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First name: Anon

Last name: arcopia

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment regarding Lutsen Ski Resort Article in the Quetico Superior Wilderness News, Sept 19, 2021

When an article regarding Lutsen Ski Resort expansion has the sentences, "While forests across much of the North Shore have been stressed and degraded in the past few decades by climate change, invasive species, and other forces, areas included in Lutsen's proposed project offer healthy, intact forests" and "The forest type that will be most disturbed is also the most imperiled. The project area includes 158 acres of the North Shore spruce-fir woodland type on Moose Mountain"

This plant community is listed as "critically imperiled" by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources" which makes this project a non starter.

Having visited the region since the early 70's and enjoyed both hiking and canoeing, I've learned much about the contiguous nature of flora and fauna with its quiet unseen symbiosis. Short term financial gain pales in comparison to the destruction of healthy old growth forests not only for this 400 + acres but for the entire region.

Hiking, canoeing, x-country skiing, camping are generally less expensive activities which fit well on the land with minimal impact and allow more people with less economic means to engage with the natural environment. In contrast, downhill skiing being an expensive sport lends itself to people of greater financial means and becomes an inbuilt social economic restrictive or exclusion for the general public at large. By default "ski resorts " also have a major impact on the land with its accompanying large infrastructure demands. What is a tent, canoe or backpack compared to a ski lodge, lifts, waste disposal and acres of machine groomed slopes?

Based on science, eco-common sense and social justice responsibility, this project should be denied along with any other future private entertainment venues catering to a select few and looking to consume public land and whats left of our dwindling natural environment.

Keep the "public" in public lands as an immutable trust for future generations.

Thank You

MD Gray

studio420b@gmail.com