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Comments:

Dear Sirs:

I understand that King Mountain, is being considered for inclusion in designated wilderness area as part of the Salmon-Challis National Forest forest management plan. This has severe implications, specifically related to the King Mountain hang-gliding launch site and access road. I beg of you to please draw the wilderness boundary to exclude the hang-gliding launch and access road from wilderness designation, and thus preserve our current use and minimal impact.

I am an Advanced rated hang-glider pilot, and have been flying King Mountain for much of the past 20 years. For 10 continuous years, I competed in the King Mountain Meet, held at the site and hosted by Idaho Hang-Gliding Association and the town of Moore. It was a great event attended by over 50 pilots per year. I have fond memories of the event, and still plan hang-gliding vacations to King Mountain.

Good launch sites are rare, and great sites like King Mtn are nearly extinct. There is a special mix of requirements; clear hill side, free of obstructions, easy glide to safe and permissible landing area, soarable weather patterns, and permissible vehicle access. Unfortunately, continued development of valley floors are eliminating many landing sites, and other restrictions are eliminating our few launches.

Other than vehicle access, we are an almost zero impact activity. After launching, we seldom touch ground until landing, often a hundred or more miles away. We do need a navigable road to launch, but that's simply to transport our gear up the hill. Otherwise, we strive to leave nothing but footprints where we depart the ground.

Anyway, this is a plea to preserve hang-gliding access to King Mountain HG launch site. It is a very special place for those in our sport.

Sincerely,

Wayne Michelsen

Adv HG Pilot

USHPA 72939