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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

These are comments requested by the USFS for the Recreation - Durango Northwest Recreation Project #63579

I am a paraglider pilot and have flown from the launch near the Animas Overlook for the last 25 years. I consider what we call the Falls Creek Site to be the best paragliding launches in the immediate Durango area.

Historically we accessed this from the almost flat forest service road that leaves the Junction Creek Rd about a mile below the Animas Overlook parking, as this road allowed hang glider pilots to bring their hang gliders to the launch. More recently, we paraglider pilots, have parked at the Animas Overlook (where there is better off street parking) and walked down to the launch.

The lower road is in great condition and I have walked there with my elderly mother who lives in Durango as recently as 4-5 years ago. She was in her mid 90's at that time, and we also enjoyed the paved Animas Overlook trail, but she found the lower road easier without as much elevation change.

Very little is required to keep the Falls Creek Site safe and usable as there is simple access, however we do need to clear the scrub oak from the small area every few years. This is very minimal removal of a very small area (perhaps 40'-50' across by 40 feet long). It is important to keep the area somewhat clear for obvious safety reasons since we lay out our foot launched aircraft there. (Paragliders).

We appreciate your consideration of our use and hope you will continue to allow our access and use of this beautiful area.

Yours,
Jeff Cristol