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First name: Katie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed project to develop bike trails in Mena. This initiative holds great promise for our community, offering numerous benefits across various aspects of our town's development and well-being.

****Economic Growth:**** The project will positively impact our local economy by increasing revenue through property taxes and attracting both tourists and new residents. This influx will provide a significant boost to local businesses and generate additional economic opportunities for our community.

****Physical Health:**** By providing access to these trails, we encourage outdoor activities that promote physical fitness and a healthier lifestyle for our students and families. The trails will serve as an accessible venue for regular exercise, contributing to the overall health of our community.

****Mental Well-being:**** The natural environment of the trails offers a serene setting that has been shown to reduce stress, enhance mood, and improve mental health. The opportunity to spend time in nature will greatly benefit our residents' mental well-being.

****Community Engagement:**** The trails will create a space for families and community members to engage in recreational activities together, strengthening the bonds within our community and fostering a more connected and supportive environment.

****Educational Opportunities:**** These trails can function as an outdoor classroom, providing unique learning experiences for students in subjects like environmental science, biology, and physical education. This hands-on approach will enrich their educational experiences.

****Environmental Stewardship:**** Developing and maintaining the trails will not only promote conservation efforts but also cultivate a deeper appreciation for the natural environment among residents and visitors alike.

****Tourism and Local Business Support:**** The attraction of tourists for biking events will lead to increased patronage of local hotels, restaurants, and shops, thereby providing a significant boost to our local economy.

****Youth Engagement:**** The trails will offer a constructive outlet for our youth, promoting positive recreational activities and reducing the likelihood of engagement in harmful behaviors.

****Event Hosting:**** Our trails could become a premier venue for regional and national biking events, raising Mena's profile as a destination for outdoor activities and attracting visitors from afar.

****Accessibility:**** The creation of bike trails will promote inclusivity, ensuring that people of all ages and abilities have access to recreational opportunities and can enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities.

****Property Values:**** Well-maintained recreational amenities such as bike trails have been shown to enhance property values in the surrounding areas, making them a valuable asset for our community.

****Volunteer and Community Service Opportunities:**** The development and maintenance of the trails will create ample opportunities for community members to engage in volunteer projects, fostering a sense of ownership and

pride within our town.

In conclusion, this project presents a multitude of benefits that will positively impact Mena's economic, physical, mental, and social well-being. I wholeheartedly support the initiative and look forward to seeing the positive changes it will bring to our community.

Thank you for considering this important endeavor.