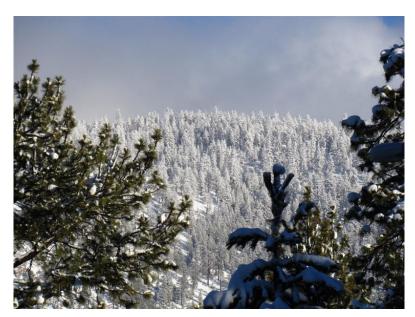
Power slowly coming on; ski traffic horrendous



The cold temps are keeping snow in the trees around Tahoe. Photo/Denise Haerr

Updated 9:30pm:

Although access to the power line that feeds the Floriston-Portola area presented a significant challenge, Liberty Utilities was able to restore power about 5:30pm Saturday.

Most of the Tahoma area has been restored, with the rest of the West Shore expected to be back online in 24 hours or so.

The Tahoe Pines and River Road regions continue to be a challenge and may require additional time.

The South Shore has approximately 20 customers still without power mostly in the Seminole Court and Celio Ranch areas. Crews continue to re-energize individual homes throughout the region.

Liberty Utilities crews continue to work on the South Shore where less than 50 customers are currently in the dark. It could be Monday though before power is restored.

The greater West Shore region is still expected to be back online in the next 24-48 hours. The Tahoe Pines and River Road regions are going to be out for several days.

Additional crews have been mobilized to work on restoration throughout all regions.

Two trees have gone through the line in the Russell Valley area between Truckee and Portola. Restorations is expected Sunday at about 5pm.

Crews are assessing Floriston and depending on damage it could be restored by Saturday evening.

Tahoe Donner PUD have reduced customers without power from 1,700 to just more than 100.

Patience is needed to get around the roads in Tahoe, especially near ski resorts. This is likely to be true all weekend.

Lake Tahoe News staff report