

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/25/2021 3:48:01 PM

First name: Susan

Last name: Grosslein

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been attending Lutsen Mountain on a regular basis since 2012. I had gotten back into skiing after 15 years and decided to try it out on one of their ski and stay packages, ever since then I was hooked. Me and my husband have been seasons pass holders for the last 7 years now and we come up regularly 1 to 2 times a month. We choose to ski up here for the beauty of the whole area and the fact that the runs are longer and they are more spread out. However, as much as I love to ski here there have been many concerns over the last 9 years of skiing here. They do not seem to be able to manage this resort very well. They could do a much better job of grooming the runs, many times there are big ruts and grooves that can be very dangerous to newer skiers. The chair lifts are getting old and run down. The deck on the Main Chalet had unsafe boards on it for years (now has been replaced). They don't seem to have enough staff to keep the chair lifts running midweek, but yet they still charge full price for a lift ticket. I have heard from previous employees that they don't do a very good or safe job of maintaining their equipment. A few years ago they had one of their snow cats catch on fire.

My concern is that they already seem to have trouble maintaining a high quality resort at the current size of operations and to add more would seem to be a mistake. I feel like they have made some improvement over the years with the high speed lift on Moose and the new Gondola, which did increase the lift ticket price. Plus they added their new "spa" over an existing parking area, which I heard has had some troubles with it not being stable. Then they had the whole "cat walk" run that got washed away in a spring run off and they never replaced it, but still consider it a "ski in ski out" condo.

In my opinion, they need to show that they are going to manage the current resort at a higher standard of use and safety before they plan to take on this huge expansion project. They could have put their resources for the planning this expansion into the current resort and operation and made it a better place.

There is also the whole other side of this which is the use of the forest. There are so many things that you already know about public land use and how it will affect the environment, ecology, topography, economy, etc. I believe it needs to be left undisturbed! We are losing enough of our natural beautiful landscape to development.

I would rather see the land used for back-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing in its natural condition. We can fully enjoy this public land as is! I fully support the Superior Highland Backcountry proposal and would like to see this be implemented instead of destroying the rest of the mountain for some corporate overload to make money and not care about our environment and the affects of it.