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First name: Beverly
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to voice our concerns to the Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project as it is currently proposed.

We are part-time local residents who own land in the vicinity of the proposed expansion. We are avid alpine skiers. We recognize Lutsen Mountains' contribution to the local economy and recreational opportunities, and we understand their challenges in remaining relevant and viable. However, we have serious doubts and concerns about the expansion project as it is currently proposed.

While we have many areas of concern, we will focus our comments on only a few points.

IMPACT ON LOCAL LANDOWNERS AND RESIDENTS. The EIS and supporting documents gloss over or ignore altogether the impact on local landowners and residents. Here are two areas of concern; there are many more.

Runoff is assumed to affect only the SUP; however even a cursory glance at topology shows many downhill landowners will be affected by runoff and the associated sediment, snow-making additives and chemicals, invasive species seeds, and the potential for flooding and erosion.

The impact of noise on the local landowners will be substantial. The existing fleet of snow canons runs almost non-stop for months from pre-season to the end of the ski season. Common estimates are 115 decibels per cannon and the sound carries a great distance. The impact of tripling (or more) the number of snow canons is substantial, to both humans and wildlife.

IMPACT ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENT. We will mention only two of many, many environmental concerns that were glossed over or ignored.

The EIS mentions that the Lutsen SNA is adjacent to the expansion on Eagle Mountain but never mentions any environmental impact on the SNA. This is a gross oversight. Is this because the impact will be substantial? Ski runs will be clear cut to the edge of the SNA, bringing with it all of the negatives of soil disturbance, erosion, run off, invasive species, human disturbances, and so forth. As a resident who lives near the SNA, I think is a true refugee for wildlife. I'm excited to say that we saw a moose this year at the edge of the SNA. We need to protect these incredibly important area for critically important native species.

The impact on Lake Superior is concerning. The amount of water to be pumped for snow making is significant. However, the exact amount is cloaked in techno-speak measurements that normal people cannot understand. The presenters at both virtual open houses were repeatedly asked to give measurements in common terms, like gallons, but refused. Why? As the climate continues to warm, it is not unreasonable to assume that the amount of water needed will continue to increase.

IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY. We recognize that there will be positive effects on the local economy, but at what cost? And who pays those costs? From energy needs (Arrowhead Electric) to diminished hiking trails, these are just a few areas of concern. Lutsen Mountains Ski should step up and commit to paying for additional costs to the community. They should chip in a provide housing for their workers. This should be not be ignored and the community should not have to pay for their expansion nor should our climate and our wildlife habitat nor

our visitors to our hiking trails.

Sincerely,

Dr. Beverly Flood and Dr. Jake Bailey