Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/26/2020 8:36:59 PM
First name: Jo
Last name: Swanson
Organization: Superior Hiking Trail Association
Title: Trail Development Director
Comments: Supplemental Comments to SHTA Comments on Lutsen Expansion

The following comments are a supplement to the comments the Superior Hiking Trail Association submitted on May 14 regarding an Environmental Impact Statement for an expansion of Lutsen Mountains ski resort. These comments are indeed a supplement to our original comments and are not intended to alter or revise the essence of those comments: that rerouting the Superior Hiking Trail away from the Lutsen Mountains expansion area entirely is in the interest of both the Trail and the ski resort.

To reiterate, the SHTA does not oppose Lutsen's expansion plans and we support the likely positive benefit such an expansion would have for the tourism and recreation economy of northeastern Minnesota.

Our critique of the expansion and its effect on the Superior Hiking Trail should not be read as an implicit opposition to the expansion. Our comments were intended to bolster our case for moving (rerouting) the Superior Hiking Trail away from Lutsen Mountains' expansion area entirely. We feel strongly a new route would be better for the Trail and its users. We also believe that it would be in the interest of Lutsen Mountains to not have to work around the SHT, not only in building the expansion but in managing the ski resort once the expansion is built.