

Erin Nelson

From: Planning
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 4:52 PM
To: Erin Nelson
Subject: Fwd: Comment on Ordinance restricting aviation traffic

Another comment from pz email. Thanks
Marcia

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Robin Patten <rpmtbee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 3:39:37 PM
To: Planning <planningzoning@townofbluff.org>
Subject: Comment on Ordinance restricting aviation traffic

To the Town of Bluff Planning and Zoning;

I am writing in favor of the ordinance **limiting and restricting aviation traffic** within Bluff town boundaries. I believe aircraft and helicopter activities should be restricted to the airport and a no-fly zone should be created over the residential areas of Bluff, maintaining the peace of the town.

It should be noted that aircraft and helicopter traffic have a negative impact on **both** the human and the wild community. Aircraft and helicopter noise has been shown to disturb and disrupt wildlife: for example see the National Park Service Annotated Bibliography: Impact of Noise on Wildlife <https://www.nhsec.nh.gov/projects/2014-04/documents/150420pastoriza.pdf>.

If helicopters or other aircraft take off and fly down the San Juan riparian corridor, they will be disrupting peregrine falcons, bald eagles, numerous waterfowl, along with a diversity of species that use the river, from beaver and otter to bighorn sheep. Anywhere aircraft and helicopters fly will create stress on wildlife. I believe the residents of Bluff would prefer to see falcons, hawks, vultures, and other birds in their sky rather than helicopters.

The Town of Bluff has the opportunity in this case to set a precedent as to how it wants to develop. Can the town focus on green business opportunities, green tourism, and non-motorized recreation? I suspect the rafting, hiking, and guiding businesses in town would not appreciate having their clients having to endure the harsh noise and disruption of aviation traffic either.

Outside of the aircraft issue, Planning and Zoning should also note that the Desert Rose helicopter pad construction has already had detrimental environmental impact as the adjacent ephemeral stream bed has been ripped up and disturbed. This may violate the Federal EPA Clean Water Act that protects our waterways. If tearing up the wash is not illegal, it seems unethical to so drastically disturb a waterway in the desert. Can P&Z somehow address this issue?

Please have an ordinance restricting aviation traffic in our town. Please keep any aircraft and helicopter activity limited to the airport, away from the center of town and away from sensitive wildlife areas. Please maintain the tranquility of this town and protect the surrounding natural habitat.

Thank you,
Robin Patten