

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2020 9:30:22 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a PSIA certified ski instructor who has visited Lutsen over a number of years with my family. In addition, I am a member of the Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA) and my wife and I have hiked the Trail a number of times in this area and in all seasons. We also realize the quality and beauty of the North Shore and deeply desire that the Superior National Forest be preserved, in part, as wilderness, but know that controlled and monitored development can be done. As residents of the State of Minnesota, we want to make sure that no unreasonable or burdens be placed on us, relating to costs of infrastructure, adverse pollution, or environmental risks associated with this project.

In general, I cautiously support this project for the following reasons:

- terrain selection has been a limitation, particularly for beginners and advanced beginners
- terrain for glade and tree skiing in the upper Midwest is limited
- parking at Lutsen is often difficult
- space for equipment rental, food and beverage, and ski lessons needs improvement

My requirements related to this project are the following:

- Lutsen will pay for needed infrastructure improvements such as roads, holding ponds, electricity needs
- Lutsen will pay for all lifts, snowmaking, buildings, and maintenance buildings, and snow removal equipment
- Lutsen will coordinate with the Forest Service and the Superior Hiking Trail Association regarding re-route of the Hiking Trail, and will evaluate how to split these costs

As a skier and instructor, I offer the following concerns of this plan since it appears that Lutsen will need to determine how to direct customers to one of three distinct base areas. Families should not have to go to different base lodges, despite different abilities and needs for lessons, equipment, etc. I understand that the plan provides for shuttle service but this places demands on Lutsen personnel to be well versed in customer service and the respective services in each area.

I am also concerned about the demands for employees that this expansion will require. My general impression is that employees and staffing has always been challenging along the North Shore. And, often, in past, employees at Lutsen and the surrounding businesses have been stressed to meet staffing requirements, and the need for those people that can meet 'peak' customer requirements and expectations.