

Date submitted (UTC-11): 1/18/2019 11:41:27 AM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Webster

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 417 J Street

Address2:

City: Salt Lake City

State: UT

Province/Region: UT

Zip/Postal Code: 84103

Country: United States

Email: tcwebster42@GMAIL.com

Phone: 8015805058

Comments:

I'd like to voice my support for keeping the hang gliding/paragliding launch area on King Mountain (about 4.5 miles ENE of Moore, Idaho) out of the proposed wilderness area boundary, and therefore open and accessible to road access and flight activities.

Good, safe flying areas are extremely rare. A good hang gliding or paragliding site should meet the following criteria:

- Easy access to the launching area
- Lack of trees or other obstructions around the launching area
- Large, unobstructed emergency landing area that pilots have permission to land in
- A steep angle from the launch to landing area (20 degrees from horizontal, or steeper, is ideal) to give pilots the security of ground clearance
- Orientation facing the prevailing wind
- Sufficient altitude difference between the launch and landing areas (at least 1000 feet is required to reliably find thermals strong enough to enable soaring)
- A steep enough slope to generate lifting air in a steady wind
- Adjacent terrain that also generates lifting air, and widespread open space, to facilitate safe long-distance soaring

The King Mountain flying site meets all of these criteria, which makes it unique in the Idaho/Montana/Wyoming/Utah region. This also makes it extremely attractive to pilots from around the world. Every year, large numbers of pilots come to fly from all corners of the US, as well as Europe, Australia, and other foreign lands.

I've been flying King regularly since the early 90s, and hope to help preserve it for future generations of pilots. While I'm a big supporter of wilderness, I hope that the boundary of the wilderness area can be established in such a way as to allow this tradition of free flight to continue.

Thanks,

Tom Webster

Salt Lake City