

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2021 4:33:47 AM

First name: Julie

Last name: Grossman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project

Dear Mr Jimenez,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed expansion to Lutsen Ski Area. The destruction of forested lands for the generation of greater profit by a ski resort is unacceptable. I am particularly concerned about a reroute of the Superior Hiking Trail that will be required should this expansion be approved. My son and I have been hiking the Superior Hiking Trail annually since he was 7 years old. He is now 15. This annual event is a highlight of our relationship, due to the quiet, pristine and well-maintained trail, one of the few long distance trails in the US not requiring a permit, meaning that it is open to all. In 2020, SHTA requested that the project not move forward until an acceptable SHT reroute could be identified and approved, should the expansion be approved. Further, agreement between the SHTA, Lutsen Mountains, and the U.S. Forest Service regarding the payment and construction of that route was requested to be in place before proceeding. To my understanding, this has not happened. I request that if this project is to move forward, the funds be secured to support an appropriate reroute of the trail to preserve this wilderness experience for others. The expansion of Lutsen mountain resort would also greatly expand the number of people and cars to the region, further impacting the unique remote wilderness of the region.

Please block the expansion of Lutsen Resort into our beautiful Minnesota wilderness in order to preserve them for everyone - not just for those who can afford a lift ticket.

Julie Grossman

Julie Grossman, (she/her/hers)

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