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First name: Mark

Last name: Anderson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Reader:

I am an expert skier that has been coming to Lutsen since 1985. I am a former owner of Caribou Highlands 101A.

Over the years substantial improvements have been made to Lutsen. It is still the premiere midwest ski area, in my opinion. In my family, we have raised two generations of skiers with multiple trips to Lutsen per year, including 15 people of all abilities.

That said, I go west for the more challenging terrain, esp off-piste (tree skiing) and steeper groomed trails. I have skied in CO, NM, WY, NV, CA. Lutsen has always provided a good value for midwesterners, but has not had enough variety (both beginner and expert) for most families. In addition, some of the most exciting terrain on Moose Mountain is not well served. Three examples are that the runs to the north/east of Upper Grizzly are rarely open, trees near Caribou Express are not properly managed (thinned), and the North Face is frequently not open and relatively hard to get back to lifts

Alternative 1 would address many of these issues with relatively limited demand on resources, including water, view and land. The proposed expansion would be one more reason to spend time in MN with family and skip at least one expensive/complicated trip West a year. Skiing is a relatively expensive sport, but with the improvements laid out, spending a week at Lutsen would likely still be a bargain and more accessible to many vs going west. Additional chalets, parking and facilities would alleviate a long-standing issue for intrepid trekkers at Lutsen who have used buses, poled long ways, walked along roads and parked in remote areas.

I strongly endorse Alternative 1. It would keep Lutsen the premiere Midwest destination with a very reasonable balance on resources given the benefits.

Please feel free to contact me, if desired.

Best Regards,  
Mark Anderson