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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of Trails at Mena #63649. This project will provide recreational opportunities for the region, state and nation, while creating economic development and jobs for a rural part of Arkansas.

Hiking and mountain biking have become very popular outdoor activities across Arkansas and the nation. This project will create such recreational opportunities by accessing public lands within the Ouachita National Forest along with Queen Wilhelmina State Park atop Rich Mountain, one of Arkansas's highest elevations.

More and more people live in urban areas across our country where access to hiking and mountain bike trails are limited. This will truly allow the public to better access and enjoy public lands while participating in outdoor activities that studies indicate lead to better mental and physical health.

As the former U.S. Representative for Mena and surrounding areas, I was an advocate and supporter of our national forest and parks, and I remain one today. And as someone who loves and understands the positive and healthy benefits of being outdoors, I wholeheartedly support this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Ross

Member

U.S. House of Representatives (2001-2013)