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Comments: I am troubled about the impact of the new biking trail, infrastructure, and additional amenities to the Ouachita National Forest. I am personally concerned about the farms, old growth timber, natural beauty, and peace in that area. Such developments will indeed alter the landscape and affect local ecosystems and tranquility.

Building a large-scale mountain bike trail with gondolas, various amenities, and parking lots across more than 8,000 acres can indeed bring economic benefits through tourism and recreation. However, it's crucial to carefully consider the potential negative consequences: impact on wildlife, rare plant species, erosion, historical/cultural resources, and established agriculture.

The construction and increased human activity will threaten the biodiversity in the Ouachitas. The likely disruption the trail would cause to various wildlife corridors, nesting grounds, migration routes, mature-old growth forest, and rare plant species could be detrimental to maintaining the ecological balance. In addition, the potential adverse implications to the water resources, erosion control, and soil quality to the landscape below the state park and biking trails will be irreversible.

The proposed construction area also holds regionally historical and culturally significant sites. Historical landmarks and indigenous heritage sites would also be affected by the trail. The preservation of culturally important locations is vital to local history. The pioneers and Native Americans carved out a life in this beautiful, rugged landscape. Their indomitable spirit and resilience that characterize their stories must not be lost. This unique cultural identity must be preserved and passed down through future generations and contribute to our community.

The proposed recreational bike trail and infrastructure will disrupt the substance of the family farms that lie within the shadow of Queen Wilhemina. The quiet and peaceful nature of the farm contributes to the quality of life and well-being of many residents. The tranquility of the Ouachitas following a day's work provides the overall enjoyment of their property. Living in such a serene and natural setting, surrounded by the Ouachita National Forest is a choice that reflects a commitment to a peaceful rural life and stewardship of the land.

Please reconsider this project and relocate...Please remember the natural beauty and bucolic atmosphere that bring many to our area when considering the proposed evasive infrastructure. Preserving these aspects is crucial for maintaining our community's appeal and quality of life. The environmental integrity should outweigh the recreational opportunities. The revitalization will negatively impact the way of life for many residents that choose to live outside of town in the heart of the Ouachitas.