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Comments: Dear fellow outdoor enthusiasts,

As a passionate paraglider pilot and an advocate for outdoor recreation, I wholeheartedly support the proposed actions outlined in the Durango Northwest Recreation Project. Access to suitable launch sites and landing zones (LZ) is crucial for the paragliding community, and this initiative represents a significant step towards enhancing our core values within the Rocky Mountain Region.

By improving trails, allowing appropriate uses, providing adequate parking and trailhead facilities, accommodating winter activities, and allowing dispersed camping, the project aims to elevate the overall recreational experience for all outdoor enthusiasts.

Paragliding is not just a sport; it's a way of life for many of us. The thrill of taking to the skies, the connection with nature, and the sense of freedom that comes with each flight are unparalleled. However, our ability to fully embrace this incredible adventure relies heavily on access to safe and well-maintained launch sites and LZs.

By developing and managing dedicated sites for paragliding, we can ensure that our community has the necessary infrastructure to pursue our passion while also respecting the surrounding environment and heritage resources. Additionally, improved trail management and road enhancements will contribute to the overall accessibility of these areas, benefiting not only paraglider pilots but also hikers, cyclists, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

I commend the efforts of the Columbine Ranger District in spearheading this project and their commitment to balancing the needs of different recreational activities. Their dedication to recreation management, road management, heritage resource management, and special area management is commendable and speaks to their understanding of the diverse needs within the outdoor community.

Together, we can help shape the future of paragliding access in the Durango Northwest region, ensuring that our beloved sport continues to thrive while promoting responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation.

Fly high and safely,
Zachery Converse