

## Homuth, Dale (DNR)

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**From:** Kristine Regehr Bottorff [kkppha@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 29, 2011 8:59 PM  
**To:** DNR, publiccomment (DNR)  
**Subject:** Poplar River

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I read the information on the Poplar River and the drought we are experiencing, causing an extremely low flow of water as we approach Lutsen Mountains' snow season. This issue -- the need to find a different source of water for the entire Lutsen Mountains operation, not just snow-making -- has been building for a long time. The ski hill management has had plenty of time to anticipate a fall drought that would eliminate their opportunity to make snow from the Poplar River water. Please do not allow Lutsen Mountains to continue to take water from this precious environmental resource. If environmental regulations are circumvented every time a company stands to lose money, they have no teeth. We must enforce our regulations consistently, and not make exceptions for an entertainment business. Please protect our rivers!

Thank you for accepting my comments.

Kristine Regehr Bottorff  
Grand Marais, Minnesota

## Homuth, Dale (DNR)

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**From:** David Emery [emeryd@stolaf.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 10:28 AM  
**To:** DNR, publiccomment (DNR)  
**Cc:** wudcanu@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Poplar River

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I strongly object to the actions of the state legislature in granting Lutsen a permit to empty the Poplar River, and I strongly oppose DNR efforts to facilitate the taking of the water, especially during periods of low water flow. Why would the State of MN allow a private venture to destroy the aquatic life in a stream just to provide low-cost water to make snow for people who want a longer ski season when there is a feasible alternative--build a short pipeline and take the water from Lake Superior. This legislative actions and the DNR proposals clearly favor skiers and private business over people who fish and the public interests. Shame on the Legislature, and shame on the DNR! How many streams in the Superior watershed must the public sacrifice to private gain? We allowed the timber industry to wreck the finest steelhead fishing river in MN, the Knife River, and 20 years later it still hasn't recovered. I urge the DNR to do everything in their power to protect the Poplar River.

I'm guessing that the environmental impact of removing water from Lake Superior will be minimal, since the water will flow back into the lake when the snow melts.

Edward David Emery  
307 Cherry St.  
Northfield, MN 55057

## Homuth, Dale (DNR)

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**From:** Peter.Spink@fsi-intl.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 8:54 AM  
**To:** DNR, publiccomment (DNR)  
**Subject:** Poplar River Permit Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sirs / Ms.:

I strongly object to considering the special waiver of regulations to potentially allow draw-down of Poplar River water by Lutsen ski resort. The drought has caused the river to drop along with other rivers up there and further draw-down will harm the fish and other wildlife. Especially given there are clear alternatives (drawing the water from Lake Superior) that are environmentally sound and the only reason the resort wants this permit is to save money, I feel it should be denied. The resort is seeking to harm the river and through that the public good simply because it does not want to spend the money to do what it should do and will have to do long run.

I have a cabin near Grand Marais and go there often and also ski at Lutsen. I do not want to feel in that beautiful area that I am partially the cause of hurting it just to save a few dollars. I do not feel it will cause job loss at all (denying the permit waiver request) because the resort will then do what it should do (build a water pipeline). We have already made several exceptions for them and they have drawn more water historically than allowed and continue to seek further exceptions.

Thanks,

Peter Spink  
1321 Kingsview Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55447

(also 7695 Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais, MN)

## Homuth, Dale (DNR)

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**From:** Drekonja, Dimitri M [Dimitri.Drekonja@va.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 03, 2011 11:07 AM  
**To:** DNR, publiccomment (DNR)  
**Cc:** almanac@lutsen.com  
**Subject:** Re: Lutsen permit- I oppose the temporary permit

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello- I received an email from Lutsen Mountains asking that I, as a repeat visitor, contact the DNR to support its petition to withdraw water from the poplar river during low-flow states. I actually am writing to express the complete opposite opinion: I don't believe that we should be sucking a drought-affected stream even lower just to provide a bit of extra snow cover for a business that could have opted to set up a longer-term solution to this problem a long time ago (accessing lake superior water instead).

The area gets substantial snowfall- so although it may make the season not as long, Lutsen will still be a destination for skiers. Also, this request seems to reflect the general operations of this company: take the cheap way, cut corners, fix it when we have to. I've skied across the country and the world, and nowhere I've been are the lifts as old and out of date as they are at Lutsen. I think by denying them this permit, you may be giving Lutsen the nudge they need to realize that a bit of long-term investment now will bear fruit later. They may not realize it, but a flowing river is a draw to skiers- it's a spectacular site as you go over it on the lifts, and ski next to it. Having a big snow pack drawn from the lake (where it will all flow back to in the spring), and a flowing river, is ultimately the best long-term solution for the resort.

I hope you consider my opinion.

Regards,

Dimitri M Drekonja, MD, MS  
Staff Physician, Infectious Diseases, Minneapolis VA  
Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of MN

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