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First name: Todd

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Connie Cummins

Forest Supervisor, Superior National Forest

c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader

8901 Grand Avenue Place Duluth, MN 55808

comments-eastern-superior@usda.gov

Subject: Comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Connie,

I am writing today to provide my comments on the Forest Service proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion project.

As a new resident of Cook County, we recently relocated our family to this area and are engaged in many of the outdoor recreation opportunities that are available. We are year-round residents in the Heritage community at the base of Lutsen Mountains, and the proposed expansion is exciting to see. Providing additional terrain, with more diversity, as well as more amenities at our local ski area will be a much-needed improvement. This will enhance our family experience at Lutsen Mountains and we think it is a wise use of the Superior NF land adjacent to the area. We are really supportive of this project.

As Marketing Director for Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, I believe this expansion will bring additional tourism to our area which not only provides local jobs, but also new revenues. Winter has always been a challenging time for businesses in our County, and Lutsen Mountains is one of the primary reasons that visitors come to Cook County in the winter. I think this project will be great for our community and the economy. I can't think of a better use of a very small piece of our public lands on the Superior NF.

I have reviewed the proposed plans for the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project, and I believe that the project design and environmental effects will be positive for:

- \* Recreation
- \* Protecting Scenic Quality
- \* Protecting and Creating Jobs
- \* Winter Economy
- \* Property Values

I also understand that guidelines and best practices have been developed to minimize impact of soil disturbance, wetlands and watersheds and will mitigate disturbance to area wildlife and environment.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Warm regards,

Todd Ford

Marketing Director for Grand Portage Lodge and Casino

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