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Comments: It is my opinion that Lutsen Corp should be allowed to expand its runs available to become a more marketable business enterprise for the enjoyment to the public from the Twin Cities and even the Canadian marketplace. This proposed expansion has potential to drive further customer visits to the Lutsen in Cook County region of MN. This would enhance Grand Marais, Lutsen, Tofte, and Schroeder communities, the area resorts and hotels to ensure their economic existence in the future as demographics change into the future within the ski industry. These are challenging times for the US ski industry as you know.

If this doesn't move forward, the demographics are not in favor of the skiing industry as a whole and the resort will suffer in addition to the location communities and enterprises as we move into the future. Expanded terrain can only lure the Midwestern, WI, Illinois and Thunder Bay customer base.

Lutsen had an economic advantage to serve those in the upper Midwest to the resorts in the Western ski areas of the US. It also is more favorable to the skiing ability level of those that come from the upper mid-west region of the US.

Those areas in the Western US have US forest service advantages on their own. As a result, because of the minimal environmental impacts of Lutsen expansion into US forest service areas and the Watersheds and wildlife of the area, the expansion should move ahead as planned while the ski industry still has viability. The larger service area can also make the experience of the skier visit more inspiring for a future return visit and to perhaps even engage the customer in the mid-west region become a lifelong customer. I personally know skiers and boarders that range from their single digits to the 93+ year category that enjoy the MN winter experience away from the internal dependencies of internet. It makes for more environmentally aware citizens as well.
If ski industry dies off, nature will take it back regardless of the concern of over the US forest Service exchange expansion. If local residential were to expand into that area as well, that could have a much more environmental affect than the proposed Lutsen ski area expansion.
If done with wisdom, in a manner that respects environmental practices, this Lutsen expansion can be used to create more environmental awareness and concern as we more forward into the era of significant climate change. We need the youth of today to become engaged in a positive manner along with enjoyment of the outdoors, with that what do we have in the end?

Respectfully submitted,

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40+ Year Member of National Ski Patrol System

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