Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2021 10:59:18 PM
First name: B
Last name: T
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]Re: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

[External Email]
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Lutzen Ski Resort should not be permitted to encroach into the Superior National Forest.
Humans are forever encroaching into wildlife areas - for digging oil and gas pipelines, cooper-nickel mines, housing and commercial development, and for recreational downhill skiing. Lutzen wants to compete with other ski resorts. This is not a good reason to be allowed to encroach on our national forests.
Many species are endangered of becoming extinct or are already extinct - including some butterflies and fresh water mussels. Other species that are endangered or in risk of becoming endangered include moose, some types of owls, martens, the MN turtle, etc., etc 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.
Ski hill development requires the clearing of trees and other vegetation that provides habitat for many species of flora and fauna. This diminishes our biodiversity which has been diminishing for decades.
Ski run maintenance typically involves slashing or pruning vegetation on and alongside ski runs. These processes result in the direct loss, fragmentation, and modification of habitat, all of which can threaten biodiversity.
The richer the diversity of life, the greater the opportunity for medical discoveries, economic development, and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change.
Thank you for your attention.
B Turk