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First name: Scott

Last name: Nelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am someone who loves participating in many different activities on the North Shore including hiking the Superior hiking trail, fly fishing in rivers, canoeing, kayaking, fishing from boats in Lake Superior, mountain biking, cross country skiing and downhill skiing. Lutsen has been a special place for winter recreation for my family for more than 4 decades. Lutsen's terrain provides a skiing experience that isn't available anywhere else in this region of the country. I fully support the future expansion of Lutsen through proposed Alternative 2. Additional runs and ski lifts across the full variety of terrain available will significantly improve Lutsen's recognition as the best regional ski destination in the upper mid-west.

As a hiker and backpacker on the Superior Hiking Trail I was never bothered by the ski runs on Moose Mountain and don't see the expansion as a significant concern for those hiking the trail. The views and recreational opportunities on Moose Mountain will remain after the expansion of the ski area. There are many sections of the Superior Hiking Trail that are far more impacted by development and people still enjoy hiking those trail sections.

As a fisherman I was very happy when the ski area was able to shift away from taking water from the Poplar River and instead get its water directly from Lake Superior. Now the ski area no longer dewater the Poplar River during the critical cold winter days, when fish are susceptible to the river freezing solid due to a lack of water.

I do feel for the few people who will potentially lose access to backcountry downhill ski terrain. However the increased runs will benefit far more skiers and provide recreational access to a much greater number of users. Additionally Lutsen is the major economic driver of the local economy during the winter. Expansion of the ski area will provide additional jobs, directly and indirectly, all year in the local tourist dependent economy.