

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2021 1:47:48 PM

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Comments: Reasons why Lutsen Mountains should NOT be granted the SUP to expand into the SNF.

A private company shouldn't be able to take over our National Forest for personal profit, and in the process, devour the forest, disrupt the landscape, and disturb the wildlife in this area.

Lutsen Mountains should be able to improve the guest experience and increase skier circulation by addressing inefficient situations in their current location, on their own land, before reaching out for SNF lands. Lutsen has had the same owners since ~1980, and they have created these inefficiencies themselves.

The trail system was created by Lutsen Mountains. Over the years additional cross over trails have been added between the runs. The cross over trails have taken away from tree skiing by chopping up the treed areas between the runs

Lutsen Mountains has created the problem of insufficient skier circulation by their own actions. The Dec 2014 trail map shows two more lifts than they currently have. Lutsen has removed one chair from the river bottom to the top of Eagle Mountain, making Bridge Lift the only lift out of the river bottom. This has led to lift lines at Bridge Lift. Lutsen has also removed Bull Lift, which ran from the base of Moose Mountain to the ridgeline, closer to the Summit Chalet. Removing Bull Lift makes all skiers in that section of Moose Mountain use the Caribou Lift. The only time the runs right out the door of Summit Chalet are used, are when you leave the chalet, or if you ski all the way back across the ridgeline to get to them. It is difficult for beginner skiers to ski fast enough down the steep slopes at the end of these runs, and make the sharp right-hand turn needed to get to the Caribou Lift. It is also difficult to ski all the way around on the flat trail from the backside of Moose to get to Caribou Lift. Replacing Bull Lift would greatly improve skier circulation on Moose Mountain.

Lutsen Mountains could put in a lift to service The Plunge, Freefall, and Adrenaline on the backside of Moose Mountain. A lift would encourage more people to ski them (if and when they are open). The long shallow egress route from the backside of Moose Mountain all the way around to Caribou Lift is not always easy to do.

Any new runs made across Moose Mountain on the SNF land are going to end with steep headwalls, because that is the shape of Moose Mountain. Adding runs to Moose Mountain will not yield beginner or novice runs because the steepness runs all across the mountain, and the new terrain will just be more of what they already have. Alternative 3 saves legacy tree spaces, but these legacy spaces cause truncating of a large portion of the runs, which is not appealing to skiers. Expansion across Moose Mountain doesn't make any sense, when you look at these considerations.

All systems require maintenance and upgrades, not just the snowmaking system. Chair lifts require the same thing, and rather than maintain or replace old lifts, Lutsen's owners have chosen to remove them. There appears to be plenty of room for a new snowmaking reservoir to be put in somewhere near the Timberwolf Lift base (on land Lutsen owns) to aid in their current snowmaking.

Lutsen Mountains owners state that there isn't enough guest parking available off of Ski Hill Road. Why, then, did they build a swimming pool facility in the Middle parking lot a couple of years ago, and thereby decrease the number of premium walk-up parking spaces?

Perhaps Lutsen Mountains should consider remodeling their Rental and Ticketing/Office buildings. Adding a second story to these buildings would increase space for storage of more rental equipment upstairs, or for housing their administrative offices. Or, perhaps they could remove these two buildings and build something more efficient to house all of these operations.

Using a shuttle to get from the parking lot to the ski area base has been used for years, at many ski areas, not just at Lutsen Mountains.

The Summit Chalet is very nice, but it is poorly laid out, and was not big enough to begin with. There seems to

be ample room to add on between the Summit Chalet and the old 'warming house'. A better floor plan with more seating space could be created, and an area for ski patrol could be included in an addition. Another thing that would be especially helpful, would be to have enough employees on duty. Many times, there are lines of customers waiting to pay, and the only person to check them out is the bartender.

Bridge Lift and Timberwolf Lift are both older lifts, and Timberwolf Lift is especially slow due to its length. Both should be updated with larger/faster lifts, which would greatly improve skier circulation. More people might actually ski Timberwolf Lift if it wasn't so slow.

I do think that it may be helpful to Lutsen Mountains if they could get the SUP approved for a triangle portion of land to the northeast of a line running from the northwest corner to the southeast corner of the SW/SE Sec 29, T 60N, R 3W. By doing this, they could add a couple of runs to the left of Timberwolf Lift. This would get more people using this lift and give better skier circulation on Moose Mountain.

New facilities may be good on Eagle Mountain, especially if they are beginner/intermediate runs. Having the parking lot and extra facilities on Eagle Mountain would increase skier circulation. And, with the increase in usage of Eagle Mountain, maybe Lutsen could consider building a small chalet on the top of Eagle Mountain for on-hill dining.

Lutsen Mountains says that, of course ticket prices will increase, but, and I quote, "many guests stay overnight and travel over 2 hours for tourism and recreational offerings at the resort. This type of visitor is not expected to be particularly sensitive to an increase in lift ticket prices." I disagree! My season pass increased by \$150.00 for this coming season, and the discount for Cook County property owners has decreased over the years. I complained to the management about the price increase right away! Additional increases in ticket prices are going to cut down the number of people who can justify (or afford) the additional costs to ski, and could ultimately decrease the number of visits to Lutsen Mountains. Lutsen also says ~95% of its visitors have to stay overnight. If Lutsen thinks it is going to attract that many more skiers, where are they all going to stay?

Lutsen Mountains should NOT be granted the SUP to put in facilities at the base of Moose Mountain, on the top of Moose Mountain, or to cut ski runs across it. Moose Mountain, to the west of the golf course, has not been a part of the ski hill recreation area. The land to the west of the golf course has remained in a natural untouched state, except for some logging, for about 100 years, and contains old growth cedar, poplar, and white pine, and a lot of wetlands. This land should be allowed to remain in its natural state, and not be exploited for personal gain. This land is also home to wolves, bear (said to hibernate in a cave on Moose Mountain), bobcat, moose, and bald eagles, and expansion would disrupt their territories and their activity.

Eagle Mountain, on the other hand, has been a part of the ski hill recreation area since 1948. Expansion would bring nothing new to Ski Hill Road or Eagle Mountain, and the amount of land Lutsen Mountains is looking at on Eagle is relatively small.

D-REC-3: The SNF provides developed sites, facilities, trails, water access sites, and other recreation opportunities within health and safety, resource protection, cost, and maintenance requirements. Letting Lutsen Mountains expand would NOT be the SNF providing a developed site, facilities, trails, and doing maintenance. It would be Lutsen Mountains. The SNF would also NOT be providing resource protection, when the forest is going to be scarred, the wetlands are going to be disturbed, and the wildlife is forced to leave the area. It will also NOT be the SNF providing recreation in a natural setting. The natural setting is going to be forever changed, and for non-skiers, tourists, and residents to the southwest of the current ski area, it will ruin the view of the area, because the setting will NOT be natural any more.

Therefore, I think expanding on Eagle Mountain COULD be acceptable, but expansion across Moose Mountain is definitely NOT acceptable.