Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/16/2024 9:38:05 PM First name: Liston Last name: Barber Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am of in support of these trails, but against the planned lift infrastructure. Trail development to an extent is a good thing for human health, preserving natural environment, driving economic prosperity and helping humans connect with their natural surroundings. However, this project crosses the line between healthy recreational development and damaging an area that is ecologically unique.

I believe development of natural surface trails in the proposed project in a manner that reduces erosion and damage of important natural elements would be beneficial for the city of Mena and all of Arkansas. However, the construction of multiple lifts, gravel roads, large paved parking lots and additional facilities would fragment the habitat in this area and make dispersed recreation such as hunting and backpacking more difficult. The continued move of recreation toward high density "theme park" style recreation does not contribute to an appreciation of the land but only degradation of the area for the sake of economic development.

This is one of the most prominent, scenic mountains in the state, we should avoid doing anything that will irreversibly mar the side of the mountain. As an avid mountain biker and trail runner I oppose the proposal for multiple lifts in this area and many additional facilities. I would advocate for limiting the area to shuttle service or just one lift to reduce turning an important natural area into an amusement park.