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Title:

Comments: While I support the idea of connecting Mena and Queen Wilhelmina State Park via mountain biking trails, I have two main concerns about the project.

My primary concern is with the possibility of ski-lifts, which would be unsightly and ruin the wilderness character of one of the ouachitas' tallest and most scenic mountains. If lifts are absolutely necessary, I would like to see them kept to the bare minimum, 1-2 at most. It would also be better in my opinion to have any lifts closer to Mena and situated in areas where the terrain makes them less conspicuous.

My other concern is with trail density. Mountain biking trail builders often design trails that loop back and forth across a mountain. Not only are these trails not as practical for non-mountain bike users, they take up significant space on the landscape. This makes it difficult for other recreational enthusiasts such as hunters an campers to share the space with them. Hunters are pushed out because of safety concerns, and campers due to being unable to find solitude. I would like to see a less dense trail system here than at places like the upper buffalo mountain biking area.