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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project: Reject the Special-Use Permit

[External Email]

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Dear ID Leader Michael Jimenez,

I urge you to reject the special-use permit for the expansion of Lutsen Mountains ski resort to Moose Mountain in the Superior National Forest. With 495 acres of development, seven chairlifts, a surface lift, two new base facilities, a mountaintop chalet, two new snowmaking reservoirs, a reroute of the Superior Hiking Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail, and 1,260 new parking spaces, this massive expansion would cause unacceptable harm to endangered species, other wildlife and existing recreation.

I'm very concerned about direct habitat destruction and the impact of increased roads and traffic on threatened Canada lynx. I'm also concerned about harm to three imperiled bat species - northern long-eared, tricolored and little brown bats - that have been devastated by white-nose syndrome and can't afford more habitat loss. The expansion will also harm gray wolves, moose and many other wildlife species. And it would permanently alter the wild and natural character of the Superior Hiking Trail, which is popular with hikers, and it would develop one of the best backcountry skiing slopes in Minnesota.

The Forest Service must reject this special-use permit.

Sincerely,

Brad Wertz

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