

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2021 12:50:43 AM

First name: Christopher

Last name: Lish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Superior National Forest

8901 Grand Ave Place

Duluth, MN 55808

Subject: Reject the Special-Use Permit Requested by Lutsen Mountains -- Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project #52440

To Superior National Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins

I urge you to reject the special-use permit for the expansion of Lutsen Mountains ski resort to Moose Mountain in the Superior National Forest. With 495 acres of development, seven chairlifts, a surface lift, two new base facilities, a mountaintop chalet, two new snowmaking reservoirs, a reroute of the Superior Hiking Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail, and 1,260 new parking spaces, this massive expansion would cause unacceptable harm to endangered species, other wildlife and existing recreation.

"It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours."

-- John F. Kennedy

I'm very concerned about direct habitat destruction and the impact of increased roads and traffic on threatened Canada lynx. I'm also concerned about harm to three imperiled bat species-northern long-eared, tricolored and little brown bats-that have been devastated by white-nose syndrome and can't afford more habitat loss. The expansion will also harm gray wolves, moose and many other wildlife species. And it would permanently alter the wild and natural character of the Superior Hiking Trail, which is popular with hikers, and it would develop one of the best backcountry skiing slopes in Minnesota.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

The Forest Service must reject this special-use permit.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lish

San Rafael, CA