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Subject: Comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

As a lodging business owner and resident for 26 years in Cook County, I have an interest in a healthy economic industry that balances tourism with protecting natural resources.

Following are my comments on the proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project:

1). Recreation

- Support making available USFS land adjacent to current Lutsen Mountains in addition to beginner and expert terrain to enhance downhill skiing and snowboarding opportunities.
- Believe the scope of this project will fulfill its commitment in the Superior NF land management plan to protect natural resources while meeting the needs of the area to provide recreational opportunities. The proposed area of 550 acres in the 3.9 million acre area of the Superior National Forest is only .00014% of the managed forest to be used for this specific recreational activity.

2). Protecting Jobs and Tourism Industry

- Support the project in order to protect jobs in Cook County. Participating in winter activities at Lutsen Mountains is the primary recreational pursuit visitors and seasonal residents come to the Lutsen/Tofte/Schroeder area in the winter.

3). Tribal Interest

- Support a balanced approach to management of resources. Tribe members should be allowed to harvest resources on federal land adjacent to the USFS project land with possible access through project area during harvest time.

4). Soils

- Support the use of best management practices in areas of ground disturbance during project construction. Lutsen Mountains should work with Cook County Soil and Water to minimize significant erosion and soil damage as project moves forward.

Sincerely,



Bruce Martinson