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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Supervisor Constance Cummins,

At a minimum, Lutsen resort should offer an uphill travel policy to share the land with backcountry enthusiasts. Essentially all respectable winter resorts have a reasonable policy in place that does not require purchasing a full price lift ticket for off-hours touring.

The Superior National Forest should not grant LMC a Special Use Permit to expand onto Forest Service land without a compromise for the rapidly growing backcountry contingent.

Diversifying the variety of winter sports available in northern Minnesota will draw new visitors. 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 proposed Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project threatens the future of backcountry skiing opportunities on the North Shore.

Given that half of Moose is already owned by LMC, the public lands on Moose Mountain should be left for everybody else to enjoy.

I support Superior Highland Backcountry's vision for a Backcountry Ski Area on Moose Mountain and believe this would be a better use of these public lands.

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Jesse Buchanan

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