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

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To whom it may concern,

I lived in Grand Marais, just a few miles from Lutsen, for many years. I can say without a doubt that Lutsen Mountains should not be allowed to use Forest Service land to expand.

They have a terrible environmental record, as can be seen in any summer time photo that exposes the incredible amount of erosion created by their bad planning and stewardship of ski runs.

The downhill ski industry is also being destroyed by climate change. The season has been getting steadily shorter for years, a trend that is unlikely to stop or even slow. Expanding may buy them a few years, but where will this money come from? Will they be able to pay back the money they borrow? Who will be responsible for the irreparable damage done to USDA land, and the erosion that is sure to follow?

Doubling down on skiing is a pointless exercise that will only cause more environmental damage and completely ignores the scientific consensus about climate change.

In my opinion, Lutsen Mountain needs to diversify their business and offer mountain biking in the summer. This has proven to be a lucrative business model by Spirit Hill, Giants Ridge, among others. Mountain biking is a growing business in Minnesota and Lutsen has largely been ignoring it for years. It is time for their leadership to get a wake up call.

Regards,

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Woody Gilk
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