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Title:

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

[External Email]

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Hello!

I would like to comment on the Lutsen Mountain expansion project. I am a local resident, I teach science to middle schoolers, I am a former environmental consultant who used to contribute to Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements. Here are my concerns for this project:

1. The doubling in size of the ski area--Doubling? And alternative 3 is barely smaller than Alternative 1, so it's basically not an alternative. It doesn't show much of a change to consider. I believe there should be an Alternative 4 that is a much smaller area of expansion to allow us to consider increasing the ski area with much lower cumulative effects.
2. The ski area gave their general reasons for needing this expansion as, they don't have enough quality ski runs, and they are concerned about climate change affecting the current runs, so they need more sophisticated snow making capabilities (Forgive me if that's not completely accurate). So, let me rephrase that please: A ski resort, which depends on its winter climate, is using the fact that we are in a warming trend, as reasons to expand their size? Does that make any sense at all? And I do not believe the actual impacts to our water sources are well established or addressed in this document. Doesn't Lutsen already overuse their water rights? They take too much? Where is this extra water for snow making going to come from? If they say Lake Superior, I object to that. I do not think that this expansion is the answer we need to a warming planet.
3. Considering the size of this project, how will it affect the currently unstable moose population?
4. And lastly, how is it justified that this will increase our monthly electric bills? I do not see how the ski hill can get away with making the locals pay for their expansion project.

Thank you!

Terri Poe, Grand Marais, MN