

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/15/2024 7:59:17 PM

First name: Ethan

Last name: Day

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Speaking as an advanced mountain biker who lives in the natural state and already has enjoyed the many offerings this state has, this proposal is exactly the final piece of the mountain biking puzzle for the state. We have extensive cross country mountain biking venues such as LOVT and centennial Park in Fayetteville. We have incredible Enduro mountain biking trails (One way gravity trails that are not necessarily lift accessible) at Pinnacle mountain State Park and in the Bentonville area. Arkansas does currently have lift accessible parks for downhill riding such as lake leatherwood in eureka springs and the Buffalo River Outdoor center trails which also feature a shuttle service. As someone who has written across the country from the big mountains on the front range and the Appalachians in the southeast, the current downhill parks in Arkansas are nowhere close to what is available in other states. If this proposal can satisfy the needs of advanced mountain bikers who want lift access trails that are truly downhill only, such an area has the opportunity to bring Arkansas to the level of Colorado or Utah in some aspects of our riding. There needs to be truly difficult, outrageously gnarly trails side by side with extremely easy green flow trails. That is what makes a true downhill riding area. For this to be viable, you have to have trails that people who have never ridden a mountain bike in their life can ride on a rental bike as well as the biggest baddest features, steep shoots, and gnarly year round riding. This is what needs to be fulfilled in order to truly accomplish something worthwhile.