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Comments: In regards to the newest revised EA and options communications on the Mena project I wanted to offer my opinions based on years of riding mtb (both trail and dh lift access parks) and building trails for advanced riding on private land.

For the Mena project to make any sense, in that it brings new riding types and opportunities to the state and general area it only makes sense to be a lift access mtb park. There are no lift access parks with in several hours drive of the area, there are a couple shuttle access locations, and a huge amount of general pedal access trails all over the state. Shuttle trails would bring people in but not in the numbers that real lifts would. There are many trails in Arkansas that although public access and a few are available to shuttle, do not stay in good riding condition due to either remote location, low use due to terrain, and often low maintenance due to financial and man power feasibility I see as failures. I think lifts on the right terrain can prevent this.

Terrain wise, without being privy to trail maps I can only speculate but for lifts to be worth tickets that would be charged to individuals, they would need to be of real bike park class caliber. Most trails in Arkansas though aesthetically pleasing do not offer the steepness, speed, nor difficulty of terrain that viable financially successful bike parks draw in customer bases with. Traditional NWA style trails running down a lift hill quite frankly would not fit the narrative. Technical dh race lines and high speed sizeable jump lines would draw in a regional crowd willing to pay lift prices that would keep lifts running all year round and afford a crew of people to maintain said trails. They would be drawn in because this exists nowhere else with a double digits hour drive of the area.

I personally would love to see the full project move forward. I travel every year to lift bike parks to ride, travel multiple times a year to either lake leatherwood in eureka or Howler in Branson MO and pay to ride shuttles and gravity trails on my dh bike. I for one and many people in a several state radius would love to keep my summer bike parks travel and lift money here and do it more often as well. I urge the project to look at Windrock Tn, Trestle bike park, and Angel Fire bike park for very successful lift(or shuttles on windrocks part) parks in the southern half of the US. If Arkansas wants to be known as a real mtb destination this is needed. I feel like anything less however will be loss of resources on failing to utilize a proven model.