

Jim Hook

My public comments from my many responsibilities concerning aviation in Town of Bluff-

Airport Manager-

The Bluff Airport is a real asset for the Town. I, of course, support responsible civil and limited commercial aviation at the airport and wherever it is safe and useful within the Town limits. We have many users of the airport throughout the year including private, pilot training and emergency traffic. The airport does not have electricity, water, fuel or any kind of security so it is not suitable for a commercial business to use without major infrastructure investment. I understand that one of the reasons the Council supported Bluff taking the BLM lease was to prevent a private entity from doing that kind of development which would include increased use.

Private Businessman-

We at Recapture Lodge have had infrequent landing of helicopters at our business for the 35 years that we have worked here. They have been mostly contract, commercial companies supporting wildlife management and also oil field and electric power activities. I believe the Town should provide zoning for that use in commercial areas that have plenty of open land and approach routes that are not over the residential sections of town.

Fire Chief Emeritus- 20 years of volunteer service-

In my tenure at the fire department I have responded to hundreds of private and commercial vehicle accidents with many, many lost lives, injuries and property damage. In that same time I have responded to 1 aircraft accident, a helicopter doing seismic studies on McCracken Mesa with loss of pilot and 5 passengers. Within our borders aviation travel appears to be much safer than vehicular traffic. I've overseen as many as 12 blackhawk helicopters landing in the old school grounds during the fugitive event. I think the town should welcome well planned and constructed private facilities to support aviation within the town so that emergency users know where they can land safely.

Land Owner-

Aviation is a useful tool for not just EMS/Law Enforcement but also for the zoned agricultural lands within the Town boundaries. I've used small planes to deliver mosquito abatement control at a time when you COULD NOT be outside in the evening and also, recently, to plant native vegetation into our 150 acres of flood plain land. Aviation machines, including drones, are useful tools along with tractors, bulldozers and other heavy equipment to efficiently manage our ag lands.

Please consider the many uses of aviation within Town boundaries and zone for that use in the most beneficial locations.