

Lack of snow forces Sierra to close

What may be a record year for lack of snowfall in the Lake Tahoe area has claimed another ski resort. Sierra-at-Tahoe will not open Monday.

“There is absolutely a chance of reopening. We are fully committed to resuming operations if we receive the adequate amount of snowfall,” Thea Hardy, resort spokeswoman, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

March 15 is not the earliest final day for Sierra. Hardy said in the 1970s there was an earlier date.

Sierra has received one-third of its normal snowfall this winter. The resort near Echo Summit receives on average more than 400 inches of snow each winter.

“After exhausting all possible tools – even with snowmaking at every opportunity and strategic movement of snow, Mother Nature came up short,” General Manger John Rice said in a statement. “This isn’t goodbye; it’s see you soon.”

Sierra’s Equinox Spring Festival that was to start March 21 is still a-go. The subsequent concerts are on standby. For more info, go online.

Other closed resorts in California include: Homewood Mountain Resort, Donner Ski Ranch, Badger Pass, Dodge Ridge, Mountain High, China Peak, Soda Springs, Mt. Baldy, Mount Shasta and Tahoe Donner.

Normal closing date is mid-April for most resorts.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*