Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/1/2023 2:03:32 AM
First name: Ryder
Last name: Okumura
Organization:
Title:
Comments: As a local Paragliding pilot and resident of Durango, CO since 1997 I would like to submit the following.

Thank you for considering our local input in regards to the Falls Creek Paragliding Launch site. This site has been a reliable and safe local favorite for decades. Our Durango area paragliding community is a safety focused group of well trained, and properly certified pilots. As good standing members of our community, we are committed to maintaining a positive impact on our environment and maintaining an excellent safety record.

The Falls Creek Launch has been the ONLY "Mid Morning" launch site in the area, for many decades. Paragliding is highly dependent on micro-meteorology and good launches are hard to find, and access. The east facing aspect and gentle breeze allows for the early morning sun to generate good launch conditions and safe thermals. We have maintained a great safety record over the years, and with continued access, and maintenance, we aim to continue this excellent record.

We all know there are hundreds of miles of trail in the area and many ways to use them, but there are only a small handful of paragliding launches. Keeping the Falls Creek Launch accessible will help keep our paragliding community safe and reduce the chances of new launches being developed. Our use of the local trails is typically one way and very low impact. We consider ourselves to be stewards of our local environment, and always in harmony with nature. Our lives depend on it. Thank you, please reach out to me personally with any concerns, Ryder.