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Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for the Trails at Mena Project. This initiative represents a tremendous opportunity to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in the Ouachita National Forest, an area that is currently underutilized. By developing approximately 8,800 acres of public land for trail use, this project will offer significant benefits to the local community, the region, and the state.

The Trails at Mena Project will encourage people of all ages to engage in healthy outdoor activities, reducing screen time and promoting mental well-being. The expansion of outdoor recreational options, including hiking and biking, will provide more choices for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the project supports sustainable commuting methods like cycling and walking, contributing to a healthier environment.

From an economic perspective, the project is a valuable tool for recruiting and retaining employees, as access to outdoor recreation is an attractive feature for potential residents and businesses. Importantly, this development is focused entirely on public land, ensuring that no private property is impacted.

I wholeheartedly support the Trails at Mena Project and encourage others to do the same. This project is a key step towards making our community a better place to live, work, and play.

Thank you for considering my comments.