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From the 2004 Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan: “The National Forest Management Act requires that National Forest System land be managed for a variety of uses on a sustained basis to ensure in perpetuity a continued supply of goods and services to the American people. “

Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project taking of National Forest Land into private hands should be denied in the interest of the Public.

The goal of Public National Forests has always been framed in terms of multiple sustained use and productivity of these lands for the Public in perpetuity. Handing over these prime scenic National Forest Lands to Lutsen Mountains Corporation (LMC) directly contradicts this goal and is not in the public interest whatsoever. It is an action that is irreversible and one that serves only LMC’s private for-profit interests. A 172% increase in the private activities of LMC would not only deny the multiple use of these prime scenic lands but would also strain Highway 61 use and interfere with the well-developed public uses of nearly 500 acres. Therefor Alternative 1 - No Action is the only choice that is in the *public* interest.

There will be many other private interests lobbying in favor of Alternative 2 with a willingness to fall back to Alternative 3. Both alternatives serve only narrow single use private interests. The manifold Public Interests outweigh all the privatizers personal profit goals.

With National Forest Lands being a finite critical part of our nations’ common wealth we need to avoid the continual chipping away and diminishment of it for our future generations use and our common multiple use interests today.

The National Forest Lands need to be put in the forefront of our national actions to reduce the effects of our changing the climate, our need for wildlife and to have a plan for creating a sane livable world for generations to come.

Alternative 1 is the public's choice. Please deny the permitting of Alternative 2 or 3. Thank you for acting in the public interest and preserving these prime scenic acres for all of us and our national heritage in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Christopher LaForge, CMT NCPP