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First name: Tom

Last name: Borgman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support LMC's expansion request for a SUP. Seems many commenters here don't know that, for decades now, 122 ski areas (more than 1/4 of all U.S. ski areas) already operate on NFS land via the SUP arrangement. It's just that this IS singularly unique in the MIDWEST. But skiing and NFS land are intrinsically connected.

Downhill skiing and snowboarding is the second most popular use of national forests - after hiking. For those saying downhill skiing is fading away and how can LMC justify this expansion/expense: while this great sport isn't growing year after year as in the 70s-90s, it's still very viable with an average of 55-60 million skier visits every season for the past 20 years. Those visits generate more revenue than ANY other outdoor activity on NFS land...more than timber and all other recreation special uses combined.

To those saying it's financially irresponsible for LMC: This is not a one-two year buildout. They can only expand out to this plan via their own operating earnings. This is a 15 year or longer plan AND LMC should/needs to spend \$\$ ahead of and along the way to this expansion, to maintain/upgrade their current operations.

And taking note of a small, vocal group of very cool, nice outdoor folks saying a better use of the SUP would be for the "more natural" and "slope appropriate" activity of hike-to backcountry skiing: I and other skiers in our group also enjoy BC skiing - in western U.S. areas. And yes, over the years, we've hiked to or ducked into these woods/slopes when natural snow conditions allow.

But it's always quickly plain to see that this NOT prime terrain for BC skiing. Slope pitches are not sustained, the natural undergrowth is thicker and the snow conditions aren't nearly consistent enough. Yes, compared to true western or even eastern areas, the Sawtooth's offer the closest BC experience in MN. But not near enough. It's a novelty at best for a very small, passionate and nice group of enthusiasts.

To those saying this will displace lynx, moose, wolves, etc., oh these animals will take notice of the noise and trail clearing...for a short time and adapt...and blend in as they all do now. We've often watched in wonder to watch a wolf or moose or lynx (maybe bobcat?) crossing the trails or from a chairlift vantage point.

As a hugely important part of the community and economy of this very remote part of our state, LMC has always worked closely with the agencies that oversee a very unique environment here. The 495 acres (again not all at once) in LMC's permit request is one ten thousandth of a percent (.0001%) of the Superior National Forest's 3,900,000 acres - the equivalent of a freckle on the human body. The impact of this SUP request is geographically and ecologically microscopic.

It's obvious to many of us who, for decades, have enjoyed the Lutsen/Cook County experience, that it will be a very long and hard-earned road to the full buildout of this request...if it ever does. But all factors considered, I feel this plan represents the best overall positive outcome for the largest pool of outdoor enthusiasts. Including the downhill skier/boarders and Cook County economy of the 2030s and beyond.

Please approve this SUP!