

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/8/2021 5:01:00 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: Dec. 8th, 2021

To the US Forest Service and all others concerned,

For many reasons, I am opposed to the expansion of Lutsen Ski Hill, especially on Forest Service public lands. Most importantly, I believe it is a short sighted development using public land and tax dollars for a business that is irresponsibly adding to our global climate crisis. Growing a ski business despite a warming climate and being dependent upon water from the Lake Superior watershed to make snow, is non sensical, even unjust. Lutsen is already a great ski hill that locals and visitors enjoy. We are not a Western mountain town and we do not need to compete with these high end, big money ski villas, which only the very wealthiest of people can afford.

We do not have enough staff or housing for the businesses that are already here and this will only increase the housing "crisis" we are in. This expansion would mostly provide more low wage, temporary jobs, which are already challenging to fill with local workers.

I have seen the huge wood piles of wasted old growth cedars from previous expansions of the ski hill and the were enough to make me cry. This project would lead to more clear cutting, erosion, roads through pristine forests, light pollution, noise pollution, water pollution and air pollution. All of this negative, short sighted growth for a flashier, more expensive, unattainable for most, ski hill.

We must think seriously about the issue of the 1854 treaties and how we continue to use and abuse the lands that are legally protected with the indigenous people of the area in mind. Minnesota's 1854 Ceded Territory, reads: "The treaty-reserved rights to harvest natural resources on the 1854 ceded lands are protected property rights under the United States Constitution. In this regard, the 1854 Treaty Authority plays a critical role in ensuring that the federal government, as a treaty signatory, upholds its treaty obligations, which includes an obligation to protect the natural resources on which the 1854 Treaty agreement is based."

The most important part of this agreement is that the natural resources of this land (which includes the proposed area of development) be protected. This development does not protect the areas natural resources.

We humans are so good at avoiding what we do not want to see: our world is facing a critical climate crisis and a project such as this would be only adding more destruction to our already fragile environment. We need to practice living with less, not more, and this is a prime example of projects that contribute to this crisis. If our planet does warm to a worst case scenario as predicted by leading climatologists, there would be no snow at this latitude and a ski hill would cease to function anyway.

I'd like to see Lutsen commit their dollars and energy to creating a more sustainable, environmentally friendly business, choosing to be a leader in a new wave of businesses that are confronting climate change with smart, conscious growth OR NON GROWTH. It really is an option! A business can do what they already are doing, but doing it better with the health of a future planet and people as its guiding force.

Thank you for allowing time for comments to be made. Our public lands are a precious resource to be made available for all people, now and into the future.

Sincerely, Elise Kylo      Grand Marias resident.