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Comments: Paraglider and hang glider pilots represent a significant group of users to the Gold Creek Valley during the late spring/summer/fall flying season. It is not clear that the needs of this user group have been considered at all in the project plan. Rampart Ridge is one of the best sites in the US for free flight, and the Gold Creek restoration project represents a significant threat to free flight at Rampart. There are 2 key points that must be addressed in project planning to allow paraglider and hang glider pilots to recreate safely in the area:

1) a route for foot traffic into/out of upper Gold Creek Valley must be kept open which goes around the construction zone. We occasionally have to land our aircraft in the upper valley (upstream of the proposed construction zone) when conditions in the air do not allow us to reach our normal landing zones along Keechelus Lake, and need a way to legally walk out to the road when this happens.

2) helicopter use for this project should be eliminated or kept to an absolute minimum and restricted to specific morning hours that are communicated to the public. Paragliding and hang gliding flights at Rampart typically start at noon and go on throughout the afternoon, so there would not be a conflict of airspace with helicopters flying to/from the project site during morning hours. However, I am personally opposed the use of helicopters in a wild & scenic area for any purpose and at any time of day - it's hard to believe that any project requiring the use of helicopters could have "no significant environmental impact".

More info about the Rampart flying site is available at [https://www.cloudbase.org/?page\\_id=321](https://www.cloudbase.org/?page_id=321)