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First name: Raia
Last name: Meltzer
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Ski Hill expansion

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To the USDA Forest Service:

1) Once again taxpayers are being asked to subsidize the wealthy owners of Lutsen Mt. We paid for their new pumping system years ago when the DNR gave them a permit to draw water from Lake Superior. This was after the Poplar River became degraded from overuse by the Ski Hill. After the new pumping system failed, it was replaced with public money. I will never forget hearing the Ski Hills' owner being interviewed on the local radio station. "Who would've ever thought ALGAE would be a problem on Lake Superior?" he said. As an average citizen working on properties along the shore, I was dismayed to see the gradual accumulation of shoreline algae many years ago! The owner went on to say they also needed to find a grant (read: government money) to finance a new drinking water system for the chalet. The sound of his voice nonchalantly entitling himself to my hard-earned tax dollars is something I will never forget. Those of us in the local working class knew that this man was currently building a lavish timber frame residence and that he and his partners could well afford to pay for the Lake pumping system and the Chalet water system.

These wealthy folks know that citizens and their local governments have always been convinced to pay for frivolous & unnecessary
construction projects: stadiums, malls, mines etc.under the guise it will "be good for the local economy". It's called "privatize the profits and socialize the losses".

Anyone living here can tell stories about crummy ski hill jobs, and low pay to boot. The ski hill runs ads for help continuously, and can never find enough workers or housing for the help they do have.

2) The business owners quoted in long Star Tribune article (Oct 25, 2021) are wrong. There are more visitors every year! Many businesses cut back on hours because of a lack of employees not customers! Joynes Dept Store always served locals and tourists alike remaining open 6 days a week all year long. They have morphed into a business favoring tourists over service to locals as the owners changed. If there are not enough tourists in Winter, why then did the Angry Trout decide for the first time in history to remain open all year? (They formerly closed Nov thru April.) In short, very few folks living here would tell you Cook County needs more tourists ANY time of year!

3) We continue to hear more distressing news about climate change, habitat loss, air and water pollution, tree mortality. We must now depend on you, the Forest Service, to help protect our precious public lands. Please don't turn them over to Lutsen Mt! It is not the time to expand an industry that is facing a bleak future as temperatures rise. Snow making is unsustainable and should be outlawed. We all need to rethink tourism! We claim to love the "big lake" in Cook County but the impacts of overpopulation in a fragile area are compelling.

Please protect our public lands from the human predators motivated only by short term profits. Think ahead and think large: we must learn to tread more lightly on planet ?? Earth so it will remain a liveable home for future

generations.

Thank you,
Raia Meltzer
PO Box 75
Hovland MN 55606

Sent from my iPhone