

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/15/2021 3:11:59 PM

First name: john

Last name: seidl

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

My first childhood experience on the North Shore took place in the early 80's, I remember skipping rocks from shore on a beach outside of Two Harbors and was fascinated with the large ships and the size and beauty of Lake Superior. I grew up playing youth sports year round so I didn't return to the North Shore until my early 20's. I went on a ski trip to Lutsen Mountains with friends and since then I have gone consistently for the past 25 years.

I can't say enough about Lutsen Mountains and the experiences I had on the mountain in my early 20's. The skiing and snowboarding was always great, each year was a little different and the upgrades kept me coming back.

After a few years of only skiing and snowboarding a friend joined our group and suggested some winter hiking trails rather than a day of skiing. It was an amazing experience seeing flowing and frozen rivers in late March, deer and wolf tracks, Lake Superior from different angles and taking in everything the forest had to offer. That day in the forest gave me a new appreciation for the North Shore and its beauty.

I'm now in my mid-40's with a wife and three children and we continue the tradition of making an annual trip to the mountain. I would love to call it a ski trip but it's more than that. We set aside time to spend near the lake to see different ice formations, we hike through the woods, visit some of our favorite restaurants and spend plenty of time enjoying the winter activities Lutsen Mountains offers. My wife and children learned to ski in Lutsen, it has created great memories. A few years ago we witnessed a Maple Syrup boil near the mountain, we still talk about it, there were a lot of fun "kid" questions that day.

I'm in full support of the expansion of Lutsen Mountains. In my early 20's I likely wouldn't have visited if it wasn't for the opportunity to ski and snowboard on an actual mountain, not a hill in the Twin Cities. The trips introduced me, as a young adult, to the beauty of the North Shore and everything it has to offer. While I have been on a number of family trips the most talked about are vacations in Lutsen. I still run into friends who have never experienced the North Shore, I've convinced many to go and it has never disappointed. The Lutsen Mountains expansion will help introduce new people to the beauty of Minnesota's forests, Lake Superior, family owned restaurants and lodging and everything the North Shore has to offer.