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Comments:

With regard to the wilderness evaluation of the area around King Mountain, I ask that you do not change its designation. King Mountain is one of the significant "destination" flying sites in the US for hang gliders and paragliders. The combination of terrain, weather conditions and available landing areas makes it an outstanding site for flying.

Flying sites are often lost due to encroachment of development, where landing areas become covered with houses or commercial buildings. Hang gliding and paragliding has increasingly been pushed to the fringe of its "habitat", along with soaring birds that likewise rely on the wind and thermals to stay aloft. Prime hang glider and paraglider habitat like King Mountain is a precious resource, and I hope it can remain open for generations yet to fly.

Our needs are simple; we need road access to get near to launch, and a clear area to take off, unobstructed by trees and bushes. Our impact on the landscape otherwise is negligible. Unlike other users (hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists) ours is a one-way trip up the mountain, with a landing far below in the fields. With a 40-year history of flying at this famous site, I hope it can be preserved forever as a soaring destination.