

Connie Cummins  
Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest  
c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader  
8901 Grand Avenue Place  
Duluth, MN 55808

## CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

I am writing today to provide comments to the Forest Service regarding the proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project.

As someone who loves Cook County in all its seasons, I know that tourism is the key to their economy. And Lutsen Mountains makes that economy sustainable by drawing alpine skiers to the area. Winter outdoor recreation opportunities help compliment the summer recreation that is so prevalent in northern Minnesota. Creating increased winter visitation helps provide year-round employment, tax revenue, and business in general.

The proposed expansion is vital to the long-term future of the ski area. As a novice skier, I really appreciate the addition of beginner terrain and spreading out skiing options across a broader area. Right now, I've felt limited to a small number of runs and depending on the day, they were very crowded. The reason I like to ski at Lutsen is because of the dramatic vistas the ski area has to offer of Lake Superior.

Second, I'm an avid hiker and I appreciate the effort Lutsen Mountains has made to accommodate the Superior Hiking Trail through their property and within the proposed addition. Certainly, this project creates new opportunities for the Superior Hiking Trail and it's a win-win for both organizations.

Finally, I appreciate the detailed effort and consideration of protecting not only the scenic qualities of the Superior National Forest, but old growth forests, wildlife habitat and water quality. Lutsen does an outstanding job of utilizing Best Management Practices for ski areas that minimize soil disturbance and avoids significant impacts to wetlands.

Their commitment to the environment and community was recognized last year when the Minnesota Environment Initiative presented Lutsen Mountains Rural Vitality award for their work in addressing water quality in the Poplar River.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Judith Erickson  
Conservation Strategies, Inc.  
17325 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
Shafer, MN 55074