Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/26/2023 7:46:03 PM
First name: Peter
Last name: Foster
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Really appreciate the opportunity to comment. My comments are in support of the continued use of the free-flight launch site located within the Durango NW Recreational Project boundary. The site is located at 37.35713 -107.88016, is above and to the west of the closed Falls Creek Archaeological Area and was long ago acknowledged by the USFS District Ranger. Our local club of USHPA (United States Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association) certified pilots respectfully request that this launch site remain open for public use.

Free-flight Paragliding is a very low impact non-mechanical recreational activity. The site is accessed by parking at the Animas Overlook Trailhead and carrying the paraglider in a backpack south on the existing Cliffside Trail (0.70 miles) to the launch site. The landing field, if the paraglider pilot is unable to fly out and away, is located below on USFS property east of parking area at 37.35291 -107.86675 on the East Side of County Road 205. At no time do we enter the restricted archeological zone.

Maintenance of the launch site consists of pruning srub-oak with hand tools which provides for safe and reliable launches.

Paragliding is a safe sport, and the paraglider pilots are trained and certified for safety under a national organization named the United States Hang-Gliding and Paragliding Association (USHPA). The pilots have safety equipment to help ensure safe and reliable flights and landings.

Our club consists of local pilots who are respectful of the environment, including the archeological site.

We really appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Thank you.