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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2010

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Next Wolf Pen Gap Public Meeting Scheduled for Thursday

MENA, AR –The next meeting scheduled to discuss management at Wolf Pen Gap is slated to occur from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on October 7 at the Mena Regional Health Systems cafeteria.

This is the third of three meetings that were scheduled based on topics members of the public indicated they were interested in learning more about. Thursday's meeting will focus on two basic areas: 1) receiving/discussing feedback/comments on the proposed action unveiled at last week's meeting at Rich Mountain Community College, and 2) other community issues in the Wolf Pen Gap area.

"We're making progress," said Acting Mena District Ranger Jim McCoy. "We've proposed a plan of action for Wolf Pen Gap and have built into that first proposal ideas we've heard people share as we've listened these past couple of months. We don't expect that everyone will be happy, but it's a place to start."

The release of the proposed action to the public on September 30th opened a 30-day comment period in which interested members of the public can share their ideas for management of the popular off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail network in Polk County.

McCoy stressed that the 30-day scoping period is not the end, it's just the beginning. "This will give everyone a chance to look over what we've outlined as priorities, and then give us some feedback that can help us get to a sustainable trail system."

Wolf Pen Gap managers hope to hear feedback on the proposed action during the Thursday, October 7th meeting. Additionally, adjacent property owners have expressed a desire to see more attention paid to items such as trash, noise, trespassing and illegal OHV use outside of operating hours.

"It can be real easy to see problems," said McCoy. "We all see them. The hard part is solving those problems. If we all put our heads together, I think we can come up with some common sense solutions."

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For more information on the Wolf Pen Gap area or to get a copy of the proposal (and maps) for management of the Wolf Pen Gap Trail System log on to www.fs.usda.gov/ouachita or contact the Ouachita National Forest Supervisor's office at (501) 321-5202 or the Mena Ranger District office at (479) 394-2382.

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