

No snow: Monitor Pass open mid-winter

Publisher's note: *This is one of a series of blurbs about how the lack of winter is impacting businesses in the Lake Tahoe Basin. If you have an idea, please email it to info@LakeTahoeNews.net.*

There are traditional mountain passes that close for the bulk of the winter. Monitor Pass is usually among those.

However, this stretch of Highway 89 has opened after closing at the start of the season. There just isn't any snow now so Caltrans is letting motorists use it.

This is the earliest it has opened in seven years. But if winter returns, the road closure is likely to return as well.

Sonora Pass (Highway 108), Ebbetts Pass (Highway 4) and Tioga Pass (Highway 120), remain closed. However, Highway 120 east from Highway 395 to the town of Benton is open. Normally it is closed all winter and spring.

These passes are likely to open in mid-May.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report