



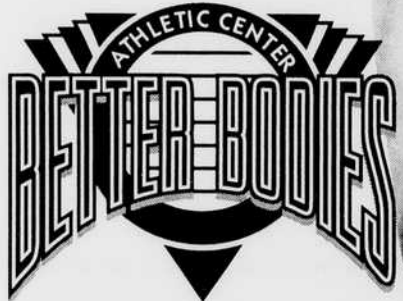
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## Some ski resorts delay opening

*Several areas have not received enough snow to open their lifts yet*

By Eric Collins  
Community Editor

December is here, but large amounts of snow are not at several Oregon ski resorts. Willamette Pass Ski Area, Mt. Ashland Ski Area and Hoodoo Ski Area are yet to open, but longtime skiing enthusiasts are not worried.

At Mt. Ashland Ski Area, skiers are pledging the "let it snow, let it snow, let it snow" anthem. According to the ski area's hotline (541-482-2754), the mountain received five inches of new snow to increase the snowfall to 22 inches at its base as of Sunday. But this is apparently not enough snow to open the ski lifts.

The Hoodoo Ski Area is in the same situation. According to the ski area's hotline (541-822-3799), the mountain currently has seven to ten inches of snowpack, which is not enough to open the ski area. Mountain professionals are on 24-hour standby awaiting additional snowfall, but they expect to open Dec. 5.

Willamette Pass Ski Area has

not received enough snow either. Dale Berg, owner of Berg's Ski Shop, said the mountain had a reported eight to ten inches of snow in the middle of the mountain, but only a few inches at the base of the mountain. A spokesperson from the Odell Lake Lodge, located near the ski area, said temperatures were around 34 degrees with clear, blue skies Sunday afternoon. Current updates on the Guaranty Chevrolet Willamette Pass ski conditions and information line (541-345-SNOW) were unavailable Sunday.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort, Timberline Lodge and Ski Area and Mt. Bachelor Ski Area are faring much better this winter.

Mt. Bachelor Ski Area recently opened on Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Tricia Sumera, public relations manager for the ski area, said the mountain received enough new snow Tuesday to open the following day. She said the base of the mountain has 21 inches of snow. While the summit lifts are not yet opened, she said seven lifts are currently operating from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. She said the mountain

usually opens in the middle of November so this year's opening is pretty normal. For up-to-date weather conditions call 541-382-2607.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort opened Nov. 25 and is currently operating six ski lifts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. According to the resort's ski hotline (503-227-SNOW) the resort has a 20-inch snow base with 30 plus inches in the upper mountain.

Timberline Lodge and Ski Resort has been opened since Sept. 27 and is currently operating five ski lifts from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. According to the resort's ski hotline (503-222-2211) the resort has a 25-inch snow base and received 1 inch of snow last night.

Berg said skiing patrons have told him the skiing has been good, but more snow is needed because all the same people have been skiing on the same snow. Berg said hardcore Eugene area snow enthusiasts haven't been bothered by the absence of Willamette Pass and Hoodoo ski resorts thus far. He said he believed the season is pretty normal so far. "We are a couple weeks away," he said.

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