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Organization:

Title:

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

[External Email]

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To whom it may concern,

As a local North Shore resident and landowner, I have several concerns with the Lutsen Mountain Expansion project.

* First and foremost, the impact on the SHT. I am an avid user of the SHT and developing a ski resort where the trail passes would have a significant impact on the remote and rugged experience that makes the trail so special. If this expansion is to happen, Lutsen Mountain needs to pay for the SHT reroute as proposed by the SHTA.

* The environmental issues are troubling. The increase of the water table by 20%, the erosion, the increase of traffic and greenhouse gases, and all the other environmental impacts that would be caused by this expansion are unacceptable.

* Increasing traffic and visitors to the North Shore isn't sustainable and will only lead to more development in the area. We must preserve our forests in order to maintain a healthy planet for us all.

* The loss of public lands for private use. The natural and wild state of these public lands are treasured and enjoyed by so many. I strongly oppose the loss of public land to private organizations that prioritize profits.

Finally, the nature of this project is troubling and seems to be in direct contradiction to the mission statement of the US Forest Service; "To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." Please, be true to your mission and prioritize sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of our public lands.

Please stop this expansion. However, if it is to happen, please at least ensure the SHT is preserved by requiring that Lutsen Mountain pays for the SHT reroute as proposed by the SHTA.

Sincerely,

Jared VanderHook

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