Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/4/2021 2:41:38 PM
First name: Howie
Last name: Garber
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Mountains Expansion DEIS.

[External Email]
If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov
To Connie Cummins Supervisor, Superior National Forest and Michael Jimenez, I.D Team Leader
SM.FS.Superior_NF@usda.gov comments-eastern-superior@usda.gov
I have been a resort and backcountry skier for 50 years. Most of my skiing has been in Western U.S. but I hope to visit the Superior National Forest. The No action alternative is the only alternative proposed which does not expand the special use area. I certainly support this NO ACTIOn Alternative.
Superior National Forest belongs to all American and not just those who can afford a lift ticket. Hikers and backcountry skiers and snowboarders cherish this area and the proposed ski development would alter the wild and natural character of the popular Superior Hiking Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail.
The mission of the USFS is "To sustain the health, diversity…..of the nation's forest to meet the needs of present and future generations." There is no proven demand to expand Lutsen Mountain Resort for the special interest of profit and alpine skiing.
Superior National Forest is habitat for threatened Canada lynx and other imperiled species. In addition to direct wildlife habitat destruction, the expansion would bring more roads and increased traffic to Moose Mountain, posing additional threats to Canada lynx, gray wolves, moose, and three imperiled bat species - northern long-eared, tricolored and little brown bats - that have been devastated by white-nose syndrome.
World Wildlife Fund's latest Living Planet Report estimates that we have lost 68% of all vertebrate wildlife populations since 1970. That is more than half of the known birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish gone in just 50 years. We must protect our remaining wildlife populations. In a new Executive Order, President Biden promised to protect 30 percent of U.S. land and 30 percent of U.S. oceans by 2030. This is an attempt to mitigate the compounding stressor of climate change and to protect biodiversity. Cutting down trees for new ski lifts and ski runs and parking lot would fragment wildlife habitat.
The two new base facilities, a mountaintop chalet, snowmaking reservoirs, seven chairlifts and 1,260 new parking spaces are an unnecessary desecration of public land. Americans deserve equitable access to public lands, for wildlife, for the climate, for the local community. The "No Action" alternative is the only alternative I can support.
Thank You,

Howie Garber M.D.

Howie Garber
1623 Mt. Moran Rd.
Driggs, Idaho 83422

(801)450-3770 Mobile
E-mail: howie@wanderlustimages.com