

Warm weather hurts ski area in Kentucky

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Associated Press

LYNCH, Ky. — Kentucky's only commercial ski area was left out in the warm this winter.

"It was the worst weather in this area in 15 years," said Dr. Kenneth Wier, leader of a group of investors that opened the Lonesome Pines Ski Area last winter. "We only wound up with about 30 skiable days."

This was the first full season for the ski area atop Big Black Mountain, the state's highest peak, after tourism specialists at the University of Kentucky Extension Service had proposed the facility.

Data has indicated that skiers, with the help of artificial snow, could expect about 120 days a year. But this winter was one of above-average temperatures and little snow.

The ski area closed for the winter over the weekend after having been unable to accommodate skiers since Feb. 25.

"The skiing that we had was very good, but over-all it was not what you would call a good season," Dr. Wier said. "Normally, we'd expect to be still skiing now."