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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

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RE: Comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Hello,

My name is Heather Vita. I am a resident at:

871 Toms Rd.

Thunder Bay, ON P7G 1M3

Canada

I have enjoyed skiing at Lutsen Mountains since 2005 when I first moved to Thunder Bay, ON. This past season, my family purchased season passes (2 adults, 1 child, 1 toddler). We have already purchased our passes for next season (2 adults, 2 children). Each and every time we have the opportunity to ski at Lutsen, we have a great time and can't wait to come back for more. We also frequently stay overnight in Tofte at the AmericInn and purchase groceries and beverages locally, as well as eating and drinking at the resort.

Our children are enrolled in a ski racing program here in Thunder Bay - the Nor'Westers Alpine Club. We also ski as part of the NJRS race series and greatly enjoyed our race in Feb 2019 at Lutsen. We also use Lutsen as a training base for our late Fall training.

Lutsen is an exceptional resort and we look forward to the expansion that has been submitted.

Currently, there is a shortage of beginner and expert terrain at the existing ski area and constructing traditional ski trails and glade skiing as part of this project can address that deficit. I agree that the project will significantly improve skier circulation and provide for more reliable snow due to upgraded snowmaking. Lastly, the proposed improvements in guest services, base area improvements, additional parking, etc., should address longstanding needs at Lutsen Mountains. Anytime we have had the opportunity to be there for a race or on busy weekend days, it is evident that the current infrastructure does not meet the needs of the number of people that are

enjoying the mountain.

Additionally, with the many consolidations within the ski industry including the mega passes and capital improvements by the Western resorts, we believe that the proposed expansion by Lutsen Mountains is absolutely essential to the long-term survival of the ski area and health of our County economy. I can't imagine a future without Lutsen. It's essential for all types of outdoor enthusiasts to have this prime resort located in northern Minnesota.

Thank you for considering my comments in support of the expansion.

With gratitude,

Heather Vita
(assumed signature)