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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a year round Cook County resident for more than 20 years, and am a heavy user of the Superior National Forest recreational opportunities. I am generally opposed to the expansion of the Lutsen Mountain Ski Area for the following reasons:

- 1) Expansion would further fragment the intact forest adjacent to the ski area negatively impacting wildlife, especially forest dwelling birds, and possibly Lynx, Martin, Fisher, and others.
- 2) Expansion would definitely increase runoff during spring melt and rain events causing erosion and carrying sediment to the nearby creeks and ultimately Lake Superior. This has a negative impact on the biota of the creeks and Lake Superior.
- 3) Expansion would allow invasive species into an area that is fairly untouched by invasives at the present, and ultimately negatively impact native bees and other pollinators, as well as unknown impacts on other native wildlife. Many invasives species plants produce allergens that will be added to the air and will affect those of us living along the shore of Lake Superior.
- 4) Expansion would increase light pollution and sound pollution in the Lutsen area.
- 5) Expansion includes glading which is very disruptive to the forest ecosystem.
- 6) Expansion will increase automobile traffic to the area also adding to air and water pollution.
- 7) Expansion will cause either the expensive rerouting of the beloved Superior Hiking Trail, or a negative impact on the hikers of the trail due to the proximity of the ski area to the alternative expansion.

Besides the above environmental impacts of the expansion, I am concerned about the expansion's impact on the local housing shortage and the impact on property values, and the expansion's impact on electric prices.

Thank you for your consideration.