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To: jgreis@fs.fed.us, dwear@fs.fed.us
cc: scot@dogwoodalliance.org
Subject:

US Forest Service

John Greis, and David Wear:

I am writing because I am concerned about the effects of current timber industry and industrial forestry practices on the mixed and hardwood forests of Arkansas State.

I relocated to Arkansas due to its natural beauty. Tourism is an undeveloped, yet still successful industry here. I just reserved a campsite for the weekend at Queen Wilhelmina State Park for a trip to explore the Ouachita Forests.

I feel we are losing our best state asset to short-sighted timber practices. I am sure that I do not fully understand market pressures, and the current market demand for paper products, but I do know that I only use recycled paper products, and have changed the source of my office supply to recycled paper products. There is a great potential industry there as well.

I also advocate organic farming, and am very leary about the kind of monoculture that our modern paper tree farms support. One runs against a very formidable force when trying to alter the natural tendency for diversity. We do not understand the environmental precariousness associated with replacing a diversified woodstock with monoculture, especially at a large scale.

I would appreciate a more cautious, environmental assessment of current forestry practices.

Please count my voice as one that regrets the loss of any more of Arkansas' hardwoods.

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