

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2021 8:26:43 PM

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Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Mountain Ski Area Expansion Project

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?Ellen Bogardus-Szymaniak, District Ranger

Tofte Ranger District, USFS

Dear District Ranger Bogarde-Szymaniak,

This letter is asking you to choose the No Action Alternative in response to Lutsen Ski Resort's proposal to expand into national forest service land.

There are reasons to support this proposal, which I understand, but also so many more reasons to object to it. Since your current decision relates to its environmental impact, I'll refrain from itemizing the many others (including limiting access to this unique and beautiful treasured public area to the privileged few who can afford downhill skiing.)

Frankly other commenters have covered the environmental issues very well. I refer you to Chel Anderson's comprehensive evaluation in 2020 when this was first proposed

[https://cara.ecosystem-](https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/DownloadCommentFile?dmdId=FSPLT3_5299327&project=52440)

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Of particular concern to me is the loss of forest cover types, biodiversity and habitat for plant and animal species. I have hiked on Moose and Mystery Mountains and am awestruck by the mature northern hardwood and white cedar stands. To develop this unique public area for the pleasure of the wealthy few percent who can afford it, while also allowing its "downstream" (literal and figurative) impacts on our water (especially Lake Superior) and air (CO2 vs oxygen) resources to affect all of us is not the least in the spirit of the national forest system or Superior Forest's own plan.

I urge you to respect the spirit and imperative of public access to public lands, the welfare of our air, water and land resources and our treaty obligations by deciding in favor of the No Action Alternative. Thank you.

Fran Kaliher

Two Harbors, MN