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Comments:

Sirs:

On behalf of myself, and the free-flight community at large, I would ask that you seriously give thought to keeping King Mountain available to hang gliders and paragliders. It is a premier location reserved for veteran pilots.

I am proud to say that those who share in our sport are some of the most responsible people around, when it comes to caring for the environments in which we fly. Here in Arizona, we maintain wonderful working relationships with BLM, county and state officials, as well as the City of Phoenix, where we fly in the largest municipal park in the country. My point is that we are caretakers of the areas that we fly in. Every state needs individuals and organizations like ours to keep the trust and secure our great outdoors for future generations.

A second consideration would be the economics of allowing free flight at King Mountain. Premier sites bring pilots, and that is good for the economy of the local region. Living in Arizona provides a few great locations to fly and one outstanding site: Mingus Mountain. I regularly travel to sites in California and Utah to fly and have vacationed in Hawaii, Colombia and France, simply to fly. Having lived in Idaho Falls earlier in my life I have looked forward to travelling back to Idaho and Montana to fly their best sites. I am not alone; pilots travel to fly and enjoy the beauty of the locales that they visit.

Thanks for your consideration,

Chris Weigel
USHPA #86777