

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

Letter 2 of 2

Nov 30, 2021

Please see  
attached  
drawing  
on item #2

Re: Lutsen Mountains Expansion DEIS Project

Dear Supervisor Cummins,

I recommend the Forest Service choose the No Action Alternative 1. Please protect Moose and Eagle Mountains forests/animals for our children and future generations.

If the Forest Service is still considering Alternate 2 or 3 proposed action, please before proceeding require LMC to agree to the following:

1. Reach an agreement with SHTA on an acceptable re-route and LMC to cover all costs. The SHTA Director's Nov 4th 2021 letter states there has been no agreement reached.
2. Agree to a complete Engineering review of the Lake Superior water intake system; pump vault, 4 pumps, 20-inch 200ft intake pipe, filtration, LMC's storage ponds/capacity. The \$5M system had several serious problems pumping water from Lake Superior for their snowmaking. LMC uses 140 million gallons/year and will need to increase two fold for Alternate 2 or 3 to succeed.

A summary of issues of the system includes, but are probably not limited to the following:

- a. 2014 – Severe cracks in the original foundation for the four pumps (two 450HP and two 50HP) which are 30ft underground on the shoreline of Lutsen resort's property.
  - b. 2014 – The 20-inch 200ft stored pipe ended up in Two Harbors due to a winter storm. According to Tom Rider, Marine Tech Co. was replaced by LHB Co. to install the 200ft pipe properly.
  - c. Per Mr. Rider "one million pounds" was put on the intake pipe to hold it in place. One million pounds of concrete would be equivalent in size to the Cook County Courthouse. Per the LHB Co. drawing C2.00, the intake is only 20-25 feet below Lake Superior's surface.
  - d. 2017 – In a winter test of the intake system, it plugged and failed due to an algae problem.
  - e. 2018 – The filtration system was modified. The algae problem according to Tom Rider is rare but likely periodic. Lake Superior's yearly water temperature is rising and algae will likely be an ongoing issue. This year the lake was around 5.0F degrees above average.
  - f. 2021 – Sand plugged the 20" pipeline and filled the pump vault 30ft underground. LMC hired a mining contractor to remove the sand from the intake and pump house.
3. If LMC or a future owner closes the ski business, they must agree in the SUP to remove all structures and restore Moose and Eagle Mtns to natural forest.
  4. For each tree cut down on Moose and Eagle Mtns, LMC must plant 200 saplings Cook County.

In conclusion I am strongly against Alternatives 2 or 3. Please choose No Action Alternative 1.

Sincerely,  
Mark Dobbelmann  
SHTA members 1994-2003

