

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/8/2020 3:47:42 PM

First name: John

Last name: Degelau

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is John and I am an avid skier from Duluth Minnesota and lover of the outdoors. Regarding the LMC expansion plan, it seems very unnecessary to move forward with it especially since the motive behind the plan is to keep Lutsen Mountains competitive in the Midwest ski resort industry. Lutsen easily tops all other ski resort in the Midwest in size and already has plenty of terrain to offer. Encroaching and clear-cutting ski runs on what is currently public land is not needed.

As an avid skier I will add that the future of skiing in Minnesota for very skilled skiers does not lie in clear-cut ski runs. It lies in the woods on ungroomed natural terrain. The scoping letter does not take into consideration the possibility of backcountry skiing/snowboarding in the proposed expansion areas. It does not acknowledge the Superior Highland Backcountry group that advocates for keeping the expansion areas natural for the use of backcountry skiing. These proposed areas of expansion are the best places in the state to backcountry ski. Also backcountry skiing does not require the destruction of public forests or massive electricity usage from chairlifts or water waste from snowmaking.

My request is to take into consideration the possibility of denying the expansion plan for the sake of the natural beauty of that area, environmental impact, and encroachment on public lands. Denying this expansion plan will allow backcountry skiing in the area which provides greater satisfaction and challenge for expert skiers. I hope you can take into consideration the alternative option to this plan.

Thank you for reading,

-John