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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountain Ski Area Expansion Project Comments

To: Superior National Forest

Subject: Lutsen Mountain Ski Area Expansion Project Comments

Date: May 26, 2020

This letter is in response to Lutsen Mountain Corporation's request or use of 495 acres of National Forest land for their benefit and the benefit of their guests.

I do not believe the development of National Forest land by Lutsen Mountain Corporation is the best use of this public land and certainly not in the best interest of Cook, Lake and St. Louis county residents. The general public should not be expected to give up National land and incur future expenses for the benefit of Lutsen Mountain Corporation and their guests. The economic and environmental costs incurred will disproportionately be passed on to the taxpaying public.

The expansion of Lutsen Mountain Ski Area will result in additional economic costs. Increased traffic congestion, safety concerns and the need for services, such as police, fire, emergency road and others will require increased capacity.

This project will result in considerable environmental damage. The loss of unique wildlife habitat is irreplaceable. The soil erosion from altered landscape and the pollution associated with development and ongoing human use can not be ignored. Additional water consumption would be substantial and compound this effect. Night sky pollution created by lighting is of special concern. This area is one of the best locations in the lower 48 states of America for sky watching. Many tourists come here just to view the night sky. The lighting associated with this development would have a major impact on this. Global warming would have a detrimental effect on the long term success of this project which, if it fails for any reason, would result in costs being passed on to taxpayers.

These concerns and risks need to be compared to any potential benefit of Lutsen Mountain Corporation and their guests. I do not believe a permit for this project should be granted.

Respectfully,

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