From: Benny Abruzzo
To: FS-Salmon-Challis Plan Rev
Subject: RE: King Mountain Paragliding Launch
Date: Monday, January 21, 2019 9:23:19 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an active paragliding pilot and member of USHPA (United States Hang-gliding & Paragliding Association).
Flying in the US is already very restrictive and further closer of any Paragliding launches will negatively impact our sport.
I have flown in many parts of Idaho, one area that I would have flown has already been affected by "new" wilderness designation. The addition of the new Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness in 2015 by President Obama, limited my flying experience while ski touring 60 miles across the newly designated wilderness area. We flew the non-wilderness side of the ridge but were restricted from the other side by an invisible line that prohibits foot launching a paraglider.
The current Forest Policy restricting launching a paraglider in our wilderness areas is truly absurd. The act of walking or even jumping is allowed, but simply leaving the ground through non-motorized flight is prohibited!
While the idea of expanding our wilderness areas and protecting our precious natural resources is appealing to me, supporting a policy that further restricts free flight is not.
Therefore, I oppose the proposed change to wilderness designation for the Salmon-Challis National Forest in Idaho which includes the King Mountain flying site.

Please help support free flight in the United States.

Sincerely,

Benny Abruzzo
USHPA Member