

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/26/2024 9:03:51 PM

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Organization: Mena/Polk County Chamber of Commerce

Title: Executive Assistant

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Trails at Mena Project, currently under consideration within the Ouachita National Forest. As a young person in this community, I am deeply invested in seeing our region thrive, and I believe this project represents a critical opportunity to enhance our community's access to outdoor recreation and promote regional economic growth.

The project encompasses approximately 8,800 acres of predominantly unused and inaccessible public land within the 1.8 million-acre Ouachita National Forest. This strategic use of public land will not only provide residents and visitors with expanded options for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and walking, but it will also play a significant role in improving public health. By encouraging people of all ages to engage in physical activity and spend more time outdoors, the Trails at Mena Project supports mental health and overall well-being.

In addition to the health benefits, the Trails at Mena Project will deliver substantial economic advantages. Enhanced recreational opportunities will attract tourists, strengthen local businesses, and contribute to future job creation. This economic boost is important for the sustained growth and prosperity of our community.

Furthermore, the project is designed to utilize only public land, ensuring that no private properties are affected. This approach highlights the project's commitment to responsible land use and environmental management.

As a young member of this community, I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to move forward with the implementation of the Trails at Mena Project. This project is vital for creating a healthier, more active community and for driving economic development in our region.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact of the Trails at Mena Project on our city, region, and state.

Sincerely,

Hailey Emerson

Executive Assistant

Mena/Polk County Chamber of Commerce