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Organization:

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Comments: As a backcountry skier and a resort skier, I am asking that you deny permission to Lutsen Mountains to develop pristine public lands with chairlifts, parking lots, base facilities and on-mountain chalets for commercial use.

Moose Mountain is some of the best and only terrain for backcountry skiing, Nordic touring and other sustainable, public-access winter recreation in Minnesota.

My concerns with the current Draft EIS are:

- \* The Purpose and Need statement is too narrow. It doesn't consider a variety of skier uses, such as backcountry and sidecountry, or other non-skiing uses.
- \* The evidence does not support the need for expansion and would cause environmental harm.
- \* Commercial expansion would reduce equitable access to a limited resource on public lands: vertical terrain, untracked snow, quiet forests (not just for skiers but also for family snowplay, snowshoeing and any other non-fee activities).
- \* Based on climate goals set by the current administration, we need to be protecting 30% of our lands rather than developing them.
- \* Users of the Superior Hiking trail would be displaced due to construction of chair lifts, clear cut ski runs, and a chalet on the trail. This would greatly reduce the value that many put with that section of the SHT.
- \* Users of the High Climber Mountain Bike Trail would experience similar affects, when a chalet and ski runs would be in the direct line of sight from a viewpoint of Moose Mountain on said trail. The Draft fails to acknowledge this.

Lutsen is only catering to the rich who want to vacation here and they are not thinking about lower income visitors, or the fact that backcountry skiing is growing extremely fast, while lift service skiing is not. I would suggest Lutsen retain current customers by thinking all types of their visitors and not just the ones who will give them the most money.

Please choose "No Action" for the proposed Special Use Permit for a Lutsen Mountains Resort expansion. Leave the terrain and our public lands the way they are.

Thank you for your consideration.