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Comments:

Dear Forest Service,

Although I have not flown from King Mountain in many years, King Mountain remains as one of my favorite paragliding sites in the entire world.

In my earlier years of learning to become a highly skilled paraglider pilot, King Mountain was my local flying site. I spent 3 seasons working for the Middle Fork Ranger District based out of Challis. King was where I spent my time during my days off, flying as much as I could. King was the most challenging and powerful paragliding location I had ever flown, and I completed my first long Cross Country paragliding flights from King to Challis. The evening conditions at King are unmatched as well, and are unlike any other location on this earth. I have been working professionally as a paragliding pilot for the last 12 years. I have also spent the last 19 years traveling the world while competing, working, and exploring paragliding sites. There is no place on this planet like King, and it would be such a shame to lose that flying site if the road was removed and it was converted into a wilderness area. There is a long history of flying hang gliders and Paragliders there, and they don't have other locations to fly that would replace what King provides.

I am also a very avid conservationist and environmentalist. I place native animals, plants, and protecting wild places as my top priority in my life. The food I choose to eat all the way to the organizations I support are all geared towards conservation and placing the planet first. But, there are a few exceptions that I do think we have to consider to continue with education and awareness. Paraglider and hang gliders pilots should not lose the privilege to be able to fly from King Mountain.

I plan to return to fly King in the upcoming years now that I am moving my life and business back in the USA.

Regards,
Todd Weigand