

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/21/2021 11:00:00 AM

First name: Russ

Last name: Mattson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Lutsen Mountains Expansion DEIS.

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

My comments

The original web site address on the USDA does not work, so I'm sending this to all names on the website.

Russell Mattson PE

750 Shoreview Hgts Rd

Two Harbors, MN

Lutsen Mountains Expansion DEIS. 21 October 2021

Lutsen Expansion

Turning the 495 acres of existing forest into ski trails has the potential to generate release, at the top end of the scale, 12,870 tons of Carbon or the equivalent of 47,233 tons of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. That does not include any fuel used or damage done elsewhere to accomplish this destruction, construction. That is, without exaggerating, the equivalent of permitting and operating a 43MW coal burning power plant at Lutsen. Interesting it wasn't too many years ago, 2016, the coal power facilities at Taconite Harbor was removed from service.

The forest is removed from the biodiversity eliminating unknown magnitudes of microbial bacteria and archaea which created our biosphere and allow us to exist. The choice is clear, short term monetary gain versus sustainability of the ecosystem. Next month or next year's dividend check for a functioning ecosystem 100 years, or 1000 years from now. It goes with saying this is atop the loss of forest and its existential beauty.

Not only that the use of ski facilities such as Lutsen and its trails are, as the demographic studies would suggest, basically for the upper income sector, leaning toward those households with an income greater than 75% of all households. Out of state skiers tend to be in the upper 15% percent income bracket and even in state skiers in the upper 35% bracket. This expansion definitely is not for everyone. It is a playground for the rich paid for by all in the cost of health, and a functioning biosphere.

<https://extension.umn.edu/managing-woodlands/carbon-minnesota-trees-and->

woodlands#:~:text=Each%20tree%20species%20stores%20a,tons%20of%20carbon%20per%20acre.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_microbiology

https://www.eia.gov/coal/production/quarterly/co2_article/co2.html

<https://www.freeingenergy.com/environmental-impact-coal-water-co2-so2-mercury-pollution/#:~:text=It%20takes%201%2C100%20pounds%20of,used%20to%20cool%20power%20plants.>

<https://archive.thinkprogress.org/the-biggest-source-of-mistakes-c-vs-co2-c0b077313b/#:~:text=The%20atomic%20weight%20of%20carbon,3.67%20tons%20of%20carbon%20dioxide.>

<https://dqydj.com/average-median-top-household-income-percentiles/>

https://scholarworks.umn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1395&context=itrr_pubs