

According to Twin Pines’ application, the proposed mine would likely generate fewer than 150 jobs. It is unclear how many of those jobs would be located in Charlton County, or whether some may be located at the processing plant in Florida. By comparison, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, which the proposed mine endangers, generates substantial employment, economic input, and ecosystem services in Charlton County and neighboring communities.

Of the hundreds of national wildlife refuges throughout the nation, the Okefenokee ranks fourth in terms of economic output.²⁰⁶ According to a May 2019 Report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Refuge had over 720,000 recreation visits in 2016, with approximately 65 percent of those visits coming from non-residents.²⁰⁷

Activity	Residents	Non-Residents	Total
Non-Consumptive:			
Pedestrian	35,554	82,958	118,512
Auto Tour	91,019	136,529	227,548
Boat Trail/Launch	4,367	13,102	17,469
Bicycle	782	261	1,043
Photography	3,627	10,881	14,508
Interpretation	37,534	87,578	125,112
Other Recreation	24,066	24,066	48,132
Visitor Center	49,922	116,485	166,407
Hunting:			
Big Game	155	-	155
Small Game	-	-	-
Migratory Birds	-	-	-
Fishing:	4,623	-	4,623
Total Visitation	251,649	471,860	723,509

Figure 5: 2016 Recreation Visits to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge²⁰⁸

Spending from those visits supported economic activity in the four-county region surrounding the Refuge, including Charlton County. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recreational spending in the local communities was associated with approximately 753 jobs, \$17.2 million in annual employment income, \$5.4 million in annual tax revenue, and \$64.7 million in annual economic output.

²⁰⁶ *Id.* at 12.,

²⁰⁷ United States Fish & Wildlife Serv., Division of Economics, The Economic Contributions of Recreational Visitation at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge at 2–3 (May 2019), <https://www.fws.gov/economics/divisionpublications/bankingonnature/bon2017/refuges/Okefenokee%20R%204.pdf> (attached as Ex. N).

²⁰⁸ *Id.*