday afternoon of Tumbling Creek Cave and Ozark Underground Laboratory where they study groundwater and land use. For the Cave tours, once again we'll be asking for a head count. **Be sure to get this on your calendars.** More details are at www.ozarksociety.net and reservations for the Special Lunch can be made at: www.eventbrite.com/e/ozark-society-spring-meeting-and-luncheon-tickets-847524006117

50 Ideas to Save Energy and Dollars

By Orlo Stitt, Holistically Green Living

1. Change bulbs and tubes to LED
2. Turn off lights.
3. Teach your children and spouse to turn off lights.
4. Ask your employer to turn off the lights.
5. Install a low-flow shower head.
6. Take showers instead of baths.
7. Take shorter showers.
8. Walk places—instead of driving.
9. Ride a bike to where you want to go.
10. Have your home H.E.R.S. Tested by a Certified Rater
11. Make improvements based on H.E.R.S. rating results.
12. Add weather stripping—around doors and windows.
13. Caulk/foam air leaks—around pipes, wires, and cracks.
14. Add insulation to your ceiling and walls.
15. Replace your water heater—gas or electric—with a heat pump water heater.
16. Replace your stove with an induction unit—you will really like it!
17. Plant trees—coniferous to the north and west.
18. Plant trees—deciduous to the south and east.
19. Mow less grass—mowing takes gas.
20. Or buy an electric mower and weed-eater and charge it with sunshine.
21. Replace lawn with drought-tolerant Xeriscaping.
22. Sell or trade the “ole gas guzzler” car.
23. Drive a hybrid car, a plug-in hybrid, or an all-electric car (check for tax credits).



24. Buy a pre-owned plug-in car—take a \$4000 tax credit.
25. Buy a new EV—made in the USA—and take a \$7,500 tax credit.
26. Ride the bus or commute by train.
27. Plant a vegetable garden and orchard—harvest the veggies and fruit.
28. Turn your thermostat down in winter—put on a sweater, blanket, shawl, or jacket.
29. Add ceiling fans with an LED light—you can be comfortable at a higher temperature.
30. Buy a solar system with no down payment—take a 30% tax credit—reduce your utility bill to near zero. In effect, swap your utility bill for a solar loan payment that is finite in the future.
31. Buy additional solar panels for your solar system—take a 30% tax credit.
32. Add a battery to your solar system and take a 30% tax credit—add efficiencies and plan for power outages.
33. Make a list—to save a second or third trip to the store.
34. Install a solar-operated skylight—to facilitate flow-through ventilation—for a 30% tax credit.
35. Change your diet—eat less, lose weight, live healthier.
36. Eat less or no meat—go vegan—enjoy food more, and likely live longer.
37. Wash clothes with cold water.
38. Travel by car, train instead of plane
39. Meet, greet, and do business virtually or by phone.
40. Turn off “Ghost Loads” when not in use.
41. Clean your HVAC filters—good air circulation of clean air is so important.
42. Check the air in your tires—low pressure decreases mileage—operate as specified.
43. Drive 60 mph—instead of 75—and it is safer too.
44. Shutdown your Central HVAC—add one or several mini-splits.
45. Raise/lower shades or curtains—depending on weather and sunshine.
46. Replace old shades or curtains with tubular shades—it is like adding window insulation.
47. Replace toilets with dual-flush units.
48. Shut the doors and close the vents in rooms not in use.
49. In winter, lower the thermostat at night and add a blanket.
50. Compost your waste—use it for soil and planting later.

Tales From the Trail: Arkansas History and the Athens-Big Fork Part 1

By Perry Hill, Bayou Chapter Ozark Society

The Athens-Big Fork (ABF) Trail lies within the Ouachita National Forest. The south trailhead is a few miles north of the community of Athens and a few miles east of Shady Lake Campground, while the north trailhead is off Hwy 8, just a little south of Big Fork. My first introduction to the ABF was in 1990, when I joined a few others on an annual trail maintenance outing. It was one of my first forays into outdoor adventure. (Being a 'greenhorn', the cold November temps and strong wind atop Brush Heap Mountain impressed upon me an urgent need to learn about layering my clothes.) During the outing, a comment was made to me that would prove to be the impetus for a different kind of exploration of the ABF a number of years later. I was told that the Post Office had used the trail for mail delivery over a hundred years earlier, and that the Bayou Chapter had "built" part of the trail. That claim was a bit confusing, since it seemed illogical there could have been postal service a hundred or more years ago on a trail had been "built" by members of an organization that did not exist at the time. But it was still an interesting thought, and I paid no further attention to the apparent inconsistency. After all, the official Forest Service trail map did (and still does) repeat the claim that the Post Office used the ABF to deliver mail over a 125 years ago.

Fast forward to 2022, when I was less than a year post-retirement and still emerging from the fog of COVID shutdown. One day that October, the assertion about the ABF

as an old mail trail came to mind, and my curiosity was piqued.



Big Fork Post Office and Hotel

I wanted to know when the Post Office delivered mail on the trail, and when our local Bayou Chapter (BCOS) group worked on the trail, as had been told to me more than 30 years earlier. Initial inquiries among BCOS members yielded no information on either question, so I resorted to internet search, which likewise yielded virtually no information. But my initial search *did* eventually lead me to connect with David Samuel. David is a retired Forest Ranger who now lives in Joplin, Arkansas. He is the person who was responsible for funding and overseeing building of the Little Missouri Falls Trail, restoration of the ABF Trail, and eventual formation of the Eagle Rock Loop. I met him at his home in January, 2023, and we discovered we shared an interest in knowing more about postal service on the ABF. We decided to conduct our own search to answer the question. We spent most of a year perusing library data bases, reviewing Post Office archives, searching for and consulting old maps, reading genealogical records, reviewing governmental records (such as U.S. Census data from the 1800s and old local County mine claims), reading published articles by professionals/academics about local and area history and folklore, and interviewing residents of both the Athens and Big Fork

communities. Our efforts raised unexpected questions, led us to unexpected topics, and yielded more breadth and depth of information that we had expected. From this trove of information, a story of the ABF began to emerge. Although a bit sketchy, David and I view that story as a glimpse of several themes or defining features in the history of west central Arkansas during the past several hundred years.

Origins of the ABF Trail

There is at least a portion of the ABF that is undoubtedly Native American in origin (or was perhaps a game trail that was later used by Native Americans.) This assertion is supported by discovery of a Caddo Indian novaculite quarry immediately off the ABF. This site has been examined and verified as an old Indian quarry by a Forest Service Archaeologist, in consultation with other (non-governmental) experts. Novaculite is a microcrystalline sedimentary rock that is infused with quartz. It naturally occurs on ridge lines and other outcroppings, as well as surface boulders. Consequently, it was easily accessible and typically quarried, rather than mined out of the ground. It was used by Caddo Indians to make cutting tools and weapons, and was desired because the quartz was durable and would maintain a sharp edge. Historians and archaeologists believe the Caddo people used novaculite from around 1400 to about 1600 or so. Based on this time frame, one can infer that at least this portion of the ABF existed around 350-400 years ago, at a minimum. I don't know if it's possible to date this particular site any more precisely. It is uncertain how the trail came to be fully constructed. It may have been built entirely by Native

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Arkansas History and the Athens-Big Fork Part 1Continued

Americans. It is also possible that a portion of the ABF is of Native American origin, while other segments of the trail emerged from activities of non-Native inhabitants, especially mining and logging.

Mining and Logging on the ABF: 1800s to Early 1900s

Arkansas became a Territory in 1819, opening the door for westward expansion of settlers. That expansion was aided and accelerated by the Indian Removal Act of 1830. In the contiguous areas around the ABF, primary economic activities of settlers from early to late 1800s included farming, mining, and logging. Some of these endeavors occurred on the ABF. Prospectors would mine for coal, bauxite, zinc, sulfur, and manganese. Mining operations in this area were often relatively small, and some may have been established for personal use only (such as coal). The community of Langley (8 miles east of Athens on Hwy 84) was established mainly to serve local mining camps. (Langley was originally called

Lindon. The name was changed in 1883.) It eventually boasted a school, grist mill, cotton gin, livery, and several general/dry goods stores. The current day community of Galena (southwest of Umpire) was a mining camp. On the ABF, the Lost Hatchet Mine operated on the north face of Missouri Mountain, which is the first mountain one crosses on the ABF when coming from the north trailhead. Mining was common throughout much of Arkansas. During the late 1800s, large scale mines in other parts of Arkansas helped pull the State out of its post-Civil War economic slump.

We also found evidence of logging on and near the ABF. Mrs. Cheryl Edwards, a native and resident of Big Fork, told me her father would go over Missouri Mountain most mornings to fell and harvest trees. After trimming, the tree would be drug by mule back to Big Fork, then sold and transported to a nearby sawmill. Mr. Seldon Parsons lives just off of Hwy 246, about three miles north of Athens. His

grandfather was one of the early settlers in the area. The Parson family was friends with the Bard family, for whom the (now closed) Bard Springs Campground was named. Mr. Parsons recalls there was a small tram at or near the south ABF trailhead that would carry trees toward what is now Shady Lake Rd. (the old entrance to Shady Lake Campground). The tram traveled behind where chicken houses now sit at the intersection of this road with Hwy 246, then cross over 246 and end near Hwy 84 (closer to Union). There the trees were loaded on to trucks and sent to a sawmill in Dierks. Small scale logging on or near the ABF by settlers and direct descendants probably continued until early 1900s.



Sassafras Hiking Award Winner Katie Ellsworth

By Stewart Noland, OS Archive Chair



The fourth Sassafras Hiking Award recipient is Katherine (Katie) Ellsworth of Bentonville. Katie moved from Alaska to Bentonville in October 2022, and hiked all four

Sassafras Hiking Award trails since then – an impressive feat.

Katie began hiking as a teenager, and has maintained an interest in hiking since then. She has hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and a portion of the Continental Divide Trail. Katy likes to hike with new hikers, and discuss with them what gear and pace works for them. She is open to different ways of doing things on the trail, sharing what she knows, and learning from others. Her experiences on the trail have led her to believe if you need something, the trail will provide.

Katie's most scary trail experiences have involved river crossings, having once lost all of her gear on an Eagle River Trail river crossing in Alaska. Katie's trail advice is to know your boundaries, but do not give up too soon.

Katie's best trail is the Pacific Crest Trail, with its incredible scenery. Her favorite Sassafras Hiking Award trail is the Ozark Trail, where she saw numerous wildlife and enjoyed the solitude of the trail. Her next major adventure is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Congratulations Katie. We hope to see you on the trail.

What Can You Say to Climate Deniers?

By Fred Paillet, OS Education Chair

One of the most often cited facts by climate deniers is the known history of climate fluctuation in the recent geologic record. The idea is that we know climate fluctuates naturally, so that changes in weather patterns need not be related to any man-made condition. When those of my generation were educated about climate the idea that vast ice sheets once covered northern states was already established. The cause of those past conditions was a mysterious natural part of the earth's climate system. Any human-induced climate effects would surely pale in comparison with these much more dramatic and well-documented changes. In fact, we should really appreciate the divine blessing of fossil fuels. They ensure our comfortable survival when climate turns colder. They provide for air conditioning and irrigation when things get hotter. Global warming is just a distraction created by liberals to cripple the energy industry in its effort to insulate us from inevitable natural climate variation. Those much-hyped feedback effects are just so much hypothetical malarky.

Sixty years after I graduated from high school, the cause of ice age climate is much better understood. The real lesson from that understanding is how tiny thermal effects have driven those wild swings in climate and global temperature. Those thermal fluctuations are so small that the initial suggestion for the cause of the repeated glacial episodes by an obscure Serbian mathematician was dismissed as preposterous. Only the isotopic calibration of ocean cores with a steady and continuous record of deposition in the 1970's could finally show that those calculated fluctuations coincided

exactly with the sediment record. So what was that source of those extreme but slow climate fluctuations? They are driven by the precession of a slightly elliptical earth orbit, with the season of closest approach slowly varying from summer to winter and back to summer again. Incoming solar heat in summer is slightly less than average on a 22,000-year recursion cycle. Ice builds up in spurts during those cooler summers and solar reflection from ice prevents complete melting during warmer summers – the derided feedback effect in spades. The volume of ice ratchets up in this fashion until the ice sheets become so extensive that they starve glaciers of moisture (cooler air holds a lot less water) and ice sheets collapse. All of this driven by changes of only a few percent in the distance of the sun from the earth between summers in the cycle. Arguments that global warming will simply offset a cooling trend as we enter the next cycle aren't relevant, either. Evidence of the environment in the first ratchet step in the last grand cycle from places like the famous Snowmastodon* site shows that the first cool part of the cycle is not even registered at mid-temperate zones and remains confined to just the polar regions.



Snowmastodon Site

Calibrated model predictions of climate imposed by the 22,000-year cycle show that very little such solar cooling would

be expected without human intervention for many thousands of years

When understanding the causes of recent glacial-interglacial cycles underscore how sensitive earth climate is to very small changes in the distribution of solar heating, remember that human induced climate change is being applied in a different way. Slight increases in solar radiation are absorbed differentially on land versus sea, driving the monsoonal patterns that were more intense during the warmest geologically recent times.

These small changes can have a real impact on humanity. The fossil record shows that the arrival of anatomically modern humans at the Carmel Caves of Palestine coincided with a time when monsoonal rains created a green Sahara to provide a suitable pathway out of the south African savannah. In contrast, a significant change in CO₂ content of the atmosphere would be applied over land and sea alike and not simply drive intensified monsoons. On top of that, the changes we see in geological records extend over the period of the orbital forcing cycle on the scale of thousands of years. Is there any indication that a much faster rate of change will overcome "climatic inertia" within the coming century? Abrupt warming cycles have been repeatedly found in glacial times within cores from the Greenland ice cap (Osher-Dansgaard cycles). Some argue that this was just a polar phenomenon in the local Greenland environment – perhaps local switching of a minor branch of the Gulf Stream.

Most land-based cores in North America do not extend back more than 20,000 years into the central heart of

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Climate DeniersContinued

the last cold period. But one deep core from a subsiding basin in Virginia goes back 130,000 years and clearly shows these abrupt cycles – strong evidence that the climate can be abruptly shifted over large regions within a human lifetime or two.

After dismissing attempts to minimize the possibility of man-made climate change it is worth contemplating the severity of the changes in climate that the Ozarks have experienced. How different was the environment at the height of the last glaciation in the Ozarks? Twenty thousand years ago, the continental ice sheet extended down to the middle of Iowa. Permafrost or discontinuous permafrost held much of Missouri in its grip. The southern part of The Ozarks (Boston Mountains) would have been a mosaic of coniferous pine-spruce forest and steppe with some of the hardiest deciduous trees in protected locations. The maximum extent of continental ice sheet would have coincided with a distinctly drier atmosphere – the dry conditions that would have starved the ice sheet and lead to its sudden collapse. We see colonies of prickly pear cactus on the driest and most exposed rock ledges along the Buffalo River. We think of these as relicts from times with a bit more drought and slightly higher temperatures. But, more likely, they are relicts of a more widespread population during much drier glacial times. The same species are abundant today on the cold, dry steppes of eastern Montana.

There are few places in our region where one can envision past climate extremes to obtain a feel how such small changes in solar heating can have a profound change in the world we inhabit. Famous springs in southwest Missouri have yielded the bones of

extinct mastodons that are associated with fossil needles and cones of jack pine, a species that grows throughout eastern Canada. The best place to envision ice age Ozarks is at Cupola Pond in south-central Missouri. It's a site within the Mark Twain National Forest that can be found on the internet and associated with a now poorly-maintained display at the end of a narrow forest road.



Flooded forest of water gum and pin oak overlies 23,000 years of climate record at Cupola Pond

The “pond” is fully forested and has shallow standing water for most of the year. The depression holding the pond is an example of how tree species can find tiny bits of suitable habitat far from their main range. Here the shallow “pond” is forested with water tupelo and pin oak, two trees known for growing in poorly drained habitats with long periods of standing water. A sediment core taken from the pond shows that the surrounding forest was dominated by cycles of boreal jack pine and spruce with a small amount of oak and ash.

Spruce is clearly a tree of the far north but pine can grow anywhere from Hudson's Bay to the gulf coast.

Needles and cone fragments show that the pine at Cupola Pond was the boreal variety. Pollen experts often compare zones they find in pollen cores to “analog” pollen collections at various distant locations. The best analog for Cupola Pond 20,000 years ago is south central Manitoba along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Having worked in that area I saw a forest with large stretches of uniform jack pine and intervening areas where pine was yielding to spruce in a landscape subject to occasional conflagrations. The one prominent deciduous tree was bur oak with local wetland stands of black ash – both known as the northernmost ranging members of their genus. The cycles of pine and spruce domination seen in the pollen core are likely telling us about cycles following regional fire events that are so prominent in Canadian boreal forest today. Just thinking about an effective climate transfer over the distance from Fayetteville on the White River to Winnipeg on the Red River of the North is dramatic emphasis of how sensitive our climate is to what would seem like negligibly small changes in amount of solar input.

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*FOOTNOTE: The so-called Snowmastodon site is a buried lake deposit dating back to the last interglacial with fossils extending upwards through subsequent cold periods unearthed by a construction project at Snowmass resort in the Colorado mountains. The site named for the bones of mastodons (plus camels and horses) that washed into the lake during climate cycles before filling up entirely.

Ouachita National Forest Mine Permit Denied

By Carolyn Shearman, OS Communications Chair

In January of 2023 the Pulaski Chapter of the Ozark Society was made aware of a proposed 32-acre Crystal Quartz mine being planned in the Ouachita National Forest within the Lake Winona watershed. Lake Winona is one of the 2 main drinking water sources for Central Arkansas Water (CAW) in the greater Little Rock area and serves about 100,000 of their 500,000 customers. Pulaski Chapter received a draft of the US Forest Service's Environmental Assessment (EA) on January 22, 2023 that tentatively approved the project pending a 30-day Public Comment period. We, like Central Arkansas Water, strongly opposed the project and felt that several issues in the proposal presented a significant risk to water quality and the habitat of the area and we chose to comment on our concerns.

Following that comment period the US Forest Service attempted to modify the proposal so that the risks were mitigated and in July of 2023 resubmitted a revised EA for only CAW and the Ozark Society to comment on since we were the original objectors. Again, both organizations found significant risks remaining in the proposal and resubmitted comments stating our issues. CAW staff even sent their concerns to its governing Board and got a resolution from their Commissioners opposing the mine. Many of the concerns included:

- The permit proposed was in perpetuity but it was not clear how this would be monitored

and the site restored if it became an "Orphan" mine after 10-20+ years.

- There were inadequate streamside protections for the stream on the 32 acres that feeds Lake Winona and potential for a great deal of additional sedimentation to be created from the site into that stream and cause turbidity in the lake.
- Mining was to occur in winter which is the worst time for soil disturbance and increased turbidity in the lake.
- As a commercial operation, this could allow the mining company to use heavy machinery and further disturb land habitat as well as add to the sedimentation issues.
- There were very inadequate plans for mitigation and restoration and the Forest Service was not staffed enough to monitor that even those provisions of the permit were being upheld.



After meetings with the Forest Service in October and further study by their staff, we just got the word that the Project has been

cancelled as of February 2024. We won!!!!

Here are the comments from Raven Lawson, the Director of Watershed Management at CAW:

"We at Central Arkansas Water are thankful to the Ozark Society in keeping a keen eye on issues that matter to our native and scenic ecosystems and to the people of Arkansas. I believe your support and opposition to this mine operation was pivotal to the decision made by the U.S. Forest Service."

"The proximity of the proposed mine site to Lake Winona caused us at Central Arkansas Water a lot of concern."

"The acknowledgement by the U.S. Forest Service of the importance of proper management of the surrounding landscape of Lake Winona to maintaining some of the highest quality drinking water in the country is paramount and a win for the citizens of Central Arkansas who rely on this reservoir to supply their water daily. I truly believe this specific decision has the ability to have ripple effect on how the U.S. Forest Service manages and permits activities near the many drinking water supplies held within federal properties across the county, and I'm glad that Arkansans are setting the example and am grateful that we are part of that larger story."



Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal



Join us, or renew now! Dues are for one year, January-December, and they include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*. To join or renew, go online to the Ozark Society website at www.ozarksociety.net. Or you can fill out this form and send it with a check written to "The Ozark Society." See below for our mailing address.

Name(s) _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email 1: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

Email 2: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

Please check one:

- New Member Start at **Section A** for your OS and Chapter Membership
- Renewal Start at **Section A** to renew your OS and Chapter Membership
- LIFE Member Start at **Section B** to renew just your Chapter Membership

Section A: Please specify both the Level of Membership and the Chapter you are joining:

Level: (choose one)

- Friend: \$30 = \$20 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Associate: \$50 = \$40 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Supporter: \$100 = \$90 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Sponsor: \$250 = \$240 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Patron: \$500 = \$490 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Benefactor: \$1000+ = \$990+ OS +\$10 Chapter

Chapter: (choose one)

- Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- Buffalo River (North Central, AR)
- Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- Pulaski (Central, AR)
- Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- No chapter, all to central Ozark Society

Section B: For Members who wish to join more than one Chapter or Life Members renewing their Chapter Membership only

(Choose as many as you wish and add \$10 for each chapter)

- \$10 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- \$10 Buffalo River (North Central, AR)
- \$10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- \$10 Pulaski (Central, AR)
- \$10 Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- \$10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)

Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- \$ _____ The Conservation Fund
- \$ _____ The Endowment Fund
- \$ _____ The Legal Fund
- \$ _____ The Youth Grant Fund
- \$ _____ The Compton Scholarship Fund
- \$ _____ The Hedges Scholarship Fund

My Total is: \$ _____

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