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Comments: Please consider the model provided by the Boxer-McKeon Wilderness bill in the Owens Valley, Ca in about 2008 that expanded wilderness on the Inyo and White Mountains lower slopes. In this wilderness expansion, existing roads and existing hang glider launches and landing areas were excluded from the wilderness. This was called cherry-stemming, and was effective in preserving wilderness values, while also preserving existing established hang gliding and paragliding use. Hang gliding and paragliding do contribute to local economies. Hang glider and paraglider pilots do cherish wilderness and wilderness values. Please preserve access to the King Mountain launches of Upper, Lower, and Coyote, and the landing area.

In the Boxer-McKeon wilderness expansion, the Forest Service contacted hang glider pilots (Keri Castle directly, and others through town hall meetings) asking them to help preserve 5 or 6 existing launches and 1 landing area. The Boxer-McKeon bill designated about 470,000 acres (as I remember) of new wilderness, but did not affect established hang gliding and paragliding uses. Launches preserved in the Owens Valley included Paiute, Gunther launch and bail-out landing, Mt Tom, Mt McGee, and a couple of others, such as Mazourka, I believe.