United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Ouachita National Forest
Caddo-Womble Ranger District
1523 Highway 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2101
Fax: 870-867-3338

File Code: 1950; 2500; 7700
Date: January 8, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

The Ouachita National Forest, Caddo-Womble Ranger District, has prepared an environmental assessment (EA), draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for the 2020 Quartz Nominations Project. The project is located in Montgomery County, Arkansas. The project includes quartz exploration and mining on approximately 330-acres. The project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The EA and draft DN/FONSI is available on-line at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58614. Documentation is also available for review at Caddo-Womble Ranger District office in Mount Ida, AR.

How to Object and Timeframe

The opportunity to object ends 45 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c).

At a minimum, the objection must include the following: list the name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector; provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection; provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest(s) and/or ranger district on which the project is located; a statement of the issues and/or the parts of the project to which the objection applies; if applicable, a statement explaining how the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies; and supporting reasons; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b).

Written objections, including attachments, must be mailed to Troy Heithecker, Forest Supervisor, P.O. Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902, faxed (501-321-5334), or hand-delivered between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm weekdays, excluding holidays, at 100 Reserve Street, Federal Building. Electronic objections must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to objections-southern-ouachita@fs.fed.us. Please state "2020 Quartz Nominations Project" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

Objections received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Implementation

As per 36 CFR 218.12, if no objection is received within the legal objection period, the decision may be signed and implemented on, but not before, the fifth business day following the close of the objection filing period. The decision cannot be signed or implemented until the reviewing officer has responded in writing to all pending objections.

If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Andrew McCormick at (501) 321-5285 or andrew.t.mccormick@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

BECKY FINZER
Acting District Ranger