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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Supervisor Constance Cummins,

These are my comments on the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project.

You should be extending the comment period beyond 30 days in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the public to engage directly with the Forest Service and Lutsen Mountains Corporation (LMC).

I do not believe the Superior National Forest should grant LMC a Special Use Permit to expand onto Forest Service land.

The proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project threatens the future of backcountry skiing opportunities on the North Shore. Rather than granting LMC a Special Use Permit, the Superior National Forest should consider the development of a backcountry ski area on Moose Mountain which would be a better use of these public lands. Backcountry skiing is the fastest-growing segment of the ski industry, and adding a backcountry ski area to the mix of winter opportunities already available in Lutsen will entice more people to visit the area and strengthen the economy.

The Environmental Impact Statement for this project should include an alternative that analyzes a backcountry ski area, as proposed by Superior Highland Backcountry.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Stodola

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