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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing this in objection to the scale of this project. It is entirely too big. The forest already offers many trails .Granted initial shock of this would impact tourism here in Mena positively, I believe it directly hinders the value of the land this project sits on. Natural trails are one thing but lifts, parking lots and other similar infrastructure will take away from the natural landscape Rich Mountain has to offer. It is one of the most scenic places our state and has to offer and putting chair lifts across it will take away from the natural beauty.

I am not opposed to adding a few trails on the mountain. I am simply opposed to 100's of miles of trails with huge infrastructure surrounding it. This much infrastructure comes with a hefty price tag and a cost to the natural environment the bike riders would be enjoying. Our forest has more needs in other areas to focus on that are far less intensive.

I would like to see NEPA's full report on the environmental and wildlife impact among other studies showing the impacts in other areas with similar projects both financial and environmental. I also am interested in knowing how the new park would handle hunting seasons and regulations as this area is a major focus of many hunters I personally know. None of that has been mentioned that I can see.

I'm not against tourism and all the positive things it adds to Mena and Polk county. I'm simply against putting unnatural things in overly natural areas. It goes against our forest policy and my own beliefs as a hunter and outdoorsman. I feel like many people in our area and the tourist who would come to visit would understand and respect that philosophy. Please consider scaling down.

Thank you.