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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Since the applicant is Arkansas State Parks, Heritage, and Tourism-Division of State Parks (ASP), and admission to Arkansas State Parks is free due to the dedicated funding provided by Constitutional Amendment 75 directing 45% of the one-eighth sales tax collected to this state agency, will admission to the Trails of Mena be free as well?

Will access to the proposed chair lifts be free?

How will the ongoing financial stability of the applicant to operate Trails of Mena be determined and monitored?

What happens if the applicant doesn't have the funding to properly maintain this expansive project and environmental damage ensues? Will the applicant post a surety bond or Bill of Assurance to allow for expected, and unexpected, environmental remediation?

Has the applicant secured increased funding from the Arkansas State Legislature?

Who will monitor for environmental detrimental impacts and with what frequency? Who will pay to remediate any detrimental impacts found?

Will the applicant increase their personnel to properly staff this massive project? Including but not limited to law enforcement certified park rangers, maintenance personnel to clean toilets, maintenance personnel to empty the trash left behind by the expected volume of visitors?

Will the US Forest Service increase their personnel to properly staff this project? Including law enforcement and trash pickup? As potential violations will not be limited to the proposed "up to 100 miles of trail" and will be dispersed throughout the area.

Has the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Foundation committed dedicated funding for this project in perpetuity?

Will the applicant and/or the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Foundation propose to install "art" in this National Forest? Will the US Forest Service allow installation of "art" similar to what has been installed by the applicant at Pinnacle Mountain State Park?

Who is in charge of law enforcement - the applicant, US Forest Service, or both?

What is the proposed financial percentage funding of the applicant, the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Foundation and the City of Mena?

Who has legal liability, if any, for potential mechanical failures of the proposed chair lifts and resulting injuries?

Will visitors be required to sign a Waiver of Liability? Will the applicant, the City of Mena, the US Forest Service, the Polk County Sheriff's Office increase the staffing of their ambulances and search and rescue teams?

Will the proposed chair lifts be restricted to adults only? Or will minors be allowed with parents? Will pets be allowed on the chair lifts?

If this application is to be approved, prudence to the environment and the current peace, quiet and solitude of this area, dictates that the initial approval be limited to either vehicle shuttle to the top or only ONE lift. Out of an abundance of caution, monitor the impacts of this for a reasonable period of time and then the applicant can pursue expansion at a later time.