



Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Governor

Shea Lewis

Secretary

July 24, 2024

Dan Olsen
Forest Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest
c/o: Mena/Oden District Ranger
Attention: Mena Trails
1603 Hwy 71 North
Mena, AR 71935

Mr. Olsen,

The Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks (State Parks) would like to extend our continued support to the efforts of the Mena/Oden Ranger District and the Ouachita National Forest in evaluating the proposed Special Use Permit application for the Trails at Mena project. State Parks would like to also extend our appreciation to your staff for developing the draft environmental assessment (Draft EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

State Parks fully supports and remains committed to the project in conjunction with the Alternative 2 – Proposed Action, as described in the Draft EA. The Draft EA encompasses a great deal of work and represents an exemplary coordinated effort between local, state, and federal partners to achieve a unified vision for the Trails at Mena project. Our division sees great potential in the pursuit of these new and innovative recreational opportunities for Queen Wilhelmina State Park, the Southwest Arkansas Region, the state, and the nation if the Alternative 2 – Proposed Action can be fully realized.

We look forward to continued collaboration and future implementation of this transformative recreational opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff King'.

Jeff King
Deputy Director, Division of State Parks

cc: Shea Lewis, ADPHT Secretary & Director of the Division of State Parks
Suzanne Grobmyer, ADPHT Chief of Staff
Mike Wilson, Assistant Director, Division of State Parks
Chris Myers, Manager of Planning & Development, Division of State Parks
Jordan Thomas, Design Services Manager, Division of State Parks
Zack McGill, Chief Planner, Division of State Parks