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Comments: How silly and perhaps even greedy of Lutsen, or should I say "Odyssey Resorts Inc" who operates behind the curtain- and a poor business plan overall... they were already allotted extra water out of the Poplar River to meet the needs of their snowmaking operations in recent years (to the detriment of aquatic species..)- and now they want to spread out further? Come on Forest Service- do not allow this expansion onto public forest lands. This will historically be viewed as a mistake, a naively deceptive giveaway from a trusting, docile public to greedy and myopic corporate interests- and just one more example of the Tragedy of the Commons, where publicly held space is used carelessly for private return-on-investment, with predictable and repeated outcomes.

This business plan goes against the trends in the industry-- backcountry skiing in undeveloped areas is highly valued out west. The idea that Lutsen aims to be competitive with Western ski towns is ludicrous in the first place. While it does meet similar criteria in terms of the level of wealthy snobs who own second homes in the area (a Midwest version of Aspen), the terrain will not ever come close to what the Rockies and other Western mountain terrains can offer. Someone should remind Odyssey Resorts Inc on this notion before it burns up their bottom line past the point of repair. What happens when they fold and are no longer financially viable- who will catch the bill for the "remediation" of the impacts laid down by this poorly-devised business plan ? Is there a cleanup fund being required as a contingency of this proposal? Or will taxpayers be liable for damages to their public lands which never should have been monkeyed with in the first place?

Also I am left wondering if this newly forfeited public land, (if approved and cleared- heaven forbid) will become off limits to common folk who explore this area year-round ? Will public access be hindered by this short-sighted, poorly drawn up business idea ?

Please also take into consideration the unique forests surrounding this area, the unique wildlife habitat they provide for migratory raptors and songbirds, the pressures already faced by wildlife via ongoing expansion and human impact along the North Shore, and the massive amount of tourism the beautiful maple trees/fall colors draw into the area each autumn. The highland maple forests of the North Shore are extremely unique and deserve a higher degree of protection into the future- not less.

What kind of impacts would the expansion have on the Poplar River? It is one of the most unique yet inaccessible waterways on the North Shore. Would this expansion place further pressure on this highly unique waterway? Folks would like to know.

Maybe Lutsen/Odyssey Resorts Inc should be required to hire local people a livable wage (instead of the current arrangement where foreign workers on Visas get paid less than minimal wages to clean rooms at the different lodging areas upon the hill) as a contingent to approving this proposal. Maybe that way, local folks who actually love the area and long to spend more time near its unique forests- or who already reside locally- could possibly have a chance of establishing residency anywhere near this Minneapolis-millionaire hideout which Lutsen has become.

Please do not allow this project to move forward onto public lands which are supposed to be held in trust FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN. Odyssey Resorts, Inc needs to learn to do with what they have, and perhaps get a bit more creative with their offerings. They certainly do not need another swath of public land, especially not the spectacular land in question.