

Date submitted (UTC-11): 1/17/2019 3:13:14 PM

First name: LEE

Last name: Minardi

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 37 Downing Rd

Address2:

City: Lexington

State:

Province/Region: Massachusetts

Zip/Postal Code: 02421

Country: United States

Email: lee.minardi@gmail.com

Phone: 7818516265

Comments:

I am a 72 year old hang glider pilot from Lexington, Massachusetts. I have fond memories of flying from King Mountain during five different years between 2000 and 2010. The uniqueness and beauty of King Mountain and the Lost River valley were a strong incentive for me to make the 4,000 mile round trip drive from home more than once! The hang gliding community is a close knit group of like-minded outdoor enthusiasts who take joy in the quiet, non-invasive action of foot launched flight. We all respect the pristine terrain we are privilege to fly. Flying King Mountain has given me, and several other New England pilots, the opportunity to experience an area unlike anywhere else in the US. The impact of our flying on the area is very small. We take a single road to launch once on the occasional flying day. Several pilots use the same vehicle to the launch area further minimizing impact. We typically land many miles away next to a highway, outside the proposed wilderness area.

The benefits to the King Mountain area for the continued access to hang glider and paraglider are many. We support local businesses with negligible if any negative impact. I strongly request that the Forest Service not exclude King Mountain for free flight. Thank you.