

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/16/2024 12:28:08 AM

First name: Daniel

Last name: Besancon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good evening, I am sharing my comments on the chair lifts for Mena trails. My opinion is that a bike park with chair lifts is the only thing missing in Arkansas mountain biking. We have some of the best trails here, and by far the best community of mountain bikers in the US. Now all of the locals know how great it is, but a lot of big names in MTB aren't quite as familiar because they spend time at parks like whistler, and deer valley and several other. Those places bring in big name mountain bikers because a lot of their focus is downhill and parks with lifts. People travel from all over the country and even internationally to visit parks with lifts. This would be huge for Mena to grow the mountain bike community. And not something to bring concern either, a big biking presence in a town does nothing but increase its value as we have seen in Bentonville. Not to mention how much it would expand the amount of riders at the park because the reality is everyone loves going downhill, but very few enjoy the climb and even fewer of those that enjoy the climb can endure it for very long. A guy that could make 4-5 laps top to bottom at a park with no lifts could easily make 12-15 laps on a park that they didn't have to spend their energy getting back to the top. Imagine at ski resorts you had to walk your skis to the top of the mountain every trip? It would diminish the amount of people doing it due to physical ability and diminish the amount of fun being had as well.