

about 50% of their Freight on Board (FOB) price to China in the last 18 months.

- Alaskan exporters are estimated to lose \$250 per thousand board feet (MBF) on all of their National Forest Young Growth (YG) sales.

- With the current 20% tariff imposed by China on Alaska wood products, exporters stopped shipping to China in August of 2019.

- Large inventories of logs destined for export are awaiting resolution of tariffs and market limitations.

Market demand and tariff conditions are delaying the start of all operations in the estimated \$100 million dollar forest product industry in Alaska (2015 data). As discussed above, purchasers of softwood sales throughout the rest of the country are coming under increasing pressure from market and manufacturing conditions affected by actions and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the general slowing of economic activity. This situation continues to be very volatile. Providing extra time to those sales will provide those purchasers with additional flexibility as they adjust to the changing market situation.

#### Biomass and Wood Chip Markets

Little information is currently available on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on biomass and wood chip markets, but as the general economy slows down, it is likely that those markets will also be affected. The forest products industry is interconnected among dimension lumber, pulp, chips and biomass. Each part of the industry supports other parts. For example, most biomass and chip sales include a component of sawtimber and some of the outputs from sawtimber support pulp, chips and biomass. Consequently, contracts where biomass or wood chips the primary timber product will also be eligible for an extension of up to 2 years under this SOPI determination.

*Determination of Substantial Overriding Public Interest:* The Government benefits if timber sale contract defaults, mill closures, and bankruptcies can be avoided by granting extensions. Having numerous economically viable, timber purchasers increases competition for National Forest System timber sales, results in higher prices paid for such timber, and allows the Forest Service to provide a continuous supply of timber to the public in accordance with the Organic Administration Act. In addition, by extending contracts and avoiding defaults, closures, and bankruptcies, the Government avoids the difficult, lengthy, expensive, and sometimes

impossible, process of collecting default damages. Timber sales play a major role in maintaining healthy forests and restoring watersheds that produce clean water and are resilient to insects and diseases. Maintaining a healthy forest products industry allows the Forest Service to continue this vital work while supporting hundreds of thousands of meaningful jobs throughout the country.

By preventing defaults, better utilization of various forest resources (consistent with the provisions of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960) will result if contracts are extended beyond 10 years as a result of this finding.

Therefore, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 472a, I have determined that it is in the substantial overriding public interest to extend up to two years certain National Forest System timber sale contracts awarded and timber product permits issued before April 1, 2020, and sales with a bid opening date of prior to April 1, 2020 that have not yet been awarded, subject to the following conditions:

1. The combination of additional time from previous MRCTA and this SOPI will be limited to a maximum of two years. For example, sales that have previously received 1 year and 6 months of MRCTA shall only receive an additional 6 months of extension, for a total of 24 months under this SOPI, except market conditions in Alaska are such that sales in Alaska will receive up to 3 years of additional time through a combination of MRCTA and this SOPI. For example, sales in Alaska that have previously received 1 year and 6 months of MRCTA are eligible to receive up to an additional 18 months of extension under this SOPI for a combined total of 36 months.

2. In the event MRCTA triggers in the future, additional time will be limited to that exceeding the amounts authorized under this SOPI.

3. Contracts shall not be extended under this SOPI when the Contracting Officer determines the wood products are in urgent need of removal due to forest health conditions or to mitigate a significant wildfire threat to a community, municipal watershed or other critical public resource.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding conditions, contracts or portions of contracts that are in breach are not eligible for extension under this SOPI determination until such breach is remedied.

5. This SOPI does not apply to stewardship contracts determined to be for the procurement of services under 36 CFR 223.300(b)(1) or (3)—Stewardship Agreements.

6. Forest Product Permits shall be extended for up to 2 years upon request when product removal limits shown on the permit have not been met.

Total contract length may exceed 10 years as a result of receiving a SOPI extension under this determination.

Any periodic payment due dates that have not been reached as of the date the Contracting Officer receives a request for a SOPI extension shall be adjusted one day for each additional day of contract time granted. Periodic Payments with determination dates from March 1, 2020 to the date this SOPI is published shall be adjusted by adding one day for each additional day of contract time granted, when the request for SOPI extension is received within 30 days of publication of the SOPI.

To receive an extension and periodic payment deferral pursuant to this SOPI, purchasers must make written request and agree to release the Forest Service from all claims and liability if a contract extended pursuant to this finding is suspended, modified or terminated in the future.

The Forest Service shall continue to monitor market conditions to determine if additional relief measures may be needed in the future.

**James E. Hubbard,**

*Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment.*

[FR Doc. 2020-07973 Filed 4-14-20; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Superior National Forest; Cook County; Minnesota; Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project EIS

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

**SUMMARY:** Lutsen Mountains Corporation (LMC) has submitted a proposal to the Superior National Forest (SNF) to implement select projects at Lutsen Mountains Resort (Lutsen Mountains). All projects are identified within the Lutsen Mountains 2016 Master Development Plan (MDP). The SNF is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of implementing the projects.

**DATES:** Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by May 15, 2020. One public open house meeting regarding this proposal will be

scheduled. Time, date, and location of the open house will be posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>. The draft EIS is expected in November 2020, and the final EIS is expected June 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to: Constance Cummins, Forest Supervisor, c/o Michael Jimenez, Project Leader, Superior National Forest, 8901 Grand Avenue Place, Duluth, MN 55808; or by email to: [comments-eastern-superior@usda.gov](mailto:comments-eastern-superior@usda.gov) (please include "Lutsen Mountains Ski Area Expansion Project" in the subject line). Comments can also be submitted online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Additional information related to the proposed project can be obtained from: Michael Jimenez, Project Leader, Superior National Forest. Mr. Jimenez can be reached by phone at (218) 626-4383 or by email at [michael.jimenez@usda.gov](mailto:michael.jimenez@usda.gov).

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Purpose and Need for Action**

LMC has applied to the SNF for a SUP under the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 that would authorize LMC to construct, operate, and maintain an expansion to a winter sports resort onto approximately 495 acres of NFS lands. Federal regulations at 16 U.S.C. 497b and 36 CFR 251b specifically identify ski areas and associated facilities as permissible uses of NFS lands.

The purpose of, and need for, the Forest Service's action is to respond to the proposal from Lutsen Mountains Corporation to implement select projects at the Lutsen Mountain Resort on the Superior National Forest. The 2004 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) identifies Forest-wide Desired Conditions which guide management direction across the SNF. The Proposed Action could help achieve D-REC-3, which states "the [SNF] provides developed sites, facilities, trails, water access sites, and other recreation opportunities within health and safety, resource protection, cost, and maintenance requirements." (2004 Forest Plan, Chapter 2, Page 39) The Forest Supervisor will use the EIS to inform the decision regarding: (1) Whether to issue a SUP under the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of

1986; (2) the selection of a preferred alternative; (3) any need to amend the Forest Plan; and (4) what specific terms and conditions should apply if a SUP is issued.

LMC's overall purpose of the proposed project and associated SUP application is to improve the guest experience at Lutsen Mountains, which cannot be accommodated on adjacent private land controlled by LMC. Specifically, LMC has identified a need to:

- Construct additional traditionally cleared alpine ski trails and undeveloped, minimally maintained lift-served terrain to address the current deficit in beginner and expert terrain and to enhance the existing terrain variety and skiing experiences at Lutsen Mountains.
- Improve skier circulation and reliable snow conditions, particularly on Eagle Mountain and Moose Mountain.
- Improve base area, parking, guest services, and operational facilities to meet the ever-increasing expectations of the local, regional, and destination skier markets.

Additional detail on the existing conditions driving the project Purpose and Need as well as the Objectives can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>.

**Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action includes the following seven elements:

- Authorization of an approximately 495-acre SUP;
- Construction of seven new chairlifts and one surface lift;
- Development of 324 acres of additional ski terrain, including approximately 175 acres of developed ski trails and 149 acres of gladed terrain;
- Expansion of guest services including two new base facilities, maintenance facilities, and a mountain-top chalet;
- Expansion of ski patrol operations, including construction of an interim ski patrol duty station located in a similar location with the mountain-top chalet;
- Development of approximately 1,260 additional parking spaces, construction of approximately 5 miles of permanent access roads, and construction of approximately 0.9 miles of temporary access roads; and
- Installation of snowmaking coverage on all 175 acres of developed ski trails and construction of two snowmaking reservoirs with a combined capacity of 13 million gallons.

A full description of each element can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>.

**Responsible Official**

The Responsible Official is Constance Cummins, Forest Supervisor for the SNF.

**Nature of Decision To Be Made**

Given the purpose and need, the Responsible Official will review the proposed action, the other alternatives, and the environmental consequences in order to decide the following:

- Whether to approve, approve with modifications, or deny the application for the creation of a SUP and associated expansions.
- Whether to prescribe conditions needed for the protection of the environment on NFS lands.

**Permits or Licenses Required**

- Forest Service SUP.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Water Appropriations Permit.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Wastewater Permit.
- Other permits as identified through scoping and the EIS analysis process.

**Scoping Process**

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. The Forest Service is soliciting comments from Federal, State and local agencies and other individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by implementation of the proposed projects. Tribal consultation is ongoing and will continue. One public open house meeting regarding this proposal will be held during the comment period. Time, date, and location of the open house will be posted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>. Representatives from the SNF and Lutsen Mountains will be present to answer questions and provide additional information on this project.

To be most helpful, comments should be specific to the project area and should identify resources or effects that should be considered by the Forest Service. Submitting timely, specific written comments during this scoping period or any other official comment period establishes standing for filing objections under 36 CFR parts 218 A and B. Additional information and maps of this proposal can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52440>. Details of the project proposal can also be viewed through an online interactive viewer here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/be4d0cbd60f24bef8d5360f064edda4f0/present>.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in

such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action.

**Lisa A. Northrop,**

*Acting Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.*

[FR Doc. 2020-07940 Filed 4-14-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3411-15-P**

## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Notice of Public Meeting of the Alabama Advisory Committee To Discuss Civil Rights Topics in the State

**AGENCY:** U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Alabama Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. (Central) for the purpose discussing edits to the final draft of the Voting Rights report. Additionally, the Committee may discuss future topics of study.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. (Central).

*Public Call Information:* Dial: 800-458-4148, Conference ID: 5698655.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Barreras, DFO, at [dbarreras@usccr.gov](mailto:dbarreras@usccr.gov) or 312-353-8311.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 800-458-4148, conference ID: 5698655. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls

they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Midwestern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 230 S Dearborn Street, Suite 2120, Chicago, IL 60604. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353-8324 or emailed to David Barreras at [dbarreras@usccr.gov](mailto:dbarreras@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at (312) 353-8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Midwestern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available via [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov) under the Commission on Civil Rights, Alabama Advisory Committee link (<https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACAPublicCommittee?id=a10t0000001gzLLAAQ>). Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

### Agenda

Welcome and Roll Call  
Discussion of edits to the Barriers to Voting Report  
Committee Vote on Report  
Discussion of Next Topics for study  
Next Steps  
Public Comment  
Adjournment

Dated: April 9, 2020.

**David Mussatt,**

*Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2020-07907 Filed 4-14-20; 8:45 am]

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## COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

### Notice of Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Commission on Civil Rights.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene by conference call on Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. (EDT). The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a Statement of Concern to the Commission regarding incarceration issues.

**DATES:** Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. (EDT).

*Public Call-In Information:*

Conference call-in number: 1-866-575-6539 and conference ID: 8533643.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Evelyn Bohor at [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov) or by phone at 202-376-7533.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested members of the public may listen to the discussion by calling the following toll-free conference call-in number: 1-866-575-6539 and conference ID: 8533643. Please be advised that before placing them into the conference call, the conference call operator will ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations (if any), and email addresses (so that callers may be notified of future meetings). Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free conference call-in number.

Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the operator with the toll-free conference call-in number: 1-866-575-6539 and conference ID: 8533643.

Members of the public are invited to make statements during the open comment period of the meeting or submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office approximately 30 days after each scheduled meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Eastern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 1150, Washington, DC 20425, faxed to (202) 376-7548, or emailed to Evelyn Bohor at [ero@usccr.gov](mailto:ero@usccr.gov). Persons who desire additional information may contact the Eastern Regional Office at (202) 376-7533.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at <https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/>