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Comments: Comment on Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project:

I am concerned about the impact to the SHT from the Lutsen area expansion project. I would ask the Forest Service to prioritize mininizing the impact to the trail as much as possible. This section is truly beautiful, vegitation clearing next to the trail would greatly impact the user experience.

If a reroute of the SHT is proposed- I am concerned about the SHT Association's ability to complete such a massive project with their limited resources and mostly volunteer powered organization. How will the Lutsen Resort or the Forest service fund a re-route and ensure its completion in a timely manner?

Please remember that every gap in yhe SHT makes long distance hiking more expensive and less accessible to backpackers. The cost of shuttles can run hundreds of dollars.

Please consider if the reroute has water sources or appropriate locations for back country campsites. I expect the Forest Service and Lutsen Resort to work closely with the SHTA.

The SHT is a free public resource, providing hikers from across the country with a unique opportunity to connect with nature. The needs of its users should be strongly considered against the needs of a private buisness, which caters to a mostly wealthy and privileged customer base.