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Organization:

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Comments: Hello, my name is Dave Berg and I reside in Saint Paul. I frequently visit Lutsen Mountain for day hiking, ride the gondola and the alpine slide. I have also been skiing at Lutsen as well. I am familiar with the area and the resort.

As a person who grew up skiing in Colorado on the front range, I believe there is a very important question the Forest Service should be asking and assessing for themselves before they grant permission to Lutsen Mountain to expand into a National Forest. The question is, who is this expansion for, who will benefit? If you think, "well Minnesotans will benefit", you only need to look at the major ski resorts in Colorado to understand how wrong that is. Front range resorts such as Vail, Copper Mountain, and Winter Park began to offer deals on multi - day packages including hotel. This mainly benefitted people out of state. This became so profitable that eventually all the resorts dropped local discounts and focused on getting people out of state to stay at the resort.

Instead of giving this land to folks that eventually won't care about Minnesotans and probably will be bought out by a larger company (Vail) keep the area around Moose mountain a national forest and create a section of hut to hut backcountry skiing instead. This will most certainly benefit Minnesotans and will probably attract out of state as well, but it will be much more affordable to all.