

# Summit East Ski and Snowboard Area at the The Summit at Snoqualmie aiming to reopen next season

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The Summit East Ski and Snowboard Area at the The Summit at Snoqualmie won't be open this winter, but the hopes are to have it operating in time for next season.

On Jan. 7, 2009, a huge landslide about several hundred feet wide of debris, snow and trees wiped out the resort's Keechelus double chairlift and a cabin.

"It is our high priority to get the area back up and running [by the 2010-11] winter season, and that is the direction we're headed, but there is no way to say it will definitely happen at this point," said Trevor Kostanich, the planning director for The Summit at Snoqualmie.

The forest service is reviewing the master design plans, and the financial commitment is also being looked over regarding a new triple chairlift along with three towers.

Kostanich says the new chairlift would be moved from the original location, and put the top terminal area about 75 feet higher up the hillside.

"We're looking at putting it higher up on the ridge to provide better access, where in the past people would have to hike to get up to the trail area so that will be an improvement," Kostanich said. "Another change is the new chairlift would come right out of the bottom terminal base area so you wouldn't have to take the lower chair to access the second lift."

The area, formerly known as Hyak, is located on the eastern most side of the Snoqualmie Pass summit, and offers a mix of intermediate and advanced runs with a vertical drop of 1,100 feet. The other double chairlift at the area was not damaged by the landslide.

The hope, according to Kostanich, is to get started on the work by May of 2010.

The Summit at Snoqualmie will continue to operate the full service Nordic Center this winter season. Adjacent to the alpine ski area, the Hyak area has cross-country skiing on groomed trails along Lake Keechelus on the Iron Horse Trail, which is maintained by the Washington State Parks, and a Sno-Park Permit is required to use the trails and to park in the lot.

Summit East is operated by Boyne USA Resorts along with nearby Summit Central, Summit West and Alpentel.