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Comments:

Please accept my request that the King Mountain flying site within the Salmon-Chillis National Forest not be designated a wilderness area.

Speaking as a current free-flight pilot (hang gliding and paragliding) who has never flown the site, I am very interested in flying this site in the future as its reputation for fantastic conditions and memorable flights is well known. Re-designating this site and the access road to launch as a wilderness area would prevent me from flying there.

It has been brought to my attention that the Boxer-McKeon Wilderness Bill of 2008 created 470,000 acres of new wilderness in the Inyos and Whites, while preserving access to hang glider launches (Paiute, Gunter and Gunter bail-out, Mazourka, Mt Tom, McGee) by excluding these roads and launches from wilderness designation using a process called cherry-stemming. It is my request is that any new wilderness areas the Forest Service is contemplating adapt this same approach and exclude road access to King Mountain launch and the airspace above the surrounding areas, including the Lost River and the Lemhi Range from Wilderness Area designation.

Allowing diverse user groups to legally access and responsibly enjoy our great outdoors is a win-win situation for all those involved.

Sincerely,

Jonathan T. Irlbeck

United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association Member #88495