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First name: JT

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Constance Cummins Supervisor, Superior National Forest

I submit this comment regarding the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project. First, I am concerned about this comment period being held during the evolving COVID 19 orders, and feel that a true public process has not been achieved here. I request that you extend and/or delay the comment period. Second, I am concerned about treaty obligations under the 1854 treaty and would like to be informed about USFS efforts to engage with the Grand Portage Band about the usufructuary rights of band members and whether the band feels an appropriate consultation has been or will be had prior to any formal decision on the proposal. And finally, as a resident of Duluth who has recently had to pay taxes for climate change-induced weather expenses at the Spirit Mtn ski facility, something that seems likely to occur again, I am skeptical of proposals to expand ski area at public expense, an activity with negative impacts and limited beneficiaries. Indeed, planning to expand ski areas and artificial snow making into important public and treaty lands strikes me as the opposite of the long term nature-first planning that is required of us right now. What we need are public lands in public hands, and respect for our treaty obligations.

Thank you in advance for your responses to these concerns.

Sincerely,

JT Haines