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Comments:

Hello,

I have been a certified paraglider pilot and USHPA member for over three years now and while I have never been to or flown the King Mountain site, I have come to realize how precious appropriate flying sites are to our community and would be sad to see this one shut down.

I do appreciate the preservation of wild areas and enjoy the fact that my sport is a fairly low-impact activity when it comes the environment. Compared to something like a ski area, a paragliding/hang-gliding launch takes up relatively little space, needs no additional structures and only requires a relatively small clearing to safely launch from. My vehicle consumes no fossil fuels and I often hike up to my local launch rather than getting a ride in a vehicle. Landing areas can usually employ already clear private farm or ranch land in cooperation with landowners.

Hopefully we can find a suitable compromise that will allow for this site to remain active while following the spirit of wilderness preservation at the same time.

Many of the sites I fly at are on public land and our local groups work hard to keep good relationships with the DNR and spend time maintaining the areas that we use. I don't know what the history of this particular area is, but it sounds like many in my community think it worthwhile to try to save. Hopefully time is taken to consider the positive impacts that this site has on the quality of life of those that enjoy it.

Best regards,
Keith Hoffman