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Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Hi Michael - I did a double check on what could be seen of the project area from the Wilderness on Eagle Mountain. Yes, the entire north slope system is visible. I even noticed reflecting surfaces (probably the metal roof of the moose mtn chalet) flashing in the distance. But that us a daytime issue - I am commenting on the night lighting that will be visible from the Wilderness during expanded winter operations at Lutsen Mountains.

A little background - In the late 1970's and early 1980's myself and friends would make a new year's winter camp on top of the mountain. Some years another group from the Cities would be up there - hey called themselves 'The Homo-Lobos' and were sponsored by a sporting goods store. I've heard there are remnants of that group still making the trek.

Our favorite nights were when the sky was clear and we ciuld see Northern Lights. I do not recal seeing glows or direct lights from Lutsen or anywhere else. I wonder what it's like now? I'm noodling the idea of a new years eve return this year to find out.

I'm requesting that the Wilderness be analyzed as part of the affected environment in the DEIS for this project. What will the lighting impacts be for each alternative including the no action alternative? Maybe mitigating actions are needed right now to modify existing light pollution bleeding over to Eagle Mountain? It needs to be discovered and discussed in the DEIS. And what mitigation techniques could be used in any one of the alternatives? That needs discussion too.