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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As I am sure that there is much concern about the Flora and Fauna of the area surrounding the Lutsen Mountain Ski expansion, my concern would be focused around the a few threatened and endangered species. Specifically, the Piping Plover, Rufa Red Knot, Northern Long-eared Bat, and the Canadian Lynx to name a few.

Although my cabin is along the Echo Trail area, I have and continue to travel, hike, and camp along the north shore. To that end, a Canadian Lynx study was conducted very close to our property (about a mile). In speaking with the staff who conducted the study, I learned that these animals are and continue to expand their range. St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties remain the most significant location for these animals and their habitat is listed as critical.

The aforementioned birds and bat are also threatened, again, specific to the surrounding area and shoreline. In closing, prior to full development, I am sure the surrounding area will be closely surveyed for these animals and their habitat. In addition, any potentially endangered Flora native to the area must be examined as well. I fully support the expansion of the ski area as I feel it will bring more people, business, and development to the area.

I love the North Shore and what it offers me and my family. I just want to make sure that these and other concerns brought fourth will be closely examined and scrutinized for the betterment of the entire project and its impacts on the environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. LeBlanc