

TOURISM

Fact In 2008, tourism in IZARD County:

- provided 208 jobs
- generated \$22,563,727 in total travel expenditures
- generated \$1,364,308 in state taxes
- generated \$568,265 in county taxes

Fact Bob Pest, Ozark Gateway Tourist Council President, recently stated "Calico Rock has worked very, very hard for at least the last decade to build a tourism economy that has nothing but a bright future ahead. It has received a number of honors for its effort. To undo that effort at this point in time is both short sighted and counter productive."

Questions to Ask

- If discharged water from the frac sand mines/quarries diminishes the quality of water in our creeks and rivers, how will this effect tourism (specifically fishing and related industries)?
- How will the increase in noise, air pollution and heavy truck traffic influence the way that this area is perceived by tourists? What about the way that our area will appear when, instead of quiet natural beautiful natural areas, there are large open quarries?
- If the natural environment that is a key to tourism in this area is destroyed, it cannot be replaced or easily repaired. How will that influence the quality of life here?
- Sand mined is a finite non-renewable resource. Natural beauty would support the real estate and tourist industry forever.

Want more information? Here are some sources to investigate:

Ozark Gateway Tourist Council - www.ozarkgateway.com - All about tourism attractions in this area

Creative Economy Coming of Age, an article by Bob Pest about what is happening with tourism right now - http://www.ozarkgateway.com/content_creative_economy.html