

Lack of snow severely impacts Central Sierra resorts

By Marek Warszawski, Sacramento Bee



Tim Cohee

This winter marks the 60th anniversary of China Peak, the 1,300-acre ski area in the Sierra National Forest east of Fresno.

But instead of celebrating, owner/operator Tim Cohee is contemplating the ultimate bummer while struggling through what he describes as the worst season he's experienced during more than 40 years in the business.

"We have reserves, but at some point they're going to run out," Cohee, the former chief executive at Kirkwood resort, said. "At that point you have to shut the resort down. There is a scenario – maybe it's not this year – but there is a scenario that says the ski area no longer exists because of these droughts."

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